

California Energy Commission
Minutes of the August 9, 2023, Energy Commission Business Meeting

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

Present:

David Hochschild, Chair
Siva Gunda, Vice Chair

Patricia Monahan, Commissioner
Andrew McAllister, Commissioner

Absent:

Noemí Gallardo, 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:

Josh Harmon from PG&E made a comment regarding CPUC, Title 24.

Steve Uhler commented on RPS Proceeding from 2021 and Item 7.

Kate Kelly from Defenders of Wildlife commented on Item 7.

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.

Item 14 approval of the minutes from the July 26, 2023, Business Meeting, will not be heard today. It will be heard at a future business meeting.

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. The Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University. Proposed resolution approving agreement 800-23-001 with The Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University for a \$25,000 one-year contract for the CEC to continue to be a member of the Energy Modeling Forum (EMF) Affiliates Program. The purpose of the membership is to participate in an energy-

environmental network of experts and modelers currently working on the EMF 37 Deep Decarbonization & High Electrification Scenarios for North America study, which seeks to explore the opportunities, limitations, trade-offs, and robustness of results associated with high electrification in North America. (ERPA Funding)
Contact: Nicholas Janusch

- b. Energy Conservation Assistance Act (ECAA) Loan Program – PON-22-001. Proposed resolutions approving five ECAA-Ed loans at zero percent interest totaling \$16,287,373. (ECAA-Ed Funding) Contact: Sean Lockwood
 - i. Red Bluff Union Elementary School District. Proposed resolution approving agreement 007-23-ECG with Red Bluff Union Elementary School District for a \$3,000,000 loan at zero-percent interest and adopting staff's determination this action is exempt from the California Environmental Act (CEQA). The loan will finance solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays totaling 470 kW-AC at three sites in Tehama County. Upon project completion, it is estimated to reduce 732,656 kWh of electricity consumption in the first year of solar production, saving approximately \$185,317 in utility costs per year. The simple payback period is 16.2 years.
 - ii. Tulare County Office of Education. Proposed resolution approving agreement 008-23-ECG with Tulare County Office of Education for a \$5,000,000 loan at zero-percent interest and adopting staff's determination this action is exempt from CEQA. The loan will finance a carport solar PV array with battery energy storage, one ground mounted solar PV array, and six electric vehicle (EV) chargers in Tulare County. Upon project completion, it is estimated to reduce 1,269,894 kWh of electricity consumption in the first year of solar production, saving \$265,262 in utility costs per year. The simple payback period is 18.8 years.
 - iii. Guadalupe Union School District. Proposed resolution approving agreement 009-23-ECG with Guadalupe Union School District for a \$3,143,496 loan at zero-percent interest and adopting staff's determination this action is exempt from CEQA. The loan will finance two carport solar PV arrays totaling 248.4 kW, LED lighting retrofits, programmable thermostat and HVAC replacements, and one EV charger at two sites in Santa Barbara County. Upon project completion, it is estimated to reduce 439,426 kWh of electricity consumption in the first year, saving approximately \$160,024 in utility costs per year. The simple payback period is 19.6 years.
 - iv. Oak Valley Union Elementary School District. Proposed resolution approving agreement 010-23-ECG with Oak Valley Union Elementary School District for a \$2,143,877 loan at zero-percent interest and adopting staff's determination this action is exempt from CEQA. The loan will finance a 279.6 kW ground mounted PV array in Tulare County. Upon project completion, it is estimated to reduce approximately 571,746 kWh of electricity consumption in the first year of solar production, saving approximately \$114,023 in utility costs per year. The simple payback period is approximately 18.8 years.

- v. Pacheco Union Elementary School District. Proposed resolution approving agreement 011-23-ECG with Pacheco Union Elementary School District for a \$3,000,000 loan at zero-percent interest and adopting staff's determination this action is exempt from CEQA. The loan will finance two carport PV arrays totaling 280 kW, upgraded LED lighting, and HVAC systems at two sites in Shasta County. Upon project completion, it is estimated to reduce 527,678 kWh of electricity consumption in the first year of the project, saving approximately \$156,833 in utility costs per year. The simple payback period is 19.1 years.
- c. Energy Conservation Assistance Act (ECAA) Loan Program – PON-22-002. ECAA-Reg loans at one percent interest totaling \$3,974,168. (ECAA-Reg Funding) Contact: Sean Lockwood
 - i. Alpine Fire Protection District. Proposed resolution approving agreement 001-23-ECI with the Alpine Fire Protection District for a \$473,790 loan at one percent interest and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The loan will finance an 84 kW carport solar PV array in San Diego County. Upon project completion, it is estimated to reduce 132,800 kWh of electricity consumption in the first year of solar production, saving approximately \$27,870 in utility costs per year. The simple payback period is 17.0 years.
 - ii. City of Clayton. Proposed resolution approving agreement 002-23-ECI with City of Clayton for a \$1,902,113 loan at one-percent interest and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The loan will finance a carport shade structure with a 119.1 kW PV array, a 60 kW EV fast-charging station, LED lighting upgrades, and HVAC and control system upgrades in Contra Costa County. Upon project completion, it is estimated to reduce 575,805 kWh of electricity consumption in the first year, saving approximately \$139,953 in utility costs per year. The simple payback period is 13.6 years.
 - iii. City of Newark. Proposed resolution approving agreement 003-23-ECI with the City of Newark for a \$1,598,265 loan at one percent interest, and adopting staff's determination this action is exempt from CEQA. The loan will finance high efficiency LED luminaires replacement streetlights in Alameda County. Upon project completion, it is estimated to save 828,494 kWh annually, saving approximately \$218,696 in utility costs per year. The simple payback period is 7.3 years.

Public Comment:

Bret Prebula from the City of Clayton commented on this Item.

Commissioner McAllister moved to approve Item 3 Commissioner Gunda seconded. The vote was Yes (4).

4. Information Item – ARPA-E Partnership and MOU.

Staff will provide an overview of the CEC's successful partnership with the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E). In June 2013, the CEC and ARPA-E

signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide a framework for the two agencies to collaborate with a goal of maximizing investments in cutting-edge clean energy technologies. A decade later, the two agencies have re-committed to this partnership and signed an updated MOU, solidifying joint efforts to advance breakthrough energy technologies. Contact: Erik Stokes (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

Speaker: Daniel Cunningham, Deputy Director for Commercialization Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy U.S. Department of Energy

5. Information Item – Summer 2023 Grid Reliability Update.

Staff will provide an update on 2023 summer grid reliability including an overview of reliability conditions going into the summer, actions taken to prepare for the summer, new clean energy resources that have come online, an update on contingency resources available for an extreme event, and an overview of once-through cooling generating units being considered in the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Investment Plan. Contact: David Erne (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

6. DWR Investment Plan.

In accordance with Assembly Bill (AB) 205, DWR is required to notify the CEC of the terms, costs, and scope of contracts DWR entered into after October 31, 2022 pursuant to its Electricity Supply Strategic Reliability Reserve Program. DWR requests the CEC to approve the Investment Plan consistent with the terms of California Water Code Section 80710(i). Contact: Delphine Hou (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

Speaker: Matt Baker, Director of the Public Advocates Office at the Public Utilities Commission

Public Comment:

Alex Nguyen, Oxnard City Manager, commented on this item.

Erik Stokes Advisor to Commissioner Gallardo commented on this item.

Diana Cassidy from Third Act commented on this item.

Sally Kalaghan from XRA Sacramento commented on this item.

Lucia Marquez, Associate Policy Director, with Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) commented on this item.

Roselyn Tovar from Communities for a Better Environment commented on this item.

Mari Rose Taruc from California Energy Justice Alliance (CEJA) commented on this item.

Teresa Cheng from the Sierra Club commented on this item.

V. John White from Center for Energy Efficiency Renewable Technology commented on this item.

Marvelli Cruz commented on this item.

Henry Stern, Senator, Venture County commented on this item.

Angeoes Garcia commented on this item

Elizabeth Ortiz commented on this item.

Kari Aist commented on this item.

Kyle De LA Corre from CAUSE commented on this item.

Andrea Leon-Grossmann director of Vote Solar for California commented on this item.

Tommy Faavae from LBW, Local 11 commented on this item.

Tevin Schmitt from the Wish Foundation commented on this item.

Yosalin Gomez commented on this item.

Arturo Villanueva commented on this item.

Ana Rosa, Manager, from Central Coast Climate Justice Network commented on this item.

Sofia Magalaan commented on this item.

Farah Stack, Community Environment Council commented on this item.

Haley Ehlers, Director, from Client First commented on this item.

Arial Sanchez from commented on this item.

Mark Specht from Union of Concerned Scientists commented on this item.

Manuel Perez Oxnard resident commented on this item.

Veri Gonzalez commented on this item.

David Gonzalez commented on this item.

Liz Gonzalez commented on this item.

Elani Martinez commented on this item.

Gust Torres commented on this item.

Alison Rainy from State Pipe Trades Council, State Association of Electrical Workers, California Coalition of Utility Employees and the Western State Council of Sheet Metal Workers commented on this item.

Vanessa Buen Rostro commented on this item.

Lola Tennison commented on this item.

Dave Shukla from Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy commented on this item.

Daniela Aguirre commented on this item.

Amy Smith from Creed LA commented on this item.

Maria Navarro commented on this item.

Adadina Polcagio commented on this item.

Odette Moran commented on this item.

Alma De La Guila commented on this item.

Roberto Cabrales from CEJA commented on this item.

Juan Carlos Diaz commented on this item.

Alondra Mendoza commented on this item.

Marven Norman from CIJA commented on this item.

Terez Sanogo from Regenerate California Coalition commented on this item.

Gabriela Orozco commented on this item.

Julie Henszey from Sierra Club commented on this item.

Daryl Gale commented on this item.

Jack DuPuy commented on this item.

Ari Eisenstadt from Regenerate California Coalition commented on this item.

Vice Chair Gunda moved to approve Item 6 Commissioner McAllister seconded. The vote was Yes (4).

7. Information Item – Update to Land-Use Screens for Electric System Planning.

Staff will provide an overview of the revised land-use screens for electric system planning. Updated screens and a detailed staff report replace the current screens available to planning agencies. Staff will provide an overview of the changes to the screens, an available interactive data viewer, and anticipated use cases over the coming year. Contact: Erica Brand (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

Presenter Jared Ferguson California Publica Utility Commission (CPUC).

8. Order Instituting Rulemaking.

Proposed resolution to initiate an order instituting rulemaking to consider establishing efficiency standards, test procedures, marking requirements, certification requirements, and any other appropriate regulations for the appliances within the commercial foodservice equipment classification (i.e., commercial steam cookers, convection ovens, dishwashers, and fryers). Contact: Alejandro Galdamez (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

Public Comment:

None.

Commissioner McAllister moved to approve Item 8 Vice Chair Gunda seconded. The vote was Yes (4).

9. Title 20 Home Energy Rating System Regulations – 23-HERS-01.

Proposed resolution approving amendments to portions of CCR, title 20, sections 1670-1675 regarding the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) program and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The proposed amendments will remove certain administrative regulations pertaining to field verification and diagnostic testing, a separate program from HERS, so that they can

be added to the title 24 Energy Code. This rulemaking complements and will go into effect on the same date as the 2025 Energy Code rulemaking to avoid any regulatory gap. Contact: Joe Loyer (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

Public Comment:

Shelby Gatlan from CalATERS commented on this item.

Kevin Cane commented on this Item.

Commissioner McAllister moved to approve Item 9 Vice Chair Gunda seconded. The vote was Yes (4).

10. Antora Energy, Inc.

Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-23-010 with Antora Energy, Inc. for a \$2,999,695 grant to expand their pilot-scale manufacturing line in Sunnyvale for thermophotovoltaic (TPV) cells that convert radiant heat into electricity, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The novel TPV cells are combined with inexpensive thermal storage to create a cost-effective long-duration energy storage system capable of providing 200 hours of capacity. This project will develop and scale new TPV cell manufacturing techniques, to reduce system costs. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Anthony Ng (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

Public Comment:

None.

Commissioner McAllister moved to approve Item 10 Commissioner seconded Vice Chair Gunda. The vote was Yes (4).

11. Triton Anchor LLC.

Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-23-007 with Triton Anchor LLC for a \$3,447,131 grant to develop a floating offshore wind turbine anchor system, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The anchor system will be specifically designed for California's dynamic soil conditions, based on technology involving helical piles grouped together to provide greater holding capacity. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Mark Danielson (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

Public Comment:

None.

Zack Miller Executive Director from Triton commented on item 11.

Commissioner McAllister moved to approve Item 11 Commissioner Monahan seconded. The vote was Yes (4).

12. Gas Pipeline Safety and Integrity Research to Support Decarbonization – GFO-22-503.

This solicitation sought to fund gas pipeline integrity research to assess and monitor risk due to natural force damages, advance technologies for plastic pipeline inspections to reduce leakage, and inform gas system decommissioning opportunities. This item includes two projects totaling \$3,992,228. (Gas R&D Funding) Contact: Sean Anayah (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

- a. Institute of Gas Technology dba GTI Energy. Proposed resolution approving agreement PIR-23-005 with Institute of Gas Technology dba GTI Energy for a \$999,319 grant to test a non-destructive evaluation tool to identify cracks in the wall of plastic pipes and defects in fusion joints, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The project will combine historic and new inspection data to enhance decision support tools and improve cost-effectiveness of plastic pipeline integrity management.
- b. The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Los Angeles Campus. Proposed resolution approving agreement PIR-23-004 with The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Los Angeles Campus for a \$2,992,909 grant to demonstrate a novel approach to monitor ground motion and impacts on gas pipeline integrity, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The project will develop an integrated platform using remote and embedded sensing technologies and models to monitor, predict, and reduce the risk of natural hazard impacts to gas pipelines.

Public Comment:

None.

Vice Chair Gunda moved to approve Item 12 Commissioner Monahan seconded. The vote was Yes (4).

13. Light-Duty Vehicle and Multi-Use Hydrogen Refueling Infrastructure – GFO-22-607.

This solicitation sought proposals for projects that would provide publicly available hydrogen refueling stations to enable continued growth of the California fuel cell electric vehicle market. Solicitation objectives included bringing hydrogen fueling to areas of California currently without a hydrogen refueling station, and supporting fuel cell deployment in multiple vehicle market segments including fuel cell electric trucks and buses. This item includes two projects totaling \$5,780,123. (General Fund Funding) Contact: Jane Berner (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

- a. Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement ZVI-23-002 with Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., for a \$2,780,123 grant to develop one multi-use hydrogen refueling station with multiple fueling positions for both light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles in Galt, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA.
- b. FirstElement Fuel, Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement ZVI-23-003 with FirstElement Fuel, Inc. for a \$3,000,000 grant to develop one multi-use hydrogen refueling station with multiple fueling positions for both light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles in Kettleman City, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA.

Public Comment:

Mat Maysato from FirstElement commented on this Item.

Kristin Colvin commented on this Item.

Commissioner Monahan moved to approve Item 13 Vice Chair Gunda seconded. The vote was Yes (4).

14. Minutes.

Possible approval of the July 26, 2023, Business Meeting minutes.

Item 14 approval of the minutes was not heard and will be considered at a future business meeting.

15. Lead Commissioner or Presiding Member Reports.

The Commissioners had nothing to report.

16. Executive Director's Report.

The Executive Director had nothing to report.

17. Public Advisor's Report.

The Public Advisor had nothing to report.

18. Chief Counsel's Report.

The Chief Counsel gave a report.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

BLANCA CAMBEROS
Secretariat