



2025 Annual Report

Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG)

Chris Walker, DACAG Vice Chair and Acting Chair



2025 Annual Report Overview

- Purpose
- Members
- 2025 Priorities
- Key Actions & Recommendations from 2025
- Agency Partnership
- Building on the Work of 2025
- Gratitude



Purpose of the DACAG

- California Senate Bill 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015
- 11 members either from or representing disadvantaged communities
- Purpose: "ensure that disadvantaged communities, including Tribal and rural communities, benefit from proposed clean energy and pollution reduction programs"
- DACAG Equity Framework: developed by founding members, refined in 2024 to emphasize
 - Non-energy benefits
 - Affordability
 - Access, Outreach, Education
 - Community Engagement
 - Health & Safety
 - Financial Benefits & Economic Development
 - Workforce Development
 - Consumer Protection
 - Metrics, Evaluation, & Accountability

2025 DACAG Members



Julia Mary Popolizio Hatton **



Chris Walker*



Sarah Sharpe *



Chelsea Kirk *



Elena Krieger, PhD ***



Gem Moon Montes*



Abimael Chavez-Hernandez *



Fred L. Beihn ***



Senait Forthal *



Román Partida-López ***



Councilman Michael Vasquez****

*First Term
**Second Term
***Third Term
****Appointed by Governor's Tribal Advisor's Office



2025 Priority Areas

- Affordability & Disconnections
- Building + Industrial + Gas System Decarbonization & Clean Hydrogen
- Electricity Reliability, Resiliency & Load Flexibility
- Transportation Electrification & Zero-Emission Transportation
- Long-Term Planning (SB 100, IRP, Offshore Wind, Lithium Valley)
- EPIC Program
- Tribal & Community Engagement
- Workforce Development



Key DACAG Actions in 2025

Verbal Input on CEC and CPUC Efforts

Verbal Input at DACAG meetings and SME meetings

longtermplanning transportation
reliabilityresiliencyloadflexibility
workforcedevelopment affordabilitydisconnections
buildingindustrialgasdecarbonization epic
transportaiton tribalcommunityengagement

Actions

- Priority Areas
- Comment Letters
 - Energy Efficiency Rulemaking (R.25-04-010) Comment Letter (June)
 - Cost of Capital Comment Letter (December)
- Officer Elections
- Annual Report
 - Vote on 2024 Annual Report & Presentation (April 2025)
 - 2025 Annual Report Preparation
- 2025 Annual Report Preparation

CEC Use of DACAG Equity Framework



- The Electric Program Investment Charge Investment Plan
- Gas Research and Development Program Budget Plan
- Justice Access Equity Diversity & Inclusion (JAEDI) Framework
- Clean Transportation Investment Plan



2025 Direct Recommendations to CEC & CPUC

- Use the DACAG Equity Framework across all Proceedings
- Prioritize affordability & protect low-income ratepayers
- Strengthen community engagement requirements
- Expand access to programs
- Advance building and gas system decarbonization with equity safeguards
- Center equity in EPIC and clean energy innovation
- Address reliability & resiliency gaps in justice communities
- Integrate workforce equity



Agency Partnership

- Plan for annual whole-of-Commission engagement with the DACAG
- Provide and maintain calendars of proceedings, dockets, major planning processes, and solicitations so that the DACAG can be ready to provide substantive input
- Build capacity on the DACAG by providing background and primers on technical topics in advance of seeking input
- Provide available data and data visualization tools
- Explore opportunities to expand the DACAG per diem (currently \$100) to support
 - Participation by would-be members who might otherwise lack the ability to engage
 - Attendance at Priority Area SME meetings
 - Limited travel for field engagement in DACs alongside Commissioners and staff, such as to project sites for CEC- and CPUC-funded programs
- Develop a clearer ruleset to better resolve how members can both avoid real conflicts of interest and share relevant experience with Commissioners on program implementation
- Explore a new meeting day/time to support additional public participation



Building on the Work of 2025

As of our August 2026 meeting, the DACAG has full membership and we are enthusiastic about our continued work with agencies to improve how we serve the 10 million or 1 in 4 Californians for whom DACs are not an acronym, but home

- The DACAG has undertaken efforts to boost member engagement and reorganize our approach to priority areas, with the goals of
 - ❑ Clearly defining the priority areas of our work and their many important intersections (with the DACAG Equity Framework as a guide)
 - ❑ Better understanding the scope and timing of agency actions and investments
 - ❑ Substantively shaping our own agenda and working across all of our priority areas with intention
 - ❑ Benchmarking and setting clear goals for how we hope/plan for the DACAG to inform agency work by Priority Area, and measuring change over time to inform our advice
- The DACAG is committed to developing and submitting more comment letters across more Priority Areas to ensure our advice is recorded beyond our meeting minutes and reaches you

Gratitude

CEC and CPUC Commissioners & DACAG Support Teams



CEC

- Chair David Hochschild, Vice Chair Siva Gunda, Commissioner J. Andrew McAllister
- DACAG Commissioners
 - Noemí Otilia Osuna Gallardo
 - Nancy Skinner
- Public Advisor
 - Ryan Briscoe Young (Current)
 - Mona Badie (Former)
- Sierra Graves, Director of Tribal Affairs, Agency Tribal Advisor
- Jessica Bonitz, Deputy Public Advisor
- Dorothy Murimi
- Legal Support
 - René Webster-Hawkins
 - Rachel Shuen
- DACAG Liaisons (staff representing Program Divisions)
 - Mabel Lopez ➤ Sebastian Rubio Ruiz
 - Martin Flores ➤ Monica Steele
 - Elicia Yoffee ➤ Eli Harland
 - Rachel Salazar

CPUC

- President John Reynolds, Commissioners Matthew Baker and Christine Harada
- DACAG Commissioners
 - Karen Douglas
 - Darcie Houck
- Judith Ikle
- Cheryl Cox, Program and Project Supervisor
- Zara Jamshed, Sr. Equity Analyst
 - Energy Division Staff
- Vanessa Baldwin, Legal Support