

State of California

California Energy Commission
Minutes of the June 12, 2024, Energy Commission Business Meeting
Location:
CNRA Headquarters
715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Auditorium

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
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:

Sofia Magallon with Central Coast Alliance United for Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) commented on Item 1.

Theral Golden commented on Item 1.

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. San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) Compliance with the Load Management Standards. Proposed stipulated order granting time extension to SDG&E to upload its Vehicle-to-Grid and Grid Integrated Rate hourly dynamic rates to the Market Informed Demand Automation Server (MIDAS) by October 31, 2024.

Contact: Gavin Situ

- b. Aspen Environmental Group. Proposed resolution conditionally approving an amendment to Agreement 300-22-003 with Aspen Environmental Group, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This amendment is for: (1) \$2,000,000 budget augmentation, (2) two-year term extension, (3) amending budget reallocation terms and conditions, and (4) increasing labor rate of one subcontractor. This amendment will support the following areas: (1) non-lithium long duration energy storage (NLLDES) grants; (2) U.S. Department of Energy applications for NLLDES grants; and (3) other technical support, including CEQA review. Staff recommends conditional approval of this item based upon funding availability as of the 2024 Budget Act. (LDES Funding) Contact: Kevin Mallon
- c. Aspen Environmental Group. Proposed resolution conditionally approving an amendment to Agreement 300-22-004 with Aspen Environmental Group, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. Aspen provides technical support for CEC energy research programs and this amendment will add terms and conditions to support the federally funded Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment Program for community energy resilience and reliability. (EPIC, Gas R&D, CRISP-General, INDIGO-GGRF, FPIP-GGRF, CERRI-Federal Fund) Contact: Tiffany Solorio
- d. Aspen Environmental Group. Proposed resolution conditionally approving agreement 800-23-012 with Aspen Environmental Group for up to \$2,500,000. The agreement will initially be for \$750,000. Additional funding, up to the \$2,500,000 total, will require approval from the CEC's Executive Director through an amendment. Aspen will provide technical support on diverse analyses including electricity system and infrastructure, energy demand forecasting, natural gas assessments and forecasting, and data management. Staff recommends conditional approval of this item based upon funding availability as of the 2024 Budget Act. (Funding Source: ERPA) Contact: Harinder Kaur
- e. Indian Energy LLC. Proposed resolution to conditionally approve amendment 2 to agreement LDS-22-001 with Indian Energy LLC, and adopting of staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The amendment will increase the project budget by \$12,000,000 for a total of \$43,259,680 and extend the project term by one year to increase the microgrid capacity by 10 MWh at a tribal microgrid on Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians tribal lands in San Diego County. Staff recommends conditional approval of this item based upon funding availability as of the 2024 Budget Act. (LDES Funding) Contact: Kevin Mallon
- f. National Community Renaissance. Proposed resolution conditionally approving agreement EPC-23-035 with National Community Renaissance for a \$8,000,000 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will build a 288-unit all-electric affordable housing mixed-use development with low-carbon technologies and advanced materials in San Diego. Staff recommends conditional approval of this item based upon funding availability as of the 2024 Budget Act. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Heriberto

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- g. The Regents of The University of California, on behalf of the Riverside Campus. Proposed resolution conditionally approving agreement 800-23-009 with the Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Riverside Campus, for up to \$400,000, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will collect and analyze data to improve the electricity demand forecast methods CEC may consider integrating into resource, transmission, and distribution system planning, and leverages a California Air Resources Board agriculture vehicle inventory survey. Staff recommends conditional approval of this item based upon funding availability as of the 2024 Budget Act. (ERPA and COIA Funds Funding) Contact: Quentin Gee
- h. Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE) for Martin Backup Generating Facility (Docket 22-SPPE-03). Proposed order finding 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 Martin 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.

Public Comment:

Kendra Moore with Momentum commented on 3f.

Vice Chair Gunda moved to approve Items 3c and 3g . Commissioner McAllister seconded. The vote was Yes (4-0) with Commissioner Monahan recusing.

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

4. Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California.

Proposed resolution conditionally approving agreement 010-23-ECI with Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California for a \$3,000,000 loan at one percent interest, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The loan will finance a 696 kW carport and rooftop mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) system at Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California's casino, hotel and event center building. The project is estimated to reduce 987,382 kWh of electricity consumption in the first year, saving \$212,239 in utility costs per year. (ECAA Funding) Contact: Stephen Banister (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

Public Comment:

None.

Commissioner Gallardo moved to approve Item 4. Commissioner McAllister seconded. The vote was Yes (5-0).

~~5. Assembly Bill 525 Offshore Wind Energy~~

~~Proposed resolution approving the strategic plan that addresses the requirements set forth in Assembly Bill 525 (Chiu, Chapter 231, Statutes 2021) directing the CEC~~

~~to produce a strategic plan that charts a path forward for floating offshore wind energy development in federal waters off the California coast. This report is to be submitted to the Natural Resources Agency and the relevant fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature. Contact: Elizabeth Huber (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)~~

6. Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) Appointment.

Proposed resolution approving the appointment of Senait Forthal to the DACAG for a term beginning June 2024 through March 31, 2025 to fill the remainder of a recently vacated seat on the DACAG. The DACAG is an eleven-member advisory body to the CEC and the California Public Utilities Commission created by Senate Bill 350 (De León, ch. 54, stats. 2015). Contact: Dorothy Murimi (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

Public Comment:

None.

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

7. Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) 2017-2020 Verification Results Reports for Local Publicly Owned Electric Utilities, Staff Draft Reports – Group 2.

Proposed resolution adopting RPS 2017-2020 Verification Results Reports for local Publicly Owned Electric Utilities (POU), Staff Draft Reports – Group 2 for Compliance Period 3. Each report provides information on the amount of eligible renewable energy credits (RECs), Portfolio Content Category and Long-Term Procurement classifications, procurement balances, targets, portfolio balance requirements, and any applied optional compliance measures. Contact: Kevin Chou (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

Public Comment:

None.

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

~~**8. Determination that Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) is Consistent with the Requirements of Public Utilities Code Section 9621 (Docket No. 18-IRP-01).**~~

~~Proposed resolution adopting staff's determination that SMUD's September 14, 2022 IRP filing is consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 9621 and the POU IRP Submission and Review Guidelines. IRPs are electricity system planning documents required of POUs to identify resource needs, policy goals, physical and operational constraints, and proposed resources, including renewable electricity procurement. Contact: Brian McCollough (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)~~

9. Optimizing Long-Duration Energy Storage to Improve Grid Resiliency and Reliability for Disadvantaged and Low-Income Communities and California Native American Tribes GFO-22-307.

The solicitation sought to fund technology demonstration and deployment projects that accelerate commercialization and validate the capability of long duration energy storage (LDES) technologies to improve grid reliability and resilience for disadvantaged and low-income communities and California Native American tribes. This solicitation required 100kW/24-hour minimum capacity and duration utilizing electrochemical or thermal battery storage. This item includes three projects totaling \$26,697,335 (EPIC Funding) Contact: Zoe Higgerson (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

- a. Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians of the Barona Reservation, California. Proposed resolution conditionally approving agreement EPC-23-037 with the Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians of the Barona Reservation, California (Barona Band of Mission Indians) for a \$9,000,000 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The project will install and demonstrate a 1.5 MW / 6.6 MWh zinc bromine flow LDES technology at the Barona Band of Mission Indians Reservation that will have the ability to discharge at least 100 kW for long durations up to 24 hours, and up to 3 MW for short durations. The proposed project will serve loads at a group of six facilities that support multiple functions critical to the health, safety, and welfare of the Barona Band of Mission Indians. Staff recommends conditional approval of this item based upon funding availability as of the 2024 Budget Act.
- b. RedoxBlox, Inc. Proposed resolution conditionally approving agreement EPC-23-027 with RedoxBlox, Inc. for a \$8,936,778 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The project will install and demonstrate a 3 MWh thermochemical energy storage system on the University of California at San Diego's medical campus that will provide more than 24 hours of electrical output and emergency support to the hospital and medical campus in loss-of-power events, including delivering high temperatures for industrial customers. Staff recommends conditional approval of this item based upon funding availability as of the 2024 Budget Act.
- c. Noon Energy Inc. Proposed resolution conditionally approving agreement EPC-23-036 with Noon Energy Inc. for a \$8,760,557 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The project will demonstrate a reversible carbon dioxide to carbon conversion-based storage system to provide 100 kilowatts / 10 megawatt-hours of LDES combined with an existing solar PV field to provide up to 100 hours of capacity for regional disadvantaged and low-income communities, and energy offsets to critical facilities in Yolo County. Staff recommends conditional approval of this item based upon funding availability as of the 2024 Budget Act.

Public Comment:

Josh Simmons, President and Principal Consultant with Prosper Sustainably, commented on Item 9.

Chris Graves, Co-Founder and CEO with Noon Energy Inc., commented on Item 9.

James Klausner with RedoxBlox, Inc. commented on Item 9.

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

10. Minutes.

Possible approval of the May 8, 2024 Business Meeting minutes.

Public Comment:

None.

Commissioner McAllister moved to approve Item 10. Commissioner Monahan seconded. The vote was Yes (4-0) with Vice Chair Gunda recusing.

10. Lead Commissioner or Presiding Member Reports.

The Commissioners reported on their recent activities.

11. Executive Director's Report.

The Executive Director provided a report.

12. Public Advisor's Report.

The Public Advisor did not give a report.

13. Chief Counsel's Report.

The Chief Counsel did not give a report.

- a. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(a)(1), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to consider the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a public employee or to hear complaints or charges brought against that employee by another person or employee.
- b. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e)(1), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to discuss the following pending litigation:
 - i. Shasta County and Pit River Tribe, et al. vs. California Energy Commission (Shasta County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV-0203737).
 - ii. State of California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Labor Standards Enforcement Legal Section: In the Matter of the Request for Appeal from Citation Issued Against: California Energy Commission; Anheuser-Busch, LLC, Respondents, State Case Number: 48-76293.
 - iii. California Fuels and Convenience Alliance v. California Energy Commission, et al (Sacramento Superior Court, Case No. 24WM000058).

Respectfully submitted,

Signed By:

KRISTINE BANAAG

Kristine Banaag, Secretariat