

California Energy Commission
Minutes of the May 10, 2023, Energy Commission Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hochschild. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner McAllister.

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 two 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:

Nick Josefowitz from SPUR made a comment about CalAPP.

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. Central Unified School District. Proposed resolution approving Agreement 00722-ECG with Central Unified School District in Fresno County for a \$2,995,662 loan at zero-percent interest to retrofit existing interior lighting to LED lighting at 18 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 save 864,341 kWh and roughly \$206,571 in utility costs per year. (ECAA-Ed Funding) Contact: Ron Yasny
- b. Audit Committee. Possible approval of Commissioner Noemi Gallardo as a member of the CEC Audit Committee, an advisory committee. Government Code section 13886 requires that any governing body that oversees a state agency

establish an audit committee that generally meets the framework set forth by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Contact: Matthew Pinkerton

- c. Guidehouse Inc. Proposed resolution approving Agreement 800-22-007 with Guidehouse Inc. for a \$1,499,555 contract to provide technical support on energy efficiency methodologies, electrification and decarbonization analyses, demand response and demand flexibility, behavioral impacts on energy efficiency and other decarbonization strategies, decarbonization impacts to energy systems, and enhancing CEC analytical products and processes. (COIA Funding) Contact: Brian Samuelson *Public Comment:*

None.

Commissioner McAllister moved to approve Item 3. Vice Chair Gunda seconded. The vote was Yes (5-0).

4. ~~CEC and California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) Collaboration.~~

~~Proposed resolution in support of the partnership agreement between the CEC and CWDB to Collaborate on Increasing Economic Opportunities for all Californians, and affirmation of its signing by the Lead Commissioner for Energy Equity and Environmental Justice. The scope includes technical assistance, analysis, and education for workforce development in clean energy. This agreement establishes CEC and CWDB collaboration efforts to develop recommendations for the state's workforce and industry based training partnerships needed to meet California's clean energy goals justly and equitably. Contact: Larry Rillera (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)~~ **[This item is removed from the agenda]**

5. Assembly Bill (AB) 525 Offshore Wind Energy Permitting Roadmap Report.

Proposed resolution approving the Assembly Bill 525 Offshore Wind Energy Permitting Roadmap report that describes options for permitting frameworks that will allow for coordinated, comprehensive, and efficient permitting processes for offshore wind energy facilities and associated infrastructure off the coast of California, and describes a stakeholder process to further permitting approaches, timeframes, and milestones for offshore wind energy. This report is one of four CEC work products directed by AB 525 (Chiu, ch. 231, stats. 2021) for submittal to the California Natural Resources Agency and relevant legislative fiscal and policy committees. This report will be used to inform the preparation of the AB 525 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan required by AB 525. Contact: Kristy Chew (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

Public Comment:

Sarah Xu from Brightline Defense commented on this item.

Dan Chandler from 350 Humboldt commented on this item.

Azsha Hudson from Environmental Defense Center commented on this item.

Elizabeth Huber from CEC commented on this item.

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

6. Olivine, Inc.

Proposed resolution approving Agreement 500-22-003 with Olivine, Inc. for a contract not to exceed \$5,000,000 to support the administration of the Demand Side Grid Support (DSGS) program, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. (DSGS) Contact: Deana Carrillo (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes) *Public Comment: None.*

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

7. Ample, Inc.

Proposed resolution approving Agreement ZVI-22-036 with Ample, Inc. for a \$14,738,978 grant to expand and enhance Ample, Inc.'s existing manufacturing lines in Brisbane to produce swappable battery packs, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. At full production capacity, these manufacturing lines will achieve an annual production target of swappable battery packs to support over 14,000 EVs. Collectively, over the facility's lifetime, this will support roughly 127,000 high-utilization electric vehicles (EVs). (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. Food Production Investment Program 2022 - GFO-22-303.

This solicitation sought proposals to accelerate the adoption of advanced energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies at food processing plants, demonstrate their reliability and effectiveness, help food processors work toward a low-carbon future, and benefit priority populations in California. The technologies funded will reduce energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with food production. (FPIP Funding) Contact: Eleanor Oliver (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

- a. America's Best Beverage, Inc. Proposed resolution approving Agreement FPI22-001 with America's Best Beverage, Inc. for a \$1,236,940 grant to install electric coffee roasters to supplant usage of traditional fossil gas-powered roasters at the recipient's coffee roasting facility in Oakland, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The project is expected to provide benefits to priority populations through criteria pollutant emission reductions.
- b. Red Bay Coffee Company, Inc. Proposed resolution approving Agreement FPI22-002 with Red Bay Coffee Company, Inc. for a \$642,850 grant to install electric coffee roasters to supplant usage of traditional fossil gas-powered roasters at the recipient's coffee roasting facility in Oakland, and adopting staff's determination

that this action is exempt from CEQA. The project is expected to provide benefits to priority populations through criteria pollutant emission reductions.

- c. Pacific Coast Producers. Proposed resolution approving Agreement FPI-22-003 with Pacific Coast Producers for a \$890,500 grant to capture and use waste steam condensate to reduce process energy at the recipient's tomato processing facility in Woodland, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will demonstrate the potential of the condensate recovery system to reduce GHG emissions, gas use, water consumption, and operating costs.
- d. E. & J. Gallo Winery. Proposed resolution approving Agreement FPI-22-004 with E. & J. Gallo Winery for a \$500,000 grant to replace aging and inefficient refrigeration systems at the recipient's Livingston, Fresno, and Modesto wine production facilities to reduce electricity use, GHG emissions and refrigerant leakage, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA.

Public Comment:

Hovik Azadkhanian from American's Best Coffee made a comment on this item.

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

9. Realizing Accelerated Manufacturing and Production for Clean Energy Technologies (RAMP) - GFO-21-304.

This solicitation sought proposals to provide financial assistance to help clean energy entrepreneurs successfully advance their emerging best-of-class innovative technology to the Low-Rate Initial Production (LRIP) stage. LRIP is the first step in making the transition from highly customized hand-built prototypes, which are used for performance testing and vetting the production process, to the final massproduced end product produced in the full-rate production phase. This solicitation is part of the CEC's ongoing strategy to foster and support clean energy entrepreneurship across the state. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Michael Ferreira

- a. American Lithium Energy Corp. Proposed resolution approving Agreement EPC22-014 with American Lithium Energy Corp. for a \$2,997,617 grant to fund the build-out of a LRIP pilot line in Carlsbad, California, for silicon anode prismatic batteries with up to 30 percent greater energy capacity compared to traditional graphite-based technology, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The production line will be capable of manufacturing 500 cells per day while maintaining a 90 percent yield.
- b. ElectricFish Energy Inc. Proposed resolution approving Agreement EPC-22-015 with ElectricFish Energy Inc. for a \$1,690,103 grant to establish LRIP of a containerized EV charger, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. ElectricFish Inc. has developed a containerized charging system that includes integrated EV fast charging using batteries. The charging system directly integrates with a site's existing electrical infrastructure to add high-capacity vehicle charging and energy storage. The system uses softwarebased distributed energy resources optimization to lower costs for site hosts and charging customers and support local grid resiliency.

Public Comment:

Vince Wong from ElectricFish made a comment on this item.

Gabriela Taxman from American Lithium Energy commented on this item.

Commissioner Monahan moved to approve Item 9. Vice Chair Gunda seconded. The vote was Yes (5-0).

10. Minutes.

Possible approval of the March 2, 2023 and April 12, 2023 Business Meeting minutes. *Public Comment: None.*

Commissioner Gallardo moved to approve the March 2, 2023 Business Meeting minutes. Commissioner Monahan seconded. The vote was Yes (5-0).

Commissioner Gallardo moved to approve the April 12, 2023 Business Meeting minutes. Commissioner Monahan seconded. The vote was Yes (3-0).

Vice Chair Gunda and Commissioner McAllister abstained from voting on the minutes of the April 12, 2023 Business Meeting.

11. Lead Commissioner or Presiding Member Reports.

The Commissioners reported on their recent activities.

12. Executive Director's Report.

The Executive Director had nothing to report.

13. Public Advisor's Report.

The Public Advisor had nothing to report.

14. 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. Drew Bohan, Maunee Berenstein (United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, Case No. 2:20-cv-02277).*

The Chief Counsel gave a report.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNED BY:

LIZA LOPEZ

Secretariat