



Item 9: Advancing the Environmental Sustainability of the Clean Energy Transition (Enviro-SET) GFO-24-301

July 10, 2025, Business Meeting

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Sustainability and Resilience Branch




Enviro-SET Overview

- Research addressing:
 - Clean energy technologies
 - Decarbonized window designs
 - Energy efficient artificial lighting
- Funding 5 projects ~ \$3 million

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

**Environmental Sustainability of a Clean Energy
Transition (Enviro-SET)**

EPIC Program



GFO-24-301
<https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitation>
State of California
California Energy Commission
August 2024



Benefits to Californians

- Support streamlined development of renewable energy
- Reduce energy use and costs by identifying appropriate lighting
- Reduce environmental impacts of renewable energy, decarbonized buildings, and exterior lighting



9a: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (EPC-25-002)

Project Focus: Test bird-friendly windows for decarbonized buildings

Benefits:

- Incorporation of bird-safety requirements into energy standards
- Results in International Glazing Database to encourage adoption

Funding Amount: \$600,000



Source: [Giroux glass](#)



9b. University of California, Davis (EPC-25-003)

Project Focus: Study soil carbon storage, panel performance, and biodiversity at large ground mounted PV sites

Benefits:

- Soil carbon offsets
- Improved PV performance
- Accelerating renewable energy buildouts
- Support native plant communities and fossorial wildlife



Source: [Encore Renewable Energy](#)

Funding Amount: \$599,812



9c. University of California, Merced (EPC-25-004)

Project Focus: Environmental cost-benefit valuation of power-over-water deployment

Benefits:

- Increased solar panel efficiency
- Cost savings in permitting and interconnection
- Habitat impact mitigation
- Water conservation

Funding Amount: \$589,265



Source: [UC Merced](#)



9d. University of California, Davis (EPC-25-005)

Project Focus: Biologically appropriate lighting aligning energy efficiency and nature conservation

Benefits:

- Mitigating outdoor lighting impacts on essential nocturnal species
- More efficient lighting standards

Funding Amount: \$498,601



Source: [PBS](#)



9e. Mohave Ground Squirrel Conservation Council (EPC-25-006)

Project Focus: Adaptively managed translocation and propagation of state threatened Mohave Ground Squirrels

Benefits:

- Streamlined environmental permitting and compliance at solar sites
- Facilitating solar project siting
- Broadly accelerating renewable energy buildouts

Funding Amount: \$600,000



Source: [Mohave Ground Squirrel Conservation Council](#)



Staff Recommendation

- Adopt staff's recommendation that 5 agreement are exempt from CEQA
- Approve 5 agreements for a total funding of \$2,887,678