

State of California

California Energy Commission Minutes of the March 6, 2023, Energy Commission Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hochschild. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair Gunda.

Present:

David Hochschild, Chair
Siva Gunda, Vice Chair
Noemí Gallardo, Commissioner

Patricia Monahan, Commissioner
Andrew McAllister, Commissioner

Please note that the California Energy Commission (CEC) aims to begin the business meeting promptly at the start time and the end time is an estimate based on the agenda. The meeting may end sooner or later than the time indicated depending on various factors.

Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 20, section 1104(e), any person may make an oral comment on any agenda item. To ensure the orderly conduct of business, such comments will be limited to three minutes or less per person.

THE CEC WILL CONSIDER AND MAY TAKE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. Public Comment.

Any person wishing to comment on information items (non-voting items) shall provide comments during this period.

Public Comment:

None.

2. Agency Announcements.

The Chair may announce relevant matters to the public and the CEC, including agency updates, events, and other opportunities. Discussion may follow.

3. Consent Calendar.

Items will be taken up and voted on as a group. A commissioner may request that an item be moved and discussed later in the meeting.

- a. Energy Conservation Assistance Act (ECAA) Loan Program – PON-17-401.
Proposed resolutions approving one ECAA-Regular loan at one percent interest and amending one ECAA-Regular loan. (ECAA Funding) Contact: Sean Lockwood
 - i. City of Santa Clarita. Proposed resolution approving Agreement 006-22-ECI with the City for a \$3,000,000 loan at one percent interest to upgrade existing interior and exterior lighting to light-emitting diodes at 40 sites, existing HVAC equipment at 1 site, and transformers at 12 sites, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Upon completion, the project is estimated to reduce

roughly 1,494,789 kWh of grid electricity consumption, saving the City approximately \$309,958 in annual utility costs.

- ii. Malaga County Water District. Proposed resolution approving Amendment 1 to Agreement 003-22-ECI with Malaga County Water District to increase the loan amount by \$311,167 and extend the end date from December 31, 2023, to June 30, 2024, because of subcontractor and material cost increases, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA.
- b. ChargePoint, Inc. Proposed resolution approving Agreement ARV-22-009 with ChargePoint, Inc. for a \$1,598,865 grant to demonstrate a "Hub and Spoke" approach to vehicle charging, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The "hub" will have four ports capable of simultaneously charging four vehicles at 150kW each and one dual-port Level 2 EV supply equipment at one location in Stanislaus County. The "spoke" will have at least twenty dual-port Level 2 chargers at five sites in Stanislaus County. This was funded by Clean Transportation Program Rural Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging GFO-21-604. (CTP and General Fund Funding) Contact: Kyle Corrigan
- c. 2023 Electricity Demand Forecast Forms and Instructions. Proposed resolution approving Forms and Instructions for Submitting Electricity Demand Forecast Plans that support the *2023 Integrated Energy Policy Report*. Load-serving entities are required to provide the CEC with energy demand forecasts, demand-side management and energy efficiency impacts, private supply impact, and data related to electricity demand forecasts for historical years 2021 to 2022 and forecast years 2023 to 2034. Contact: Robert Kennedy
- d. Power Plant Siting Committee Assignment Amendments. Proposed order amending commissioners' siting committee assignments for proceedings related to Pecho Energy Storage Center (21-AFC-01) and Willow Rock Energy Storage Center (21-AFC-02). Contact: Ralph Lee
- ~~e. Amendments to Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) Proceeding (20-TIRE-01). Proposed order amending the original OIR from 2003, appointing a lead commissioner, and directing staff to develop and propose additions to CCR, title 20 that would implement a replacement tire efficiency program. The program would ensure that replacement tires for passenger cars and light-duty trucks sold in California are as energy efficient as the tires sold as original equipment. Contact: Jontae Clapp~~
- f. Right-Energy Compliance Software, Title 24 Version 2022.2.0, 2022 Energy Code. Proposed resolution approving third-party compliance software Right-Energy Title 24 Version 2022.2.0, by MiTek Wrightsoft, as an alternative calculation method for demonstrating performance compliance with the residential provisions of the 2022 Energy Code. Contact: RJ Wichert
- g. Gas Demand and Rate Forecasting Information Forms and Instructions. Proposed resolution adopting forms and instructions to collect gas demand and rate forecast information from gas utilities in California that support the *2023 Integrated Energy Policy Report*. Contact: Jason Orta

- h. GRID Alternatives. Proposed resolution approving MOU-22-003 with GRID Alternatives to support the development of a competitive grant application for the U.S. Department of Energy's (U.S. DOE) Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program (Topic Area 3) funding opportunity, and adopting staff's determination that this is not a project under CEQA. The CEC and GRID Alternatives will determine which California Tribal Energy Resiliency Alliance (C-TERA) application partners will receive private funding to support activities related to the C-TERA application. Contact: Reta Ortiz
- i. Aspen Environmental Group. Proposed resolution approving Agreement 300-22-003 with Aspen Environmental Group for a \$2,500,000 contract, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This contract will provide technical support to the CEC in (1) preparing and issuing grants for the development of non-lithium long-duration energy storage (NLLDES) projects; (2) preparing grant applications for U.S. DOE grants to fund additional NLLDES projects; and (3) preparing technical studies and assessments, including CEQA review and assessments, and providing support services for NLLDES projects. (LDES Funding) Contact: Kevin Mallon

Before the consent calendar items were voted on, Linda Barrera announced Item 3e was removed from the agenda.

Public Comment:

None.

Commissioner McAllister moved to approve Items 3a through 3d and 3f through 3i. Commissioner Gallardo seconded. The vote was Yes (5-0).

4. Information Item – Tribal En Banc and Engagement.

Staff will provide an overview and takeaways from the March 2 CEC-CPUC North Coast En Banc Meeting (Advancing Clean Energy in Partnership with California Native American Tribes), and regional engagement activities. Contact: Katrina Leni-Konig (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

Information item only, no vote was taken.

5. Reappointment of Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) Members.

Proposed resolution reappointing five members (Elena Krieger, Stephanie Chen, Curtis Silvers, Sahara Huazano, and Román Partida-López) to the DACAG for new terms beginning April 1, 2023. The DACAG is an advisory body to the CEC and the CPUC created by SB 350 (De León, ch. 54, stats. 2015). The DACAG has eleven members from or representing disadvantaged communities. Contact: Mona Badie (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

Public Comment:

None.

Commissioner Gallardo moved to approve Item 5. Commissioner Monahan seconded. The vote was Yes (5-0).

6. National Wind Technology Consortium, Inc. dba National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (NOWRDC).

Proposed resolution approving Agreement EPC-22-009 with NOWRDC for a grant up to \$5,000,000 to establish and manage a collaborative effort to develop solicitations that will support California's offshore wind deployment, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt under CEQA. The solicitations will reflect the offshore wind priorities identified in the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) investment plan. With CEC approval, NOWRDC will competitively select grant recipients, leveraging federal and state funds and benefiting California ratepayers. Updates on research and development investments and offshore wind planning activities to support California's aspirational planning goals will also be provided. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Daphne Molin (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

Public Comment:

Lyndie Hice-Dunton from NOW RDC is in support of this item.

Vice Chair Gunda moved to approve Item 6. Commissioner McAllister seconded. The vote was Yes (5-0).

7. Cuberg, Inc.

Proposed resolution approving Agreement ZVI-22-034 with Cuberg, Inc. for an \$11,207,887 grant to establish a 45,000 square foot zero-emission vehicle battery manufacturing facility in San Leandro, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. Operations would span raw materials processing to battery module manufacturing with a targeted output of 200 megawatt-hours of battery production annually (2.7 million battery cells per year). The proposed project would create more than 300 high-quality jobs in the first five years of operation. (General Fund Funding) Contact: Pilar Magaña (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

Public Comment:

None.

Commissioner Monahan moved to approve Item 7. Commissioner Gallardo seconded. The vote was Yes (5-0).

8. Minutes.

Possible approval of the February 15, 2023, Business Meeting minutes.

Public Comment:

None.

Commissioner McAllister moved to approve Item 8. Commissioner Gallardo seconded. The vote was Yes (5-0).

9. Lead Commissioner or Presiding Member Reports.

The Commissioners had nothing to report.

10. Executive Director's Report.

The Executive Director had nothing to report.

11. Public Advisor's Report.

The Public Advisor had nothing to report.

12. Chief Counsel's Report.

- a. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e)(1), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to discuss the following matter to which the CEC is a party:

- i. Interlink Products International, Inc. v. Xavier Becerra, Drew Bohan, Melissa Rae King (United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, Case No. 2:20-cv-02283).*

The Chief Counsel gave a report.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

LIZA LOPEZ
Secretariat