

Memorandum

To: Commissioners and Advisors

Date: May 6, 2020

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From: **Noemí Gallardo, Lead Liaison to the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group
Public Advisor's Office
California Energy Commission**
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Subject: POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF ROMÁN PARTIDA-LÓPEZ
TO THE DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES ADVISORY GROUP

Senate Bill 350 (de León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015), as codified in Public Utilities Code section 400(g), requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) to establish an advisory group consisting of representatives from disadvantaged communities. The purpose of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) is to review and provide advice on proposed clean energy and pollution reduction programs and determine whether those proposed programs will be effective and useful in disadvantaged communities.

The CEC and the CPUC adopted the original Charter for the DACAG on December 13, 2017 in CEC Resolution 17-13-2, and on December 14, 2017 in CPUC Resolution E-4893, respectively. The CEC adopted the revised DACAG Charter on March 11, 2020 in CEC Resolution 20-0311-4, and on March 12, 2020 in CPUC Resolution E-5060, respectively. The charter establishes that the DACAG is comprised of 11 members who serve two-year terms. On February 28, 2020, the Commissions issued a solicitation for application to membership in the DACAG, with an application deadline of March 16, 2020, to fill one position that was created when Jodi Pincus of Rising Sun Center for Opportunity vacated her seat. Several candidates applied for the open position.

Vice Chair Scott and Commissioner Douglas from the CEC and Commissioners Rechtschaffen and Guzman-Aceves from the CPUC selected Román Partida-López to recommend for appointment. The Commissioners recommend that during the May 13, 2020 business meeting of the CEC, and the May 28, 2020 Voting Meeting of the CPUC, that the respective Commissions approve the appointment of Román Partida-López to the DACAG. His term would begin April 1, 2020 and end March 31, 2021.

Biographical Sketch of Román Partida-López

Román Partida-López, a son of immigrant parents, grew up in the San Diego border region, spending time on both sides of the United States/Mexico border. During his formative years, he lived in a low-income area of National City, California with his home located just two blocks away from the I-5 freeway and next door to an auto body and paint shop that exposed him and his family to toxic chemicals and pollutants. This early first-hand experience helped him realize how severely environmental and socio-economic factors impact those living in proximity to freeways and heavy polluting entities, particularly on health, life expectancy, well-being, and the ability to succeed.

Motivated to help remedy these types of situations for disadvantaged communities like the one where he grew up, Román worked for the City of Chula Vista's Department of Conservation and Environmental Services, collecting data for Greenhouse Gas Emissions reports, where he saw reiterated that low-income communities, no matter the city, have higher exposure to these pollutants. He also helped implement community-based programs to reduce household costs. Subsequently, he worked for the California Center for Sustainable Energy's Energy Resource Center and later began his legal work with San Diego Coastkeeper, where he helped advance a legal case to help reduce pollution sources impacting the local community, a predominantly Chicax community. He continued his commitment of fighting against injustices while working at the San Diego Legal Aid Society and the Employee Rights Center. Román continues living in the San Diego region, serving as a strong advocate in southern California, including participating in the City of San Diego's Climate Equity Working Group, among others.

For the past two years he has served as Legal Counsel and as a member of the Environmental Equity team at The Greenlining Institute (Greenlining), working to reduce poverty and pollution in low-income communities of color. Román has over six years of combined transportation electrification work experience, enabling him to help shape clean transportation equity policies and programs that provide mobility options and multiple benefits to California's most vulnerable communities. This work includes deploying multiple programs that provide an opportunity for low-income households to access electric vehicles, as well as the needed charging infrastructure, whether it be in residential or public spaces. His efforts at Greenlining also span to medium and heavy-duty equipment, as this industry is a large source of pollution to the most impacted communities.

Additionally, Román has worked to advance climate investments that yield the most benefits to the states' disadvantaged communities. This work includes advocating for funding and working directly with communities to learn about their needs and providing support through capacity building and technical assistance to help them secure funding for their communities. Overall, Román's extensive professional and personal experiences combined with the geographic diversity he represents make him an excellent fit for the DACAG.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

RESOLUTION APPROVING DISADVANTAGED
COMMUNITIES ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 350 (SB 350) (de León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015), as codified in the California Public Utilities Code Section 400(g), requires the Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) to establish a Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) consisting of representatives from disadvantaged communities as defined in Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, the DACAG will review and provide advice on proposed SB 350 clean energy and pollution reduction programs and determine whether those proposed programs will be effective and useful in disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, Román Partida-López brings extensive environmental equity experience along with geographical diversity to the DACAG; and

WHEREAS, Commissioners Rechtschaffen and Guzman-Aceves from the CPUC and Vice Chair Scott and Commissioner Douglas from the CEC have prepared a joint memorandum proposing that Román Partida-López be appointed to the DACAG; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CEC accepts the Commissioners' joint recommendations, and appoints Román Partida-López to the DACAG; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Director or his/her designee is authorized to take all action, including coordinating with the CPUC and its staff as necessary, to ensure the DACAG accomplishes the purposes set forth in California Public Utilities Code section 400(g).

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the Commission does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CEC held on May 13, 2020.

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Cody Goldthrite
Secretariat