Questions and Answers Document

# **Disclaimer**

The following answers are based on California Energy Commission (CEC) staff’s interpretation of the questions received. It is the Applicant’s responsibility to review the Solicitation Manual and to determine whether their proposed project is eligible for funding by reviewing the Eligibility Requirements within the solicitation. The CEC cannot give definitive advice as to whether a particular project is eligible for funding, because not all proposal details are known.

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# **General/Administrative**

Q1. A) When and where do we send written questions?  B) For example, I have a refinery customer who is transitioning to biofuels.  They will no longer process fossil fuels, so I would like to confirm that they can participate.

**CEC:**

1. As indicated in Section I.G. of the solicitation manual, please email questions to Marissa Sutton, Commission Agreement Officer, on an ongoing basis to Marissa.Sutton@energy.ca.gov. Depending on when the question is received, we will endeavor to respond before the CEC application due date.
2. Please review the requirements in AB 209, and if you believe that the project meets the following requirements, then you could apply and we will consider your application:
	* Achieves the state’s clean energy goals.
	* Exceeds compliance requirements (e.g., exceed best available control technology).
	* Does not benefit an oil or gas production, processing, or refining facility. Include a statement from the biofuels refinery attesting to this.
	* Does one or more of the following:
* Provides significant benefits to the electrical grid, especially during net peak periods.
* Reduces emissions of greenhouse gas from the biofuel’s facility, when compared to other existing biofuels facilities, and not counting the original refinery emissions.
* Reduces air pollution in under resourced communities.

Q2. In section II.A. under the CEC Applications Due Date (Phase one Pre-Federal Award) the date listed is April 10, 2023.  Is this the actual grant submission deadline or am I reading this incorrectly?

**CEC**: The due date listed in Section II.A. is the due date to the CEC. The CEC has issued an addendum to extend the CEC application due date from April 10 to July 7, 2023 ([GFO-22-902 - Addendum 1](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2023-03/gfo-22-902-cost-share-federal-funding-opportunities-industrial)). This latter due date will occur after applicants have been notified by DOE regarding the status of their applications and whether they are encouraged to submit full applications by August 4, 2023, to DOE. The CEC plans to complete the scoring and evaluation of proposals before the DOE application due date of August 4. The highest-scoring passing proposals will get a letter of commitment for the funding amount specified in the proposal, until all funds are exhausted.

Q3. And one last item, will there be a pre-application workshop and if so when do we expect it?

**CEC**: There will not be a pre-application workshop.

Q4. Page 8 of the Grant Funding Opportunity notes that the Anticipated Notice of Proposed Award would be posted “no later than 15 days after the deadline to submit applications for that federal funding opportunity.” Just to clarify, is the Notice of Proposed Award anticipated to be posted after the Concept Paper deadline for the federal funding opportunity or for the full applications?

**CEC:** We will issue an addendum to extend the CEC application due date from April 10 to July 7, 2023. See response to Q2.

Q5. If the Energy Commission does not receive enough eligible and competitive applications that pass, is there any consideration to increasing the maximum cost share award to applications that are selected for funding?

**CEC**: No.

Q6. I received notice yesterday of the “Industrial Decarbonization and Improvements to Grid Operations (INDIGO) Workshop” set for April 11th.  I assume since the workshop is not till April 11th, the due date for grant application submittals would not be April 10th?

**CEC**: The April 11, 2023, workshop is not a pre-bid workshop for GFO-22-902. The purpose of the April 11 workshop is to discuss the implementation of the new INDIGO Program and not GFO-22-902.

Q7. Would the CEC consider adding Topic 1 of the INDIGO into the FOA?

**CEC**: Not at this time. We may consider adding Topic 1 and new construction activities prior to DOE’s deadline for submission of full applications on August 4, 2023.

Q8. Are CEC funds available only for applicants who have received an award through the DOE Industrial Decarbonization and Emissions Reduction Demonstration to Deployment FOA (DE-FOA-0002936)?

**CEC**: GFO-22-902 only applies to those that apply for cost share funding related to DE-FOA-0002936. At the April 11 workshop, we will discuss the proposed INDIGO program created by AB 209, including proposed funding areas. Awards resulting from GFO-22-902 are one of the funding areas. If there are other future federal FOAs that are consistent with the INDIGO program, we will add them to Section II.A. of GFO-22-902. The workshop notice is posted at [Industrial Decarbonization and Improvements to Grid Operations Workshop](https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/workshop/2023-04/industrial-decarbonization-and-improvements-grid-operations-workshop). See also response to Q6.

Q9. The CEC solicitation includes an April 10th deadline for the DOE FOA. From the DOE FOA documentation, however, it looks like the Concept Papers are due April 21. Can you please clarify what’s meant by the April 10th deadline posted in the CEC documentation?

**CEC**: See response to Q2.

Q10. I also see there’s a workshop on April 11 for the CEC program. I’m sure the workshop will answer many of our other questions, but I wanted to confirm our eligibility and application deadlines before we get started on this.

**CEC**: For information on eligibility requirements for DE-FOA-0002936, please refer to that solicitation at [DOE Funding Opportunity](https://oced-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#FoaId3d36f88c-0527-4539-b90b-41895ad5edb2). Eligibility requirements for the INDIGO program can be found in AB 209 ([Bill)](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB209). Please also see responses to Q2 regarding application deadlines and Q6 regarding the April 11 workshop.

Q11. A) Regarding the FPIP, would the program pay for photovoltaic with battery backup? B) It appears to be a matching program, would the Federal program fund half with a match from CA?

**CEC:** No. Based on staff interpretation of DE-FOA-0002997 and DE-FOA-0002936, on-site electricity generation alone appears ineligible; therefore, FPIP cannot pay for photovoltaic with battery backup. Please refer to the [DOE Funding Opportunity](https://oced-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#FoaId3d36f88c-0527-4539-b90b-41895ad5edb2) for project eligibility and the required cost share. If a project is eligible for federal funding, the CEC may provide up to half the required cost share up to the maximum indicated in Section II.A. of the Solicitation Manual. Applicants are required to provide at least half the total project cost share from other sources. These sources may not include other CEC funds.

**Q12. Can an applicant submit more than one application to this funding opportunity?**

**CEC: Yes, if each application is for a separate and distinct project (e.g., no overlap with respect to scope of work) and the success of each project is independent.**

**Q13. Can one application to this funding opportunity propose projects at multiple manufacturing facilities?**

**CEC: Yes, if each manufacturing facility is eligible for funding and the technologies proposed meet the requirements of the solicitation. Refer to Sections I.I., II.B., and II.C.**

**Q14. If a proposed multi-facility project qualifies for funding under both INDIGO and FPIP, should a separate application be submitted for each Program?**

**CEC: Yes. Applications for INDIGO and FPIP must be separate, and applicants must indicate the appropriate program in the Application Form (Attachment 1) under Program Area. Each program’s funding and other requirements are indicated in Sections I.I, II.A. and II.C of the solicitation manual. Projects receiving funding through the INDIGO program are ineligible to receive funding for the same project in FPIP, and vice versa, as indicated in Assembly Bill 209 (The Energy and Climate Change budget bill, Chapter 251, enacted in September 2022), Sections 25662.6 and 25663.6.**

**Q15.**  **Are funds required to be spent in California if there are demonstrations in other states?**

**CEC: Projects that spend federal and CEC funds in California will receive points as indicated in Scoring Criteria 6, Section IV.D. of the solicitation manual. All demonstration/deployment sites for which CEC-DOE funds are requested must be located in California as indicated in Application Screening criteria I, Section IV.D. of the solicitation manual. Demonstration sites located outside of California cannot be funded with CEC funds and should not be included in the CEC application.**