

California Energy Commission  
Minutes of the November 8, 2023, 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 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:*

*Jennifer Butler with SitelogiQ commented.*

*Steve Uhler commented.*

**2. Agency Announcements.**

The Chair may announce relevant matters to the public and the CEC, including 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. The Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University. Proposed resolution approving a no-cost co-sponsorship with Stanford University to jointly hold a California energy-focused summit in January 2024. The CEC logo will be used in event promotions and the CEC will provide staffing for this event. Contact: Colleen Kredell
- b. Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. (IREC). Proposed resolution approving agreement 100-23-005 with IREC for a \$5,000 sponsorship contract to support the research and implementation of the 2022 National Solar Jobs Census, including California-specific data. (ERPA Funding) Contact: Ken Rider

- c. Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. (IREC). Proposed resolution approving agreement 100-23-006 with IREC for a \$5,000 contract for a one-year membership. Membership supports CEC staff's access to events, reports, white papers, and other technical resources for the acceleration of clean energy adoption. (ERPA Funding) Contact: Michael Poe
- d. CivicWell. Proposed resolution approving agreement 100-23-004 with CivicWell for a \$15,000 contract for a one-year membership. Membership allows CEC staff to meet with key stakeholders and participate in forums to pursue innovative smart-growth and climate resilience strategies. (ERPA Funding) Contact: Michael Poe
- e. American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE). Proposed resolution approving agreement 400-23-003 for a \$25,000 contract to formalize the CEC's membership with ACEEE. This one-year membership allows CEC staff access to a network of energy efficiency experts, leaders, and decision makers. (ERPA Funding) Contact: Elizabeth Butler
- f. Alliance to Save Energy. Proposed resolution approving agreement 100-23-003 with Alliance to Save Energy for a \$25,000 contract for a one-year membership. Membership allows CEC staff to meet with key policy and decision makers and officials from over 100 organizations to advance energy efficiency through policy, market transformation, education, communication, and research and technology initiatives. (ERPA Funding) Contact: Michael Poe
- g. Town of Yucca Valley. Proposed resolution adopting the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings for the Town of Yucca Valley's (Yucca Valley) Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System Installation at the Aquatics and Recreation Center, and approving agreement 005-23-ECI with Yucca Valley. (ECAA Funding) Contact: Sean Lockwood
  - i. CEQA. Findings that, based on (1) the lead agency, Yucca Valley's, Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), adopted on August 24, 2010, (2) Addendum No. 1 to the MND, adopted on October 25, 2011, (3) Addendum No. 2 to the MND, adopted on June 1, 2021, (4) and Addendum No. 3 to the MND, adopted on August 15, 2023, work under the proposed project presents no new or substantially more severe environmental impacts beyond those already considered and mitigated; and that following Yucca Valley's adoption of the MND and Addenda, none of the circumstances within CCR, title 14, section 15162 are present.
  - ii. Solar PV System Installation at Aquatics Recreation Center. Proposed resolution approving agreement 005-23-ECI with Yucca Valley for a \$2,500,000 ECAA loan at one percent interest. The loan will finance installation of a 320 kW carport and rooftop mounted PV system at Yucca Valley's Aquatics and Recreation Center in San Bernardino County. The project is estimated to reduce 582,459 kWh of annual grid electricity consumption, saving approximately \$203,861 in utility costs per year. The simple payback period is approximately 12.3 years.

- h. Wheatland School District. Proposed resolution approving agreement 014-23-ECG with Wheatland School District for a \$1,110,520 ECAA-Ed loan at zero percent interest, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This loan will finance installation of a 72.9 kW carport mounted solar PV system at one site and upgrade lighting to LED at three sites in Yuba County. The project is estimated to reduce 209,465 kWh of annual grid electricity consumption, saving approximately \$63,267 in utility costs per year. The simple payback period is 17.6 years. (ECAA-Ed Funding) Contact: Sean Lockwood.
- i. Business Meetings and Requests for Rulemakings (23-OIR-02). Proposed resolution approving amendments to the CEC's business meetings and requests for rulemakings procedures, as contained in the CCR, title 20, sections 1102, 1105, and 1221, allowing the CEC to conduct business meetings as necessary, removing the requirement for the CEC to take minutes at business meetings, ensuring that the CEC has sufficient information to evaluate petitions for rulemakings and increasing the time for the executive director to respond to a petition for rulemaking from 7 to 14 days, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA under CCR, title 14, section 15061(b)(3). This action comes after a 45-day public comment period and public hearing. Contact: Mariah Ponce
- j. The Candide Group, LLC. Proposed resolution approving an amendment to agreement EPC-21-040, for a novation changing the grant recipient from Pyro-E, Inc., a California corporation, to The Candide Group LLC., a Delaware limited liability company registered with the California Secretary of State, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. All aspects of the grant project including the project team, scope of work, project schedule, deliverables, budget, and terms and conditions will remain the same. This \$1,548,602 grant funds deployment of a novel auto-modulating power source (AMPS) device that will demonstrate water and cost savings across approximately 150 affordable housing units in Los Angeles. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Misa Werner
- k. Battelle Memorial Institute dba Battelle Pacific Northwest Division. Proposed resolution approving agreement 600-23-003 with Battelle Memorial Institute dba Battelle Pacific Northwest Division, manager and operator of the U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, for a \$979,000 contract to design and build a system to determine circuit-specific clustered electric vehicle (EV) charging load using forecasted adoption rates for individual grid system components in several utility territories in California, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. (CTP Funding) Contact: Micah Wofford
- l. Guidehouse Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement 400-23-002 with Guidehouse Inc. for a \$248,876 contract to provide technical support for developing a federal application management plan, memorandum to inform the development of a report to the Legislature, and materials to inform federal funding applications as required by Senate Bill 1112 (Becker, Chapter 834,

Statutes of 2022). (General Fund Funding) Contact: Jacob Wahlgren

*Public Comment:*

*Steve Uhler commented on Item 3i.*

*Curtis Yakimow commented on Item 3g.*

*Commissioner Monahan moved to approve Item 3f. Vice Chair Gunda seconded. The vote was Yes (4) with Commissioner McAllister abstaining.*

*Vice Chair Gunda moved to approve Item 3a-e and 3g-l. Commissioner Gallardo seconded. The vote was Yes (5).*

#### **4. Information Item – 2022 JAEDI Report.**

Staff will provide a report on efforts and progress through 2022 of CEC's Justice, Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JAEDI) initiative, an internal and external approach to advance these principles agency-wide. The JAEDI initiative seeks to strengthen CEC's internal culture of belonging through discussion, education and training opportunities. The JAEDI initiative also seeks to ensure CEC's programs and policies benefit all Californians. Contact: Mona Badie (Staff Presentation: 20 minutes)

*Information item only, no vote was taken.*

#### **5. Information Item – Energy Conservation Assistance Act (ECAA) Loan Program.**

An overview and update on the ECAA loan program, with a focus on recent program eligibility changes pursuant to AB 33 (Stats. 2021, ch. 226). In 2021, the ECAA program eligibility expanded to include California Native American Tribes and allow electric vehicle charging infrastructure and battery energy storage as eligible energy measures. Contact: Stephen Banister (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

*Information item only, no vote was taken.*

#### **6. Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE) for Lafayette Backup Generating Facility (Docket 20-SPPE-02).**

Proposed order finding that the requirements of Public Resources Code section 25541 are met and that the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared in compliance with CEQA, and adopting the executive director's recommendation that the CEC certify the EIR and grant Lafayette Backup Generating Facility, proposed in the City of Santa Clara, an SPPE from the Application for Certification provisions of the CEC's powerplant licensing process. Contact: Eric Knight. (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes) *Presenters: Scott Galati, Joey Hughes*

*Public Comment:*

*None.*

*Commissioner Gallardo moved to approve Item 6. Vice Chair Gunda seconded. The vote was Yes (5).*

**7. Small Power Plant Exemption for Bowers Backup Generating Facility (Docket 22-SPPE-01).**

Proposed order finding the requirements of Public Resources Code section 25541 are met and that the Final EIR was prepared in compliance with CEQA, and adopting the executive director's recommendation that the CEC certify the EIR and grant Bowers Backup Generating Facility, proposed in the City of Santa Clara, an SPPE from the Application for Certification provisions of the CEC's powerplant licensing process. Contact: Eric Knight. (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

*Public Comment:*

*None.*

*Commissioner Gallardo moved to approve Item 7. Commissioner Vice Chair Gunda seconded. The vote was Yes (5).*

**8. Advanced Pre-Fabricated Zero-Carbon Homes – GFO-22-305**

This solicitation sought to fund development of zero-carbon or near-zero-carbon, cost-effective, modular and manufactured homes that can be readily deployed. Requirements focus on developing the most advanced and cost-effective prefabricated homes that are all-electric, use on-site solar PV, have on-site energy storage, and have a ten-year total cost of ownership that is less than or equal to a home built to U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards for manufactured homes or the 2022 Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Standards for modular construction. This item includes three projects totaling \$10,743,178 (EPIC Funding) Contact: Jason Tancher (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

- a. Institute of Gas Technology dba GTI Energy. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-23-018 with Institute of Gas Technology dba GTI Energy for a \$2,775,570 grant to develop energy-efficient and grid-interactive zero carbon manufactured homes, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. These homes will meet the 2022 Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, exceeding the current HUD standards that apply to manufactured homes. The homes, located in San Diego and Santa Cruz counties, will incorporate insulation and sealing technologies to create a highly efficient envelope, utilize building materials with enhanced fire resistance, and implement on-site PV generation and battery energy storage.
- b. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-23-019 with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory for a \$5,000,000 grant to design and build advanced modular homes in Bay Point in Contra Costa County, a disadvantaged community, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The demonstration project will consist of three townhome units on a single site and include solar and energy storage, advanced high efficiency electric heat pump equipment, and a lower cost of ownership over ten years than typical modular homes.
- c. ReMo Homes Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-23-020 with ReMo Homes, Inc. for a \$2,967,608 grant to develop, test, and demonstrate zero-carbon or near zero-carbon, cost-effective, modular, and manufactured

homes that can be readily deployed, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. Research and development of the prefabricated homes will integrate advanced energy efficiency and renewable energy features addressing home affordability, and will also create resilient, zero-carbon energy efficient prefabricated homes.

*Public Comment:*

*Vamsi Kotla with ReMo Homes commented on Item 8.*

*Commissioner McAllister moved to approve Item 8. Commissioner Monahan seconded. The vote was Yes (5).*

## **9. Minutes.**

Possible approval of the October 18, 2023 Business Meeting minutes.

*Public Comment:*

*None.*

*Commissioner Monahan moved to approve Item 9. Commissioner Gallardo seconded. The vote was Yes (4) with Commissioner McAllister abstaining.*

## **10. Lead Commissioner or Presiding Member Reports.**

*The Commissioners reported on their recent activities.*

## **11. Executive Director's Report.**

*The Executive Director had nothing to report.*

## **12. Public Advisor's Report.**

*The Public Advisor had nothing to report.*

## **13. Chief Counsel's Report.**

*The Chief Counsel gave a report.*

*There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted,

***Signed By:***

---

BLANCA CAMBEROS

Secretariat