**NOTICE OF PROPOSED AWARD (NOPA)**

**Precipitation Enhancement and Environmental Research**

**for Hydropower Generation (PEER-Hydro)**

**Solicitation #GFO-22-306**

**October 11, 2023**

On March 8, 2023, the California Energy Commission (CEC) released a competitive solicitation to fund applied research to advance strategies for managing California’s hydropower resources for optimal contribution to grid operations. Research funded by this solicitation will foster cost-effective, robust approaches to balance anticipated needs for zero-carbon, fast-ramping resources with environmental protection. Up to

$3,500,000 in Electric Program Investment Charge funding is available to fund applications in two groups:

* Group 1: Advancing Precipitation Enhancement Strategies
* Group 2: Research to Inform the FERC Hydropower Relicensing Process

The CEC is canceling funds allocated to Group 1: Advancing Precipitation Enhancement Strategies. The CEC plans to issue a new Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO) for this group, which is expected to include changes to project requirements. Entities that applied for Group 1 funds under the current solicitation may apply to the new GFO.

For Group 2: Research to Inform the FERC Hydropower Relicensing Process, the CEC received three applications by the submission deadline, June 7, 2023. Each proposal was screened, reviewed, evaluated, and scored using the solicitation criteria. All Group 2 applications passed the stage one application screening.

The attached NOPA identifies the applicants selected and recommended for funding by CEC staff and includes the recommended funding amounts and scores. The total funding recommended is $994,711.

Funding of proposed projects from this solicitation is contingent upon the approval of these projects at a publicly noticed CEC business meeting and the execution of a grant agreement. If the CEC is unable to timely negotiate and execute a funding agreement with an applicant, the CEC, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to cancel or otherwise modify the pending award, and award the funds to another applicant.

The CEC reserves the right to 1) add to, remove, or shift funding; and 2) negotiate with successful applicants to modify the project scope, schedule, or level of funding.

This notice and awardees for GFO-22-306 are posted on the CEC’s website at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/awards>.

Please email Crystal Willis, commission agreement officer, at [crystal.willis@energy.ca.gov](mailto:crystal.willis@energy.ca.gov) for more information.