



**California Energy Commission
April 27, 2026 Business Meeting
Backup Materials for APPROVING PLUMAS-SIERRA RURAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE (PSREC) T24 COMMUNITY SHARED SOLAR PROGRAM**

The following backup materials for the above-referenced agenda item are available as described below:

1. Proposed Order, attached below.
2. [Staff Review of the Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative Community Shared Solar Electric Generation System Program Application](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=269398&DocumentContentId=106488), available at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=269398&DocumentContentId=106488>.
3. [Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative Application to be the Administrator of a Community Shared Solar Program to meet the requirements under Section 10-115 of the 2025 California Energy Code](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=268936&DocumentContentId=106124) available at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=268936&DocumentContentId=106124>.
4. CEQA analysis, attached below.

For the complete record, please visit [Docket 25-BSTD-05](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-BSTD-05) at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-BSTD-05>.

To stay informed about this project and receive documents as they are filed, please subscribe to the proceeding Topic, which can be accessed here [California Natural Resources Agency](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/31895) at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/31895>. The Topic sends out email notifications and direct links when documents are filed in the proceeding docket.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the Matter of 2025 Energy Code Community Solar Applications, 25-BSTD-05

PROPOSED ORDER APPROVING PLUMAS-SIERRA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (PSREC) T24 COMMUNITY SHARED SOLAR PROGRAM

ORDER NO: [YY-MMDD]-xx

I. BACKGROUND

The 2025 California Energy Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 6 and associated administrative regulations in Part 1), allows participation in a community shared solar electric generation (“community shared solar”) system, other community shared renewable system, community shared battery energy storage system (BESS), or combination of the aforementioned approved by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to partially or totally substitute on-site solar electric generation system, BESS installation, or both to comply with requirements specified in Sections 140.0(c), 150.1(a)3, or 170.0(a)3. Any entity may apply to the CEC for approval to administer a community shared solar program that meets the requirements in Section 10-115 of the 2025 Energy Code. The application must demonstrate to the CEC’s satisfaction compliance with each of the requirements specified in Section 10-115 and include detailed explanations of the actions that will be taken to meet those requirements for the time specified. All applicants have the burden of proof to establish that their application should be granted.

This Order considers the application submitted on December 11, 2025 by Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC) to administer a community shared solar program for newly constructed participating single-family residential buildings in PSREC’s service territory. The application details how the PSREC T24 Community-Shared Solar Program would comply with the Section 10-115 requirements in the 2025 Energy Code.

The PSREC was founded in 1937 to bring power to the Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra Counties. PSREC’s application asserts that it is a consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric utility, which serves more than 6,700 members in Northeastern California in Climate Zone 16 and a small portion of Washoe County in Nevada. Most of the cooperative’s members are households in single-family residential buildings. PSREC stated in its application that new residential construction in PSREC’s territory is minimal, with fewer than 25 newly constructed residential service locations each year. Multifamily building construction is virtually nonexistent.

Over several years, the PSREC planned and developed a 2.5-megawatt (MW) solar installation at the Sierra Army Depot (SiAD), one of the PSREC's four commercial members. The SiAD resource came on-line in 2018 and is wholly owned by the PSREC to fulfill several purposes. The resource serves as a mutually beneficial project for both PSREC and SiAD. In 2017, the PSREC's Board of Directors committed 10 percent of the output (250 kilowatts [kW]) from the SiAD resource to PSREC members participating in its community solar programs. Fifty percent (125 kW) would be dedicated to PSREC's non-T24 Community Solar Program for existing customers, and 50 percent to PSREC's T24 Community-Shared Solar Program for future members to demonstrate compliance with the Energy Code.

Staff reviewed PSREC's application to administer its T24 Community Shared Solar Program, which documents how the PSREC will meet each of the following 2025 Energy Code Section 10-115 requirements, and detailed their findings in the staff report titled "Staff Review of the Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative Community Shared Solar Electric Generation System Program Application". Staff made the draft staff report available for public review from March 4, 2026, through April 1, 2026. No written comments were received. The final staff report was published without any change on April 2, 2026. Staff finds, based upon their own analysis, that the application provided includes detailed explanations of the actions that PSREC will take or has taken to meet the requirements in each of the required subsections of Section 10-115 (CCR Title 24, Part 1). Further, staff notes that the application was presented and approved at the December 5, 2025, Meeting of the PSREC Board of Directors. Based on the PSREC commitments in the application, staff is satisfied that PSREC's application demonstrates compliance with the 2025 Energy Code Section 10-115 requirements.

II. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of PSREC's application to serve as administrator of the community shared solar program, named the "T24 Community Shared Solar Program", for the 2025 Energy Code cycle based on staff's satisfaction that PSREC's application demonstrates compliance with all Section 10-115 requirements. The approval date will determine the annual reporting date in accordance with Section 10-115(a)8A, which will allow the CEC to evaluate PSREC's compliance as outlined in Section 10-115 on an ongoing basis for the time specified by the requirements.

III. CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION FINDINGS

Based on the entirety of the record, the CEC finds that:

1. On December 11, 2025, PSREC submitted an application to the CEC under Section 10-115 of the 2025 Energy Code to administer a community shared solar program for newly constructed participating single-family residential buildings in PSREC's service territory.
2. Staff evaluated PSREC's application and accompanying documentation, which details how the PSREC T24 Community-Shared Solar Program would comply with the Section 10-115 requirements in the 2025 Energy Code. Staff provided their findings and recommendation for approval in the draft staff report titled "Staff Review of the Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative

Community Shared Solar Electric Generation System Program Application” available at

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=268933&DocumentContentId=106126>.

On March 4, 2026, the CEC provided a copy of PSREC’s application materials and the draft staff report to interested persons for an opportunity for public comment which ended on April 1, 2026 without comments. The public notice was posted to Docket Number 25-BSTD-05 available at

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=268934&DocumentContentId=106127>.

3. On April 2, 2026, the CEC provided the finalized version of the staff report titled "Staff Review of the Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative Community Shared Solar Electric Generation System Program Application” available at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=269398&DocumentContentId=106488>.
4. Following the public comment period, staff evaluated PSREC’s application, and supporting documentation. Staff finds to its satisfaction, based upon their own analysis, that the application provided includes detailed explanations of the actions that PSREC will take or has taken to meet the requirements in each of the subsections of Section 10-115.
5. Staff recommends that the CEC approve PSREC’s application to administer a T24 Community Shared Solar Program for newly constructed participating single-family residential buildings in PSREC’s service territory.
6. Staff has considered the application of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to the approval of PSREC’s community shared solar program application to administer the T24 Community-Shared Solar Program and conclude that the action is not a project, as defined, under CEQA or, in the alternative, if it is a project, it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the common-sense exemption and recommends the CEC confirm this determination.

IV. CONCLUSION AND ORDER

The CEC has considered the application materials, staff’s analysis, all written comments submitted, oral comments made at today’s business meeting, and CEC staff’s responses to all comments on this matter. Therefore, the CEC concludes the following in accordance with Section 10-115 of the 2025 Energy Code:

- 1) The application submitted by PSREC demonstrates to the CEC’s satisfaction that each of the requirements specified in Section 10-115(a) will be met and include detailed explanation of the actions that will be taken by the PSREC to ensure that each requirement is met over the period of time specified in Section 10-115 for each building for which a partial or total offset is used to demonstrate compliance.

2) That PSREC is approved as Administrator of the T24 Community Shared Solar Program and builders within the scope of the Program may use participation to comply with Section 150.1(a)3 of the 2025 Energy Code.

3) Approval of this application is not a project, as defined, subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and, alternatively, if it is a project, it is exempt pursuant to the common-sense exemption under Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines.

V. IT IS SO ORDERED.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of April 2026, by the following vote:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the CEC does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly approved and adopted by the affirmative vote of the CEC at a meeting held on [MM DD, YYYY].

Kim Todd
Secretariat

Mem o r a n d u m

To: California Energy Commission

From: Will Vicent
Deputy Director
Efficiency Division
California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Date: April 17, 2026

Subject: Basis for finding that the approval of Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative as the administrator of T24 Community Shared Solar Program is either not a Project for purposes of, or is exempt under, the California Environmental Quality Act.

I. CEQA.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.; see also CEQA Guidelines, Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.) requires that state agencies consider the environmental impact of their discretionary decisions. However, discretionary decisions that do not fit the definition of a “project” are not subject to CEQA. Additionally, CEQA designates certain projects exempt from its requirements. Of relevance here, and discussed further below, is the definition of a project (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15378) and the common-sense exemption (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3)).

II. 2025 Building Energy Efficiency Standards.

The 2025 California Energy Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 6 and associated administrative regulations in Part 1), allows participation in a community shared solar electric generation (“community shared solar”) system, other community shared renewable system, community shared battery energy storage system (BESS), or combination of the aforementioned approved by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to partially or totally substitute for on-site solar electric generation system, or BESS installation, or both to comply with requirements specified in Sections 140.0(c), 150.1(a)3, or 170.0(a)3.

Any entity may apply to the CEC for approval to administer a community shared solar program that meets the requirements in Section 10-115 of the 2025 Energy Code. The application must demonstrate to the CEC’s satisfaction compliance with each of the requirements specified in Section 10-115 and include detailed explanations of the actions that will be taken to meet those

requirements for the time specified. All applicants have the burden of proof to establish that their application should be granted.

I. Proposed Action.

The CEC Executive Director recommends approval of Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative's (PSREC) application to serve as administrator of the community shared solar program, named the "T24 Community Shared Solar Program", for the 2025 Energy Code cycle based on staff's satisfaction that PSREC's application demonstrates compliance with all Section 10-115 requirements. The approval date will determine the annual reporting date in accordance with Section 10-115(a)8A, which will allow the CEC to evaluate PSREC's compliance as outlined in Section 10-115 on an ongoing basis for the time specified by the requirements.

II. The proposed approval is not a project within the meaning of CEQA.

A "project" is defined as the "whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment..." (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15378(a).) The CEC has considered the application of CEQA to this proposed approval and find that it does not meet CEQA's definition of a "project" as it is not an activity that may cause a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change to the environment.

Approving staff's recommendation would result in an equivalent or better energy performance of solar generation for newly constructed single family residential buildings within PSREC's service area as required by Section 10-115 of the 2025 Energy Code. The solar PV system associated with the program already exists and no further action required by the CEC under Section 10-115 has the possibility of causing a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change to the environment as they primarily pertain to administrative and procedural processes. Therefore, the proposed approval is not a "project" within the meaning of Section 15378. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15378(a).)

III. Even if the proposed approval is a project under CEQA, it is subject to the Common-Sense Exemption.

If it is found that the proposed approval is a "project" within the meaning of Section 15378, the proposed approval would still be exempt from CEQA under the common-sense exception. CEQA only applies to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15061(b)(3)). A "significant effect on the environment" is defined as a substantial, or a potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment, and does not include an economic change by itself. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21068; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15382.)

Even if this determination is to be considered a "project" under CEQA, the common-sense exemption would apply, as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this determination will have a significant effect on the environment. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15061(b)(3).) As discussed above, it can be seen with certainty that the CEC's approval of

PSREC's application would not result in any environmental change as the solar PV system providing the equivalent energy performance that would otherwise be required by the 2025 Energy Code already exists. Section 10-115 does not require further action that has the possibility of resulting in additional environmental change.

For these reasons, the CEC's approval of PSREC's application to administer the T24 Community Shared Solar Program for the 2025 Energy Code cycle would not be subject to CEQA under the common-sense exemption of section 15061(b)(3).

IV. Conclusion.

As provided above, the proposed approval of PSREC's application to serve as administrator of the T24 Community Shared Solar Program for the 2025 Energy Code for newly constructed single family residential buildings within their service area will not cause a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change to the environment. The solar PV system associated with the program already exists and no further environmentally detrimental action is required under Section 10-115. Additionally, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed determination may have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, this action is not a "project" under section 15378(a) of the CEQA Guidelines or, alternatively, would be exempt pursuant to the common-sense exemption under section 15061(b)(3).