**GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

**Hydrogen Blending and Lower Oxides of Nitrogen Emissions in Gas-Fired Generation (HyBLOX)**

**Gas R&D Program**



**GFO-22-504– ADDENDUM 1**

http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html

**State of California**

**California Energy Commission**

[~~January~~] **February** 2023

Note: Added language appears in **bold underline**, and deleted language appears in [~~strikethrough]~~ and within square brackets.

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| **Attachments**   | Attachment Number | Title of Section | | --- | --- | | 1 | Application Form ***(requires signature)*** | | 2 | Executive Summary | | 3 | Project Narrative | | 4 | Project Team | | 5 | Scope of Work | | 6 | Project Schedule | | 7 | Budget | | 8 | CEQA Compliance Form | | 9 | References and Work Product | | 10 | Commitment and Support Letters ***(require signature)*** | | 11 | Project Performance Metrics | | 12 | Applicant Declaration ***(require signature)*** | | 13 | California Based Entity (CBE) Form | | 14 | References for Calculating Energy End-Use and GHG Emissions | |

# I. Introduction

## Purpose of Solicitation

The purpose of this solicitation is to fund Renewable Energy and Advanced Generation projects that meet the following initiatives:

* Developing and Demonstrating Hydrogen-based Power Generation Systems, from the 2021-2022 Gas Research & Development Budget Plan; and
* Mitigate Criteria Air Pollutants in Hydrogen-Based Power Generation, from the pending 2022-2023 Gas Research & Development Budget Plan.

This solicitation will fund the development and demonstration of emission-mitigating technologies and gas-fired power generation technologies that can run efficiently on high blends of hydrogen (H2) in the fuel stream while mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions. Research resulting from this solicitation will support increasingly higher blends of H2 up to 100 percent, without compromising generation efficiencies and performance, to support meeting California’s goals for carbon neutrality and improving public health and safety.

The 2021-2022 initiative funds the development and demonstration of power generation technologies that can run efficiently on high blends (exceeding 30 percent and progressing towards 100 percent) of H2 in the fuel stream, including modifications to current power generation technologies. These higher blends exceed 30 percent hydrogen by volume and aim to facilitate innovations where the technology using higher blends has either shown challenges or has not yet been tested. Possible challenges associated with using higher blends of hydrogen are equipment limitations, lowered fuel energy input, and harmful reaction product mitigation. Some novel technologies can already use 100 percent hydrogen with promising results but require development on their performance and emissions prior to pilot demonstrations.[[1]](#footnote-2) Therefore, development of technologies using 100 percent H2 would be eligible under this solicitation to accelerate the transition towards a zero-carbon energy future.

The pending 2022-2023 initiative funds technology advancements to mitigate NOx emissions and other criteria air pollutants such as carbon monoxide (CO) from the combustion of fossil gas blended with high percentages of H2, up to pure H2 (100 percent), in power generation applications and particularly for applications in under-resourced communities.

These initiatives are combined into one solicitation to promote collaboration amongst applicants to leverage knowledge about power generation systems and emissions mitigation into larger projects that show the impacts and benefits more clearly and cohesively. This approach also addresses stakeholder concerns about NOx emissions and other criteria pollutants from the 2021-2022 Budget Plan initiative. This solicitation will focus on the development, including modifications, and demonstration of smaller-scale ([~~0.3~~] **less than or equal** to 5 megawatts [MW]), H2 fuel-flexible, gas-fired power generation technologies and emission-mitigating technologies to increase safety and reduce emissions from gas-fired generation.

This solicitation supports California’s ambitious GHG emission reduction goals of carbon neutrality by 2045 through the decarbonization of in-state gas-fired generation and complements both CEC’s decarbonization investments in the industrial sector and the new electricity resources projected in the California Air Resources Board’s 2022 Final Scoping Plan.[[2]](#footnote-3) In-state gas-fired generation accounts for more than half of the power generation sector’s GHG emissions in California.[[3]](#footnote-4) Technologies and applications of interest are microturbines or internal combustion engines that could support either local power generation or be used in combined heat and power (CHP) systems. CHP systems serve an important role in providing high temperature heat for industrial and manufacturing processes that are difficult to electrify. CHP systems can also be used in residential, institutional, and municipal applications, but they have been less prevalent in these sectors, with only 10 CHP systems reported for power ranges between 1 to 5 MW in California in 2021.[[4]](#footnote-5) Recent research on CHP systems with ranges smaller than 5 MW down to 1 kilowatt, shows that California has nearly 1.9 gigawatts (GW) of potential generation capacity in residential, commercial, and light industrial settings in addition to the 662 MW currently installed. And over the next 20 years, more than 1.52 GW (about 80 percent of the additional potential) capacity could come online using traditional CHP technologies such as reciprocating engines, turbines, microturbines, and fuel cells that can operate on a wide range of fuels, including H2.[[5]](#footnote-6)

This solicitation will also advance the technologies and approaches that can reduce the trade-offs between GHG and NOx emissions that come from combusting H2 gas. For H2-gas-fired generation systems to be deployable in California, they will need to reduce criteria pollutant emissions, particularly NOx, to be compliant with California’s air quality standards.[[6]](#footnote-7) NOx emissions from H2-based gas-fired generation technologies can be higher than those using fossil gas because of the comparatively higher flame temperatures and increased water content of H2 combustion.[[7]](#footnote-8) However, other factors such as the volumetric percentage of H2 in the fuel blend, combustion characteristics, and burner type may influence the NOx formation. For example, on partially premixed combustion[[8]](#footnote-9) equipment, using blends under 30 percent H2 with fossil gas, NOx emissions were found to be either comparable or lower compared to using 100 percent fossil gas.[[9]](#footnote-10) However, gas turbines using 50 percent H2 with fossil gas show a 35 percent increase in NOx emissions relative to its baseline using 100 percent fossil gas.[[10]](#footnote-11) Similarly, NOx emissions are projected to increase when over 30 percent H2 blends are used in reciprocating engines.[[11]](#footnote-12),[[12]](#footnote-13) Therefore, as blends of H2 increase, NOx mitigation is crucial for generation systems to remain compliant with emissions standards.

This solicitation expands technology development to complement recent advancements in H2 blending in higher-power generators with outputs of 100 MW and greater. For example, gas-fired generation projects with H2-blending ranging from 600 MW to 1200 MW in capacity are being developed by regional utilities in several other states such as Texas, Nebraska, and New York and by major gas turbine manufacturers.[[13]](#footnote-14),[[14]](#footnote-15),[[15]](#footnote-16) Those projects will demonstrate H2 blends at 30 percent or greater, with some projects planning to use 100 percent H2, in the next decade. Those systems are focused on demonstrating H2-blended generation for its GHG reduction benefits. However, with increasing H2 percentages, there is a strong need to address the ensuing NOx emissions, and so research and development needs to be done for complete generation systems integrated with NOx emission-mitigating technologies. Smaller-scale systems, [~~ranging from 0.3~~] **less than or equal** to 5 MW, can provide a suitable power range for demonstrating the different technology developments and approaches that may be used in an integrated H2-blended generation and NOx mitigation system.

The U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) is also heavily investing in this space, with nearly $10.7 million awarded in 2021 to nine H2-blended gas-fired generation projects that range from computer simulations to bench-scale demonstrations for developing retrofittable systems to run on 100 percent H2.[[16]](#footnote-17),[[17]](#footnote-18) In May 2022, U.S. DOE awarded nearly $25 million to six projects to support the advancement of clean H2 technologies for power generation.[[18]](#footnote-19)

This solicitation is the CEC’s third investment in H2 blending technology development. Awards for two other areas of hydrogen blending-related investments include evaluating impacts in large commercial buildings and industrial processes and in the existing gas pipeline network. [[19]](#footnote-20),[[20]](#footnote-21) In contrast, this solicitation will focus on the development and demonstration of the power generation technology itself that can be advanced in maturity from the lab-scale to the pilot scale while simultaneously accommodating percentages of H2 greater than 30 percent by volume and having a strong emphasis on NOx emissions mitigation.

See Part II of this solicitation for project eligibility requirements. Applications will be evaluated as follows: Stage One proposal screening and Stage Two proposal scoring. Applicants may submit multiple applications, though each application must address only one of the project groups identified above. If an applicant submits multiple applications, each application must be for a distinct project (i.e., no overlap with respect to the tasks described in the Scope of Work).

Prospective applicants looking for partnering opportunities for this funding opportunity should register on the California Energy Commission’s Empower Innovation website at www.empowerinnovation.net

## Key Words/Terms

| **Word/Term** | **Definition** |
| --- | --- |
| Applicant | The entity that submits an application to this solicitation. |
| Application | An applicant’s written response to this solicitation. |
| Authorized Representative | *Authorized Representative*, the person signing the application form who has authority to enter into an agreement with the CEC. |
| **California Tribal Organization** | **A corporation, association, or group controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by a California Native American tribe that is subject to its laws, the laws of the State of California, or the laws of the United States.** |
| **California Native American Tribe/Tribe** | **A Native American Tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004.** |
| CAM | *Commission Agreement Manager,* the person designated by the CEC to oversee the performance of an agreement resulting from this solicitation and to serve as the main point of contact for the Recipient. |
| CAO | Commission Agreement Officer |
| CARB | California Air Resources Board |
| CBE | California Based Entity |
| CBO | Community Based Organization. A public or private nonprofit organization of demonstrated effectiveness that:   1. Has an office in the region (e.g., air basin or county) and meets the demographic profile of the communities they serve. 2. Has deployed projects and/or outreach efforts within the region (e.g., air basin or county) of the proposed disadvantaged or low-income community. 3. Has an official mission and vision statements that expressly identifies serving disadvantaged and/or low-income communities. 4. Currently employs staff member(s) who specialized in and are dedicated to – diversity, or equity, or inclusion, or is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. |
| CEC | State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission or, the California Energy Commission. |
| CEQA | California Environmental Quality Act, California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. |
| CHP | *Combined Heat and Power*, also known as cogeneration, produces electricity and useful thermal energy in an integrated system. |
| CO | Carbon Monoxide |
| CO2 | Carbon Dioxide |
| CPUC | California Public Utilities Commission |
| Days | *Days refers to calendar days.* |
| Disadvantaged Community | **These are communities that represent the 25% highest scoring census tracts in CalEnviroScreen 4.0, census tracts previously identified in the top 25% in CalEnviroScreen 3.0, census tracts with high amounts of pollution and low populations, and federally recognized tribal areas as identified by the Census in the 2021 American Indian Areas Related National Geodatabase.**  **(https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535)**  [~~These are communities in the top 25% scoring areas from CalEnviroScreen along with other areas with high amounts of pollution and low populations.~~  ~~(https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40)~~] |
| Gas IOU | *Gas Investor-owned utility,* including Pacific Gas and Electric Co., San Diego Gas and Electric Co., and Southern California Gas Co. |
| GHG | Greenhouse gas |
| H2 | Hydrogen |
| Low**-**Income Community | *Low-income Communities* are defined as communities within census tracts with median household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or [~~the applicable low-income threshold listed in the state income limits updated~~]**at or below the threshold designated as low-income** by the **California** Department of Housing and Community Development.  ([**https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/income-limits/state-and-federal-income-rent-and-loan-value-limits**](https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/income-limits/state-and-federal-income-rent-and-loan-value-limits)**)** [~~https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/income-limits/state-and-federal-income-limits.shtml)~~] |
| NOPA | *Notice of Proposed Award,* a public notice by the CEC that identifies award recipients. |
| NOx | *Oxides of Nitrogen,* a general term pertaining to compounds of nitric oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and other oxides of nitrogen. |
| Pre-Commercial Technology | *Pre-commercial Technology* means a technology that has not reached commercial maturity or been deployed at scales sufficiently large and in conditions sufficiently reflective of anticipated actual operating environments to enable the appraisal of operational and performance characteristics, or of financial risks. |
| Pilot Test | *Pilot test* means small scale testing in the laboratory or testing on a small portion of the production line of the affected industry. Pilot tests help to verify the design and validity of an approach, and adjustments can be made at this stage before full-scale demonstrations. |
| Principal Investigator | The technical lead for the applicant’s project, who is responsible for overseeing the project; in some instances, the Principal Investigator and Project Manager may be the same person. |
| Project Manager | The person designated by the applicant to oversee the project and to serve as the main point of contact for the CEC. |
| Project Partner | An entity or individual that contributes financially or otherwise to the project (e.g., match funding, provision of a test, demonstration or deployment site), and does not receive CEC funds. |
| Recipient | An entity receiving an award under this solicitation. |
| Solicitation | This entire document, including all attachments, exhibits, any addendum and written notices, and questions and answers (“solicitation” may be used interchangeably with “Grant Funding Opportunity”). |
| State | State of California |
| TRL | Technology readiness levels, are a method for estimating the maturity of technologies during the acquisition phase of a program.  Source: U.S. Department of Energy, “Technology Readiness Assessment Guide”. <https://www2.lbl.gov/dir/assets/docs/TRL%20guide.pdf> |

## Project Focus

Projects funded through this solicitation must develop and demonstrate a power generation system with NOx mitigation that can be operated on high percentages of H2 (exceeding 30 percent by volume) blended into the fuel.

Eligible power generation technologies must be gas-fired **systems with prime movers that are generally categorized as internal combustion engines (engines in which fuel reacts with oxidizer, usually air, at high temperature to generate work)** and have a nameplate capacity [~~between 0.3~~] **less than or equal** to 5 MW**. Examples of eligible prime movers include:** [~~from the prime mover, which is limited to:~~]

* Microturbines, **which are a small-scale form of gas turbines,** or
* [~~Internal~~] **Reciprocating** combustion engines.

Innovation and advancement strategies are required to maintain or improve upon the performance, efficiency, and durability of the system when compared to the baseline using the same generation system running on 100 percent fossil gas (or zero percent H2), while remaining in emissions compliance in pursuit of the target metrics identified in Table 1.

The proposed demonstrations must meet each of the following minimum technical requirements. Projects exceeding the minimum technical requirements will score higher in accordance with the evaluation criteria.

Minimum Technical Requirements:

1. Demonstrate emissions mitigation for GHG and NOx using a combination of mitigation techniques either before combustion using pre-intake strategies, during combustion using combustor control strategies, after combustion using emissions-mitigation technologies, or some combination of these.
2. System emissions must remain compliant with the **applicable** electric generation emissions standards set by the local air district in which the demonstration is located**, or by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for technology power sizes that would normally be exempt from the local air district standards.[[21]](#footnote-22)** For reference, the [~~California Air Resources Board (CARB)~~] **CARB** Guidance for the Permitting of Electrical Generation Technologies document may be used. (https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/guidelines.pdf)
3. Demonstrate the system for a minimum of 500 cumulative hours of testing using the blended fuel. The hours start accruing after the unit has reached stable operation. The 500 cumulative hours must include at least 300 continuous hours of operation. The testing must also include an analysis of the fuel impact on the capacity factor.
4. Demonstrate an increase in maturity of technology readiness level (TRL) from TRL 4 or 5 at the beginning of the project to TRL 6 or higher at the end of the project to advance the technology to the pilot scale. All projects must end at TRL 6 or higher regardless of TRL start point.

**Table 1. Project Target Metrics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Full System Parameters**  (Generation with NOx mitigation) | **Target** |
| Hydrogen blend percentage | Exceeding 30% by volume |
| Electric Generation Efficiency | Parity or better with baseline at 0% H2 blend |
| NOx Emissions | Parity or better with baseline at 0% H2 blend |
| CO Emissions | At least 60% reduction from baseline at 0% H2 blend |
| Maturity by project end | TRL 4-5 at project start; TRL 6 or higher by project end |

Possible projects may include, but are not limited to:

* Adapting an existing reciprocating engine to demonstrate its operation on higher blends of H2 coupled with an after-treatment system using catalysts developed for improved NOx reductions.
* Developing and demonstrating advanced microturbine materials and designs, manufacturing, sensors, and burners to handle increasing blends of H2 while mitigating NOx emissions.
* Optimizing air-to-fuel ratio, integrating water and steam injection, and using developed control strategies to demonstrate improvement of combustion characteristics for operation using higher blends of H2 for reduced GHG and NOx emissions.
* Eliminating combustion issues such as auto-ignition, thermoacoustic instability, and flashback by developing and demonstrating safe H2 blending thresholds and NOx mitigation approaches for standard operation strategies with built-in system redundancies.

Proposals must address the following requirements in the respective Attachments:

The Project Narrative (Attachment 3) must discuss the following in the sections identified:

Technical Approach

* + Discuss the project’s approach regarding safety concerns for H2-blended gas-fired generation that include establishing safe blending thresholds, system operation without gas leaks, maintenance of system integrity, and inclusion of system or operational redundancies.
  + Provide a detailed safety plan to address safe operation and procedures that include the use of standard operating procedures to safely perform work, leading and lagging indicators to assess safety performance proactively and retrospectively, and hazard assessments to reduce safety risks.

Impacts and Benefits to California IOU Ratepayers

* Describe the plan for sourcing the H2 to be used in the project. Please note, proposals using H2 sourced from low carbon pathways will receive preferential scoring.

The Scope of Work (Attachment 5) and Project Schedule (Attachment 6):

* Include a project task to conduct a techno-economic analysis of the demonstration system that will consider key inputs such as the cost of H2, particularly as it relates to the U.S. DOE’s Hydrogen Shot goal, to quantify the procurement cost and generation cost. [[22]](#footnote-23)
* Include a project task to conduct a carbon intensity analysis to assess the lifecycle emissions of operating the technology on the proposed fuel blend(s).
* Note:
  + The techno-economic analysis and the carbon intensity analysis must be based on the actual costs and environmental impacts associated with the H2 procured for the project.
  + Budget Forms (Attachment 7) should be completed considering the above project activities.

Measurement and Verification Plan

The Project Narrative (Attachment 3) must include a Measurement and Verification Plan that describes how actual project benefits will be measured and quantified, such as by:

* Environmental and equity benefits from reducing GHG emissions and mitigating increases in NOx emissions.
* Technology potential benefits for the adoption of new technology, strategy, and research results through innovative component redesigns and parts materials.
* Increased market connection benefits across a range of sectors that use fossil gas onsite (commercial, industrial, and electric power) for the potential adoption of H2 blends.
* Safety benefits through development and demonstration of standard procedures when handling and operating generation systems using H2 fuel blends.
* Explaining how H2 volumetric blend percentages will be measured and verified to remain accurate at the target blend percentage.
* Electric generation efficiency (electrical output compared to fuel energy input) when using the H2 fuel blend.

The activities proposed in the Measurement and Verification Plan must be included in the “Technical Tasks” section of the Scope of Work Template (Attachment 5)

## Funding

1. **Amount Available and Minimum/ Maximum Funding Amounts**

There is **up to** **$ 8,500,000** available for grants awarded under this solicitation. The minimum funding amount for each project is **[~~$ 2,125,000~~]** **$ 1,200,000**. The maximum funding amount is **$ 4,250,000**.

1. **Match Funding Requirement**

Match funding is required in the amount of at least **20%** of the requested project funds.

Projects funded from this solicitation may use match or other non-CEC funding for all fueling costs based on the generation technology size, H2 blend percentages, and testing duration. Because of anticipated challenges associated with sourcing large quantities of low carbon H2, the solicitation will preferentially score proposals that use H2 sourced from low carbon pathways when assessing the **Impacts and Benefits for California IOU Ratepayers** section (see Section IV for more information on scoring criteria).

For the definition of match funding see Section I. K.

1. **Unallowable Costs**

For an item of cost to be allowable, it must be included in the approved agreement budget and allowable per the terms and conditions of the resulting agreement. Fuel costs are an example of unallowable costs under an agreement resulting from this solicitation. Please note, additional items of cost may be unallowable in accordance with the terms and conditions.

* **Fuel Costs** – CEC funds cannot be used to purchase fuel for the proposed project. Applicants may use match or other non-CEC funds to purchase all the fuel needed for the project (see Section I.I for more information on Match Funding). Applicants are encouraged to source H2 from low carbon pathways, such as electrolysis using renewable electricity, to maximize project benefits (see Section IV for more information on scoring criteria).

1. **Change in Funding Amount**

Along with any other rights and remedies available to it, the California Energy Commission (CEC) reserves the right to:

* Increase or decrease the available funding and the minimum/maximum award amounts described in this section.
* Allocate any additional or unawarded funds to passing applications, in rank order.
* Reduce funding to an amount deemed appropriate if the budgeted funds do not provide full funding for agreements. In this event, the Recipient and Commission Agreement Manager will reach agreement on a reduced Scope of Work commensurate with available funding.

## Key Activities Schedule

Key activities, dates, and times for this solicitation and for agreements resulting from this solicitation are presented below. An addendum will be released if the dates change for activities that appear in **bold.**

| ACTIVITY | DATE | TIME[[23]](#footnote-24) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Solicitation Release | January 6, 2023 |  |
| **Pre-Application Workshop** | **January 23, 2023** | **10:00 a.m.** |
| **Deadline for Written Questions[[24]](#footnote-25)** | **January 30, 2023** | **5:00 p.m.** |
| Anticipated Distribution of Questions and Answers | Week of February 13, 2023 |  |
| **Deadline to Submit Applications** | **April [~~5~~] 21, 2023** | **11:59 p.m.** |
| Anticipated Notice of Proposed Award Posting Date | June [~~2~~] **29**, 2023 |  |
| Anticipated Energy Commission Business Meeting Date | [~~September 13, 2023~~]  **October 11, 2023** |  |
| Anticipated Agreement Start Date | [~~October 16, 2023~~]  **November 13, 2023** |  |
| Anticipated Agreement End Date | March 31,2027 |  |

## Notice of Pre-Application Workshop

CEC staff will hold one Pre-Application Workshop to discuss the solicitation with potential applicants. Participation is optional but encouraged. The Pre-Application Workshop will be held remotely. Applicants may attend the workshop via the internet (Zoom, see instructions below), or via conference call on the date and at the time and location listed below. Please call (916) 654-4381 or refer to the CEC's website at www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html to confirm the date and time.

**Date and time:** January 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**Zoom Instructions:**

To join the Zoom meeting, go to https://zoom.us/join and enter the Meeting ID below and select “join from your browser”. Participants will then enter the meeting password listed below and their name. Participants will select the “Join” button.

**Meeting ID:** 893 3064 8039

**Meeting Password:** HyBLOX

**Topic:** GFO-22-504 Pre-Application Workshop: Hydrogen Blending and Lower Oxides of Nitrogen Emissions in Gas-Fired Generation (HyBLOX)

**Telephone Access Only:**

Call **1-888 475 4499** (Toll Free) or **1-877 853 5257** (Toll Free). When prompted, enter the meeting number above. International callers may select a number from the Zoom International Dial-in Number List at: https://energy.zoom.us/u/adjzKUXvoy. To comment, dial \*9 to “raise your hand” and \*6 to mute/unmute your phone line.

**Access by Mobile Device:**

Download the application from the Zoom Download Center, https://energy.zoom.us/download.

**Technical Support:**

* For assistance with problems or questions about joining or attending the meeting,

please call Zoom Technical Support at **1-888-799-9666 ext. 2.** You may also contact the Public Advisor’s Office at [publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov), or 800-822-6228.

* System Requirements: To determine whether your computer is compatible, visit:

http://support.-zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-requirements-for-Windows

* If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please Erica Rodriguez by e-mail at Erica.Rodriguez@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4314 at least five days in advance.

## Questions

During the solicitation process, direct questions to the Commission Agreement Officer listed below:

Crystal Willis, Commission Agreement Officer

California Energy Commission

715 P, MS-18

Sacramento, California, 95814

Telephone: (916) 529-1108

E-mail: crystal.willis@energy.ca.gov

Applicants may ask questions at the Pre-Application Workshop, and may submit written questions via email. However, all **technical** questions must be received by the deadline listed in the “Key Activities Schedule” above. Questions received after the deadline may be answered at the CEC's discretion. **Non-technical** questions (e.g., questions concerning application format requirements or attachment instructions) may be submitted to the Commission Agreement Officer (CAO) at any time prior to 5:00 p.m. of the application deadline date.

The questions and answers will also be posted on the Commission’s website at: https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations

If an applicant discovers a **conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other error** in the solicitation at any time prior 5:00 p.m. of the application deadline date, the applicant may notify the CEC in writing and request modification or clarification of the solicitation. The CEC, at its discretion will provide modifications or clarifications by either an addendum to the solicitation or by written notice to all entities that requested the solicitation. At its discretion, the CEC may, in addition to any other actions it may choose, re-open the question/answer period to provide all applicants the opportunity to seek any further clarification required.

**Any verbal communication with a Commission employee concerning this solicitation is not binding on the State and will in no way alter a specification, term, or condition of the solicitation. Therefore, all communication should be directed in writing to the assigned CAO.**

## Applicants’ Admonishment

This solicitation contains application requirements and instructions. Applicants are responsible for **carefully reading** the solicitation, asking appropriate questions in a timely manner, ensuring that all solicitation requirements are met, submitting all required responses in a complete manner by the required date and time, and **carefully rereading** the solicitation before submitting an application. In particular, please carefully read the **Screening/Scoring Criteria and** **Grounds for Rejection** in Part IV, and the relevant Gas R&D Grant terms and conditions (formerly known as PIER Grant terms and conditions) located at: http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/contractors.html.

Applicants are solely responsible for the cost of developing applications. This cost cannot be charged to the State. All submitted documents will become publicly available records upon the posting of the Notice of Proposed Award.

In addition to any other right reserved to it under this solicitation or that it otherwise has, if the CEC determines, in its sole and absolute discretion, that if an agreement is not being successfully executed with an applicant in a timely manner, the CEC may cancel a proposed award and award funds to the next highest scoring applicant.

## Background

1. **Gas R&D Program[[25]](#footnote-26)**

This solicitation will award projects under the Gas R&D program (formerly PIER Natural Gas R&D program), which is funded by a ratepayer surcharge on gas consumed by ratepayers of Gas IOUs in California (see California Public Utilities Code section 890 and 895). The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) designated the California Energy Commission as administrator of the program in August 2004[[26]](#footnote-27). The purpose of the program is to benefit California gas ratepayers by funding public interest research and development activities, which the CPUC has defined as “developing science or technology, the benefits of which accrues to California citizens and are not adequately addressed by competitive or regulated entities.”[[27]](#footnote-28)

1. **Program Areas, Strategic Objectives, and Funding Initiatives**

Gas R&D projects must fall within one or more specific focus areas (**“research initiatives”**) identified in the Gas R&D Budget Plan. This solicitation targets the following research initiative(s) from the Natural Gas R&D Budget Plan for Fiscal Years 2021/2022[[28]](#footnote-29) and 2022/2023[[29]](#footnote-30):

**Specify Investment Plan**

* **Research Area**: **Renewable Energy and Advanced Generation Program Goals**
  + **Research Initiatives**:
    - Developing and Demonstrating Hydrogen-based Power Generation Systems, from the 2021-22 Plan; and
    - Mitigate Criteria Air Pollutants in Hydrogen-Based Power Generation, from the 2022-23 Plan.
* **Applicable Laws, Policies, and Background Documents**

This solicitation addresses the energy goals described in the following laws, policies, and background documents.

Laws/Regulations

* **Assembly Bill (AB) 32[[30]](#footnote-31) - Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006**

AB 32created a comprehensive program to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in California. GHG reduction strategies include a reduction mandate of 1990 levels by 2020 and a cap-and-trade program. AB 32 also designates the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and requires CARB to develop a Scoping Plan that describes the approach California will take to reduce GHGs. CARB must update the plan at least once every five years.

Additional information: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\_id=200520060AB32; https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/ab-32-climate-change-scoping-plan

Applicable Law: California Health and Safety Code §§ 38500 et. seq.

* **Senate Bill (SB) 32 - California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: emissions limit**

SB 32 expands on AB 32 by requiring that CARB ensure statewide GHG emissions are reduced to 40% below the 1990 level by no later than December 31, 2030. SB 32 further requires that these emission reductions are achieved in a manner that benefits the state’s most disadvantaged communities and is transparent and accountable to the public and the Legislature.

Additional information: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\_id=201520160SB32

Applicable Law: California Health and Safety Code § 38566.

* **SB 100[[31]](#footnote-32) The 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018,**

SB 100 does the following: 1) sets a 2045 goal of powering all retail electricity sold in California and state agency electricity needs with renewable and zero-carbon resources; and 2) requires the Energy Commission, Public Utilities Commission, and Air Resources Board to use programs under existing laws to achieve 100 percent clean electricity and issue a joint policy report on SB 100 by 2021 and every four years thereafter.

Additional information: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\_id=201720180SB100

* **SB 350[[32]](#footnote-33) Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015,**

SB 350 does the following: 1) expands California’s RPS goals and requires retail sellers of electricity and local publicly owned electricity to increase their procurement of eligible renewable energy resources; 2) requires the Energy Commission to establish annual targets for statewide energy efficiency savings in electricity and natural gas final end uses of retail customers by January 1, 2030; and 3) provide for transformation of the Independent System Operator into a regional organization.

Additional information: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/sen/sb\_0301-0350/sb\_350\_bill\_20151007\_chaptered.htm

* **SB 1075[[33]](#footnote-34) Hydrogen: green hydrogen: emissions of greenhouse gases.**

SB 1075 requires the Energy Commission, as part of the 2023 and 2025 editions of the integrated energy policy report, to study and model potential growth for hydrogen and its role in decarbonizing, as defined, the electrical and transportation sectors of the economy, and helping to achieve specified goals.

Additional information: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\_id=202120220SB1075

Policies/Plans

* **Integrated Energy Policy Report (Biennial)**

California Public Resources Code Section 25302 requires the Energy Commission to release a biennial report that provides an overview of major energy trends and issues facing the state. The IEPR assesses and forecasts all aspects of energy industry supply, production, transportation, delivery, distribution, demand, and pricing. The Energy Commission uses these assessments and forecasts to develop energy policies and provide recommendations for future research and analysis areas.

Additional information: http://www.energy.ca.gov/energypolicy

Applicable Law: California Public Resources Code § 25300 et seq.

* **Executive Order B-29-15**

Governor Brown’s Executive Order B-29-15 proclaims the severity of the drought conditions in California and directs the Energy Commission to invest in new technologies that will achieve water and energy savings and greenhouse gas reductions.

* **Executive Order B-55-18**

Governor Brown’s Executive Order B-55-18 stated a new statewide goal to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and no later than 2045, and achieve and maintain net negative emissions thereafter. All policy and programs undertaken to achieve this goal shall seek to improve air quality and support the health and economic resiliency of urban and rural communities, particularly low-income and disadvantaged communities, and shall support climate adaptation and biodiversity.

Additional Information: https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/9.10.18-Executive-Order.pdf

Reference Documents

Refer to the documents below for information about activities associated with CEC’s R&D and Renewable Energy and Advanced Generation Program.

* [CEC’s R&D Programs](https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/topics/research-and-development)
* [CEC’s Gas Research and Development Program](https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/natural-gas-program#:~:text=The%20Natural%20Gas%20Research%20Program,gas%20sources%20through%20increased%20efficiency.&text=Develop%20renewable%20gas%20use%20as,gas%20pipeline%20and%20infrastructure%20safety.)
* [Empower Innovation](https://www.empowerinnovation.net)
* [2021-2022 Gas Research and Development Investment Plan](https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M408/K505/408505761.PDF)
* [2022-2023 Gas Research and Development Investment Plan](https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2022/gas-research-and-development-program-proposed-budget-plan-fiscal-year-2022-23)

Refer to the documents/webpages below for information about activities associated with hydrogen research and demonstration.

* [California Air Resources Board 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality](https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/2022-sp.pdf)
* [U.S. Department of Energy National Clean Hydrogen Strategy and Roadmap. Draft - September 2022](https://www.hydrogen.energy.gov/pdfs/clean-hydrogen-strategy-roadmap.pdf)
* [U.S. Department of Energy Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs Program](https://www.energy.gov/oced/regional-clean-hydrogen-hubs)
* [U.S. Department of Energy Hydrogen Program Plan, November 2020](https://www.hydrogen.energy.gov/pdfs/hydrogen-program-plan-2020.pdf) <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/2022-sp.pdf>

## Match Funding

* **“Match funds”** includes cash or in-kind (non-cash) contributions provided by the applicant, subcontractors, or other parties including pilot testing, demonstration, and/or deployment sites (e.g., test site staff services) that will be used in performance of the proposed project.

“Match funds” do not include: CEC awards, future/contingent awards from other entities (public or private), the cost or value of the project work site, or the cost or value of structures or other improvements affixed to the project work site permanently or for an indefinite period of time (e.g., photovoltaic systems).

Definitions of “match funding” categories are listed below:

* + - **“Cash”** **match** means funds that are in the recipient’s possession or proposed by match partner and clearly identified in a support letter, and are reserved for the proposed project, meaning that they have not been committed for use or pledged as match for any other project. Cash match can include funding awards earned or received from other agencies for the proposed technologies or study (but not for the identical work). Proof that the funds exist as cash is required. Cash match will be considered more favorably than in-kind contributions during the scoring phase.
    - **“In-Kind”** **match** is typically in the form of the value of personnel, goods, and services, including direct and indirect costs. This can include equipment, facilities, and other property as long as the value of the contribution is based on documented market values or book values, prorated for its use in the project, and depreciated or amortized over the term of the project using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).
* **Match** funds must be spent only during the agreement term, either before or concurrently with CEC funds. Match funds also must be reported in invoices submitted to the CEC.
* All applicants providing match funds must submit commitment letters, **including prime and subcontractors**, that: (1) identify the source(s) of the funds; (2) justify the dollar value claimed; (3) provide an unqualified (i.e., without reservation or limitation) commitment that guarantees the availability of the funds for the project; and (4) provide a strategy for replacing the funds if they are significantly reduced or lost. Please see Attachment 11, Commitment and Support Letter Form. Commitment and support letters must be submitted with the application to be considered.
* Any match pledged in Attachment 1 must be consistent with the amount or dollar value described in the commitment letter(s) (e.g., if $5,000 “cash in hand” funds are pledged in a commitment letter, Attachment 1 must match this amount). Only the total amount pledged in the commitment letter(s) will be considered for match funding points.
* Examples of preferred match share:
  + - **“Travel”** refers to all travel required to complete the tasks identified in the Scope of Work. Travel includes in-state and out-of-state, and travel to conferences. CEC funds are limited to lodging and any form of transportation (e.g., airfare, rental car, public transit, parking, mileage). Use of match funds for out-of-state travel is encouraged, as the CEC discourages and may not approve the use of its funds for such travel. If an applicant plans to travel to conferences, including registration fees, they must use match funds. Applicants shall adhere to travel restrictions of using state funds to travel to certain other states pursuant to AB 1887 (2016) and codified at California Government Code Section 11139.8. All applicants are encouraged to consider the Attorney General’s website https://oag.ca.gov/ab1887 for a current list of states subject to travel restrictions. Awarded Grants under this solicitation shall not contain travel paid for with Commission funds (applicants can instead use match funds) to the listed states unless the Commission approves in writing that the trip falls within one of the exceptions under the law.
    - **“Equipment” is** an item with a unit cost of at least $5,000 and a useful life of at least one year. **Purchasing equipment with match funding is encouraged** as there are no disposition requirements at the end of the agreement for such equipment. Typically, grant recipients may continue to use equipment purchased with CEC funds if the use is consistent with the intent of the original agreement.
    - **“Materials”** under Materials and Miscellaneous are items under the agreement that do not meet the definition of Equipment (unit cost of at least $5,000 and a useful life of at least one year). **Using match funds for purchasing items such as laptops, notebooks and/or personal tablets is encouraged, as Energy Commission funds for these purchases is not allowed.**

## Funds Spent in California and California-Based Entities

* Only CEC reimbursable funds counts towards funds spent in California and funds spent on California-Based Entities totals.
* "Spent in California" means that:
  + (1) Funds in the "Direct Labor category and all categories calculated based on direct labor (e.g., fringe benefits, indirect costs and profit) are paid to individuals that pay California state income taxes on wages received for work performed under the agreement. Payments made to out-of-state workers do not count as “funds spent in California.” However, funds spent by out-of-state workers in California (e.g., hotel and food) can count as “funds spent in California.”; AND
  + (2) Business transactions (e.g., material and equipment purchases, leases, and rentals) are entered into with a business located in California.
  + (3) Total should include any applicable subcontractors.
* Airline ticket purchases for out-of-state travel and payments made to out-of-state workers are not considered funds “spent in California.” However, funds spent by out-of-state workers in California (e.g. lodging) and airline travel originating and ending in California are considered funds “spent in California.” A business located in California means: 1) businesses registered with Secretary of State AND 2) transaction is with a location in California that is directly related to the grant project (e.g., direct purchase of material and equipment to be used in the grant) and results in the support of California business and jobs.
  + Example 1: Grant funds will be spent on temperature sensors.  The temperature sensors are manufactured in Texas. The recipient orders the temperature sensors directly from a CA based supply house.  The invoice shows that the transaction occurred with the CA based supply house. This transaction is eligible and can be counted as funds spent in CA.
  + Example 2: Grant funds will be spent on temperature sensors. The temperature sensors are manufactured in Texas. The recipient orders the temperature sensors directly from Texas.  The manufacturer has training centers in CA that instructs purchasers on how to use the sensors. The invoice shows that the transaction occurred in Texas. This transaction is not eligible and cannot be counted as funds spent in CA.
* Pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 25620.5(h), the California Energy Commission’s Gas R&D Program must give priority to “California-Based Entities” (CBEs) when making awards. California Public Resources Code Section 25620.5(i) defines “CBE” as a corporation or other business entity organized for the transaction of business that either:
  + Has its headquarters in California AND manufactures in California the product that is the subject of the award; or
  + Has an office for the transaction of business in California and substantially manufactures the product or substantially performs the research within California that is the subject of the award.
* Applications must meet the following requirements in order to receive CBE preference points:
  + The proposal must include a CBE as either the recipient or a subcontractor.
  + The budget must show that the CBE(s) will receive more than 60.00% of the funds awarded.

# II. Applicant Eligibility Requirements

## Eligibility

This solicitation is open to all public and private entities. Demonstration projects in this solicitation must be located in the service territory of a California gas Investor Owned Utility (Gas IOU), which includes Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and Southern California Gas Company. All projects in this solicitation must benefit Gas IOU ratepayers.

## Terms and Conditions

Each grant agreement resulting from this solicitation will include terms and conditions that set forth the recipient’s rights and responsibilities. By signing the Application Form (Attachment 1), each applicant agrees to enter into an agreement with the CEC to conduct the proposed project according to the terms and conditions that correspond to its organization, without negotiation: (1) University of California and California State University terms and conditions; (2) U.S. Department of Energy terms and conditions; or (3) standard terms and conditions. All terms and conditions are located at http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/contractors.html. Please refer to the applicable Gas R&D Grant terms and conditions (formerly known as PIER Grant terms and conditions). Failure to agree to the terms and conditions by taking actions such as failing to sign the Application Form or indicating that acceptance is based on modification of the terms will result in **rejection** of the application. Applicants **must** **read** the terms and conditions carefully.The CEC reserves the right to modify the terms and conditionsprior to executing grant agreements.

## California Secretary of State Registration

All corporations, limited liability companies (LLCs), limited partnerships (LPs) and limited liability partnerships (LLPs) that conduct intrastate business in California are required to be registered and in good standing with the California Secretary of State prior to its project being recommended for approval at an CEC Business Meeting.  If not currently registered with the California Secretary of State, applicants are encouraged to contact the Secretary of State’s Office as soon as possible to avoid potential delays in beginning the proposed project(s) (should the application be successful).  For more information, contact the Secretary of State’s Office via its website at www.sos.ca.gov.  Sole proprietors using a fictitious business name must be registered with the appropriate county and provide evidence of registration to the CEC prior to their project being recommended for approval at an CEC Business Meeting.

## Disadvantaged & Low-income Communities

In January of 2019, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Resolution G-3546 stated, “the Commission directs the CEC to enhance its engagement with disadvantaged communities.” In addition, the CPUC directed the Energy Commission to Incorporate an explicit long-term strategy for the role of the Gas R&D Program in the more aggressive statewide decarbonization goals set by Senate Bill 100 (De León, 2018) and Executive Order B-55-18.

The California Energy Commission is committed to ensuring all Californians have an opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and services. While it is not required to complete the project within a disadvantaged community, demonstration projects located and benefiting disadvantaged and/or low-income communities will be considered under the scoring criteria for this GFO.

Low-income communities and households are defined as the census tracts and households, respectively, that are either at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income, or at or below the threshold designated as low-income by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Visit the California Department of Housing & Community Development site for the current HCD State Income Limits: http://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/income-limits/index.shtml. Disadvantaged communities are defined as areas representing census tracts scoring in the top 25% in CalEnviroScreen. For more information on disadvantaged communities and to determine if your project is in a disadvantaged community, use the California Communities Environmental Health Screening tool (CalEnviroScreen): https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40.



# III. Application Organization and Submission Instructions

## Application Format, Page Limits, and Number of Copies

The following table summarizes the application formatting and page limit recommendations:

The CEC may have waived the requirement for a signature on application materials for this solicitation. If a notice regarding CEC’s waiver of the signature requirement appears here: https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations, the waiver applies to this solicitation. In the event of a conflict between the notice and any language in this solicitation regarding signatures, the notice will govern.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Format** | * **Font:** 11-point, Arial (excluding Excel spreadsheets, original template headers and footers, and commitment or support letters) * **Margins:** No less than one inch on all sides (excluding headers and footers) * **Spacing:** Single spaced, with a blank line between each paragraph * **Signatures**: Wet signatures only (i.e., not electronic) * **File Format:** MS Word version 2007 or later (.doc or .docx format), excluding Excel spreadsheets and commitment or support letters (PDF files are acceptable for the letters) * **File Storage:** Electronic files of the application must be submitted on a USB memory stick when submitting via **hard copy.** |
| **Maximum Page Limit Recommendations** | * **Executive Summary** (Attachment): **two** pages * **Project Narrative Form** (Attachment): **twenty** pages excluding documentation for CEQA * **Project Team Form** (Attachment): **two** pages for each resume * **Reference and Work Product Form** (Attachment): **one** page for each reference, **two** pages for each project description * **Commitment and Support Letter Form** (Attachment): **two** pages, excluding the cover page * **Scope of Work** (Attachment): **thirty** pages * **Project Schedule** (Attachment): **four** pages * There are no page limits for the following:   + **Application Form** (Attachment)   + **Budget Forms** (Attachment)   + **CEQA Compliance Form** (Attachment)   + **Project Performance Metrics** (Attachment) |

## Method For Delivery

The only method of submitting applications to this solicitation is the CEC Grant Solicitation System (GSS), available at: https://gss.energy.ca.gov/. This online tool allows applicants to submit their electronic documents to the CEC prior to the date and time specified in this solicitation. Electronic files must be in Microsoft Word XP (.doc format) or newer and Excel Office Suite formats unless originally provided in the solicitation in another format.  Attachments requiring signatures may be scanned and submitted in PDF format.  Completed Budget Forms, (Attachment), must be in Excel format.

The deadline to submit grant applications through the CEC’s GSS is 11:59 p.m. The GSS system automatically closes at 11:59 pm. If the full submittal process has not been completed before 11:59 p.m., your application will not be considered. NO EXCEPTIONS will be entertained.

The CEC strongly encourages Applicants to upload and submit all applications by 5:00 p.m. because CEC staff will not be available after 5:00 p.m. or on weekends to assist with the upload process. And please note that while we endeavor to assist all would-be applicants, we can’t guarantee staff will be available for in-person consultation on the due date, so please plan accordingly.

Please give yourself ample time to complete all steps of the submission process: do not wait until right before the deadline to begin the process. Due to factors outside the CEC’s control and unrelated to the GSS system, upload times may be much longer than expected. For example, some past applicants experienced unexpected issues on their end, causing long delays that prevented timely submission. They spent significant time and resources on applications the CEC will not consider. Please plan accordingly. For instructions on how to apply using the GSS system, please see the How to Apply document available on the CEC website at: https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/1654.

First time users must register as a new user to access the system. Applicants will receive a confirmation email after all required documents have been successfully uploaded. A tutorial of the system will be provided at the pre-application workshop, and you may contact the Commission Agreement Officer identified in the Questions section of the solicitation for more assistance.

## Application Content

Below is a general description of each required section of the application. Completeness in submitting all the information requested in each attachment will be factored into application scoring.

1. Application Form (Attachment 1)

This form requests basic information about the applicant and the project. Please reference each individual attachment for a detailed description of the information requested by that attachment. The application must include an original Application Form that includes all requested information. The Application Form must be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant’s organization or will be failed as indicated in Section IV.E.

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1. Executive Summary Form (Attachment 2)

The Executive Summary includes: a project description; the project goals and objectives to be achieved; an explanation of how the goals and objectives will be achieved, quantified, and measured; and a description of the project tasks and overall management of the agreement.

1. Project Narrative Form (Attachment 3)

This form will include the majority of the applicant’s responses to the Scoring Criteria in Section IV, including the following which must be addressed for both Applied Research & Technology Demonstration projects:

* 1. **Project Readiness**
     + Include information about the permitting required for the project and whether or not the permitting has been completed. If complete, provide appropriate documentation. If local jurisdiction CEQA review and project approval is not complete, applications must include information documenting progress towards and a schedule for achieving compliance under CEQA. All supporting documentation must be included in Attachment 8.

1. Project Team Form (Attachment 4)

Identify by name all key personnel[[34]](#footnote-35) assigned to the project, including the project manager and principal investigator (if applicable), and individuals employed by any major subcontractor (a major subcontractor is a subcontractor receiving at least 25% of Commission funds or $100,000, whichever is less). Clearly describe their individual areas of responsibility. Include the information required for each individual, including a resume (maximum two pages, printed double-sided).

1. Scope of Work Template (Attachments 5)

Applicants must include a completed Scope of Work for each project, as instructed in the template. The Scope of Work identifies the tasks required to complete the project. See requirements in section I.C.

Electronicfiles for the Scope of Work must be in **MS Word** file format**.**

1. Project Schedule (Attachment 6)

The Project Schedule includes a list of all product, meetings, and due dates. All work must be scheduled for completion by the “Key Dates” section of this solicitation manual.

Electronic files for the Project schedule must be in MS Excel file format.

1. Budget Forms (Attachment 7)

The budget forms are in MS Excel format. Detailed instructions for completing them are included at the beginning of Attachment 7.  **Read the instructions before completing the worksheets**. Complete and submit information on **all** budget worksheets. The salaries, rates, and other costs entered on the worksheets will become a part of the final agreement.

1. All project expenditures (match share and reimbursable) must be made within the approved agreement term. Match share requirements are discussed in Part I of this solicitation. The entire term of the agreement and projected rate increases must be considered when preparing the budget.
2. The budget must reflect estimates for **actual** costs to be incurred during the agreement term. The CEC may only approve and reimburse for actual costs that are properly documented in accordance with the grant terms and conditions. Rates and personnel shown must reflect the rates and personnel the applicant would include if selected as a Recipient.
3. The proposed rates are considered capped and may not change during the agreement term. The Recipient will only be reimbursed for **actual** rates up to the rate caps.
4. The budget must NOT include any Recipient profit from the proposed project, either as a reimbursed item, match share, or as part of overhead or general and administrative expenses (subcontractor profit is allowable, though the maximum percentage allowed is 10 % of the total subcontractor rates for labor, and other direct and indirect costs as indicated in the Category Budget form). Please review the terms and conditions and budget forms for additional restrictions and requirements.
5. The budget must allow for the expenses of all meetings and products described in the Scope of Work. Meetings may be conducted at the CEC or by conference call, as determined by the Commission Agreement Manager.
6. Applicants must budget for permits and insurance. Permitting costs may be accounted for in match share. Permit costs and the expenses associated with obtaining permits are not reimbursable under this Agreement with CEC funds, with the exception of costs incurred by University of California recipients.
7. The budget must NOT identify that CEC funds will be spent outside of the United States or for out-of-country travel.  However, match funds may cover these costs if there are no legal restrictions.
8. All applicants should go to the Attorney General’s website https://oag.ca.gov/ab1887 for a current list of states subject to travel restrictions. Grants awarded under this solicitation shall not contain travel paid for with Commission funds (applicants can instead use match funds) to the listed states unless the Commission approves in writing that the trip falls within one of the exceptions under the law.
9. **Prevailing wage requirement:** Projects that receive an award of public funds from the CEC often involve construction, alteration, demolition, installation, repair or maintenance work over $1,000. For this reason, projects that receive an award of public funds from the CEC are likely to be considered public works under the California Labor Code. See Chapter 1 of Part 7 of Division 2 of the California Labor Code, commencing with Section 1720 and Title 8, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 8, Subchapter 3, commencing with Section 16000.

Projects deemed to be public works require among other things the payment of prevailing wages, which can be significantly higher than non-prevailing wages.

By accepting this grant, Recipient as a material term of this agreement shall be fully responsible for complying with all California public works requirements including but not limited to payment of prevailing wage. Therefore, as a material term of this grant, Recipient must either:

(a) Proceed on the assumption that the project is a public work and ensure that:

1. prevailing wages are paid; and
2. the project budget for labor reflects these prevailing wage requirements; and
3. the project complies with all other requirements of prevailing wage law including but not limited to keeping accurate payroll records, and complying with all working hour requirements and apprenticeship obligations;

or,

(b) Timely obtain a legally binding determination from the Department of Industrial Relations or a court of competent jurisdiction before work begins on the project that the proposed project is not a public work.

1. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance Form (Attachment 8)

The CEC requires the information on this form to facilitate its evaluation of proposed activities under CEQA (California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et. seq.), a law that requires state and local agencies in California to assess the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. The form will also help applicants to determine CEQA compliance obligations by identifying which proposed activities may be exempt from CEQA and which activities may require additional environmental review. If proposed activities are exempt from CEQA (such as paper studies), the worksheet will help to identify and document this. This form must be completed regardless of whether the proposed activities are considered a “project” under CEQA.

Failure to complete the CEQA process in a timely manner after the CEC’s Notice of Proposed Award may result in the cancellation of a proposed award and allocation of funding elsewhere, such as to the next highest-scoring project.

1. Reference and Work Product Form (Attachment 9)
   * 1. Section 1: Provide applicant and subcontractor references as instructed.
     2. Section 2: Provide a list of past projects detailing technical and business experience

of the applicant (or any member of the project team) that is related to the proposed work. Identify past projects that resulted in market-ready technology, advancement of codes and standards, and/or advancement of state energy policy. Include copies of up to three of the applicant or team member’s recent publications in scientific or technical journals related to the proposed project, as applicable.

1. Commitment and Support Letter Form (Attachment 10)

A commitment letter commits an entity or individual to providing the service or funding described in the letter. A support letter details an entity or individual’s support for the project. Commitment and Support Letters must be submitted with the application. Letters that are not submitted by the application deadline will not be reviewed and counted towards meeting the requirement specified in the solicitation.

1. Commitment Letters

Applicants must submit a **match funding** commitment letter signedby eachrepresentative of the entity or individual that is committing to providing match funding. The letter should: (1) identify the source(s) of the funds; and (2) guarantee the availability of the funds for the project.

* If the project involves **pilot testing** activities, the applicant must include a site commitment letter signed by an authorized representative of the proposed pilot test site. The letter must: (1) identify the location of the site (street address, parcel number, tract map, plot map, etc.) which must be consistent with Attachments 1 and 8. and (2) commit to providing the site for the proposed activities.
* **Project partners** that are making contributions other than match funding or a pilot test site, and are not receiving CEC funds, must submit a commitment letter signed by an authorized representative that: (1) identifies how the partner will contribute to the project; and (2) commits to making the contribution.

1. Support Letters

All applicants must include at least one support letter from a project stakeholder (i.e., an entity or individual that will benefit from or be involved in the project) that: (1) describes the stakeholder’s interest or involvement in the project; (2) indicates the extent to which the project has the support of the relevant industry and/or organizations; and (3) describes any support it intends (but does not necessarily commit) to provide for the project, such as funding or the provision of a pilot test site.

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1. Project Performance Metrics (Attachment 11)

The purpose of this questionnaire is to identify and document 5-7 performance targets for the project. The performance targets should be a combination of scientific, engineering and techno-economic metrics that provide the most significant indicator of the research or technology’s potential success.

1. Applicant Declaration (Attachment 12)

This form requests the applicant declare that they: are not delinquent on taxes nor suspended by the California Franchise Tax Board; are not currently being sued by any entity (public or private) or individual, and are not aware of any information that reasonably indicates they may be sued by any entity or individual during the proposed agreement term, that might reasonably be expected to materially impact the applicant’s ability to perform the proposed project; are in compliance with the terms of all settlement agreements, if any, entered into with the Energy Commission or another public agency or entity; are in compliance with all judgments, if any, issued against the Applicant in any matter to which the Energy Commission or another public agency or entity is a party; are complying with any demand letter made on the Applicant by the Energy Commission or another public agency or entity; and are not in active litigation with the Energy Commission regarding the Applicant’s actions under a current or past contract, grant, or loan with the Energy Commission. The declaration must be signed under penalty of perjury by an authorized representative of the applicant’s organization.

The CEC may request additional information from potential awardees before the CEC approves awards at a business meeting.

The CEC may have waived the requirement for a signature on application materials for this solicitation. If a notice regarding CEC’s waiver of the signature requirement appears here: https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations, the waiver applies to this solicitation. In the event of a conflict between the notice and any language in this solicitation regarding signatures, the notice will govern.

1. California Based Entity (CBE) Form (Attachment 13)

Identify any California-based entities as instructed in the form. California-based entities are entitled to a scoring preference as described in Part IV of this solicitation.

1. References for Calculating Energy End-Use and GHG Emissions (Attachment 14)

Any estimates of energy savings or GHG impacts described in the application should be calculated as specified on this form, to the extent that the references apply to the proposed project.

# IV. Evaluation and Award Process

## Application Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated and scored based on responses to the information requested in this solicitation and on any other information available, such as on past performance of CEC agreements. To evaluate applications, the CEC will organize an Evaluation Committee that consists primarily of CEC staff. The Evaluation Committee may use technical expert reviewers to provide an analysis of applications. Applications will be evaluated in two stages:

1. **Stage One: Application Screening**

The Contracts, Grants, and Loans Office and/or the Evaluation Committee will screen applications for compliance with the Screening Criteria in **Section E** of this Part. **Applications that fail any of the screening criteria will be rejected.**The Evaluation Committee may conduct optional telephone **Clarification Interviews** with applicants during the screening process to clarify and/or verify information submitted in the application. However, these interviews may not be used to change or add to the content of the original application. Applicants will not be reimbursed for time spent answering clarifying questions.

1. **Stage Two: Application Scoring**

Applications that pass Stage One will be submitted to the Evaluation Committee for review and scoring based on the Scoring Criteria in **Section F** of this Part.

* The scores for each application will be the average of the combined scores of all Evaluation Committee members.
* Clarification Interviews: The Evaluation Committee may conduct optional telephone interviews with applicants during the evaluation process to clarify and/or verify information submitted in the application. However, these interviews may not be used to change or add to the content of the original application. Applicants will not be reimbursed for time spent answering clarifying questions.
* **A minimum score of 70.0 points** is required for criteria 1-7- to be eligible for funding. In addition, the application must receive a minimum score of **52.50 points for criteria 1−4** to be eligible for funding.

## Ranking, Notice of Proposed Award, and Agreement Development

1. **Ranking and Notice of Proposed Award**

Applications that receive at least the minimum required score for all criteria will be ranked according to their score.

* CEC staff will post a **Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA)** that includes: (1) the total proposed funding amount; (2) the rank order of applicants; and (3) the amount of each proposed award. The CEC will post the NOPA at its headquarters in Sacramento and on its website, and will mail it to all entities that submitted an application. Proposed awards must be approved by the CEC at a business meeting.
* **Debriefings:** Unsuccessful applicants may request a debriefing after the release of the

NOPA by contacting the Commission Agreement Officer listed in Part I. A request for debriefing must be received **no later than 30 calendar days** after the NOPA is released.

* In addition to any of its other rights, the CEC reserves the right to:
  + Allocate any additional funds to passing applications, in rank order; and
  + Negotiate with successful applicantstomodify the project scope, schedule, project team entity that will receive the award, location and/or level of funding.

1. **Agreements**

Applications recommended for funding will be developed into a proposed grant agreement to be considered at a CEC Business Meeting. Recipients may begin the project only after full execution of the grant agreement (i.e., approval at a CEC business meeting and signature by the Recipient and the CEC).

* **Agreement Development:** The Contracts, Grants, and Loans Office will send the Recipient a grant agreement for approval and signature. The agreement will include the applicable terms and conditions and will incorporate this solicitation and the application by reference. The CEC reserves the right to modify the award documents (including the terms and conditions) prior to executing any agreement.
* **Failure to Execute an Agreement:** If the CEC is unable to successfully execute an agreement with an applicant in a timely manner, it reserves the right to cancel the pending award and use the funds elsewhere, such as to fund the next highest-ranked, eligible application.

## Grounds to Reject an Application or Cancel an Award

Applications that do not pass the screening stage will be rejected. In addition, the CEC reserves the right to reject an application and/or to cancel an award for any reason, including any of the following:

* The application contains false or intentionally misleading statements or references that do not support an attribute or condition contended by the applicant.
* The application is intended to erroneously and fallaciously mislead the State in any way.
* The application does not comply or contains caveats that conflict with the solicitation, and the variation or deviation is material.
* The applicant has previously received funding through an EPIC or Gas R&D (formerly Public Interest Energy Research (PIER)) agreement, has received the royalty review letter (which the CEC annually sends out to remind past recipients of their obligations to pay royalties), and has not responded to the letter or is otherwise not in compliance with repaying royalties.
* The applicant has received unsatisfactory agreement evaluations from the CEC or another California state agency.
* The applicant is a business entity required to be registered with the California Secretary of State and is not in good standing.
* The applicant has not demonstrated that it has the financial capability to complete the project.
* The applicant fails to meet CEQA compliance within sufficient time for the CEC to meet its encumbrance deadline or any other deadlines, as the CEC in its sole and absolute discretion may determine.
* The applicant has included a statement or otherwise indicated that it will not accept the terms and conditions, or that acceptance is based on modifications to the terms and conditions.
* The application contains confidential information or identifies any portion of the application as confidential.

## Miscellaneous

1. **Solicitation Cancellation and Amendment**

It is the policy of the CEC not to solicit applications unless there is a bona fide intention to award an agreement. However, if it is in the State’s best interest, the CEC reserves the right, in addition to any other rights it has, to do any of the following:

* Cancel this solicitation;
* Revise the amount of funds available under this solicitation;
* Amend this solicitation as needed; and/or
* Reject any or all applications received in response to this solicitation.

If the solicitation is amended, the CEC will send an addendum to all entities that requested the solicitation, and will also post it on the CEC’s website at: www.energy.ca.gov/contracts. The CEC will not reimburse applicants for application development expenses under any circumstances, including cancellation of the solicitation.

1. **Modification or Withdrawal of Application**

Applicants may withdraw or modify a submitted application before the deadline to submit applications by sending a letter to the Commission Agreement Officer listed in Part I. Applications cannot be changed after that date and time. An Application cannot be “timed” to expire on a specific date. For example, a statement such as the following is non-responsive to the solicitation: “This application and the cost estimate are valid for 60 days.”

1. **Confidentiality**

Though the entire evaluation process from receipt of applications up to the posting of the NOPA is confidential, **all submitted documents will become publicly available records** after the CEC posts the NOPA or the solicitation is cancelled. **The CEC will not accept or retain applications that identify any portion as confidential.**

1. **Solicitation Errors**

If an applicant discovers any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other error in the solicitation, the applicant should immediately notify the CEC of the error in writing and request modification or clarification of the solicitation. The CEC will provide modifications or clarifications by written notice to all entities that requested the solicitation. The CEC will not be responsible for failure to correct errors.

1. **Immaterial Defect**

The CEC may waive any immaterial defect or deviation contained in an application. The CEC’s waiver will not modify the application or excuse the successful applicant from full compliance with solicitation requirements.

1. **Disposition of Applicant’s Documents**

Upon the posting of the NOPA, all applications and related materials submitted in response to this solicitation will become property of the State and publicly available records. Unsuccessful applicants who seek the return of any materials must make this request to the Agreement Officer listed in Part I, and provide sufficient postage to fund the cost of returning the materials.

## Stage One: Application Screening

| **Screening Criteria**  *The Application must pass ALL criteria to progress to Stage Two.* | **Pass/Fail** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. The application is received by the CEC’s Contracts, Grants, and Loans Office by the due date and time specified in the “Key Activities Schedule” in Part I of this solicitation and is received in the required manner (e.g., no emails or faxes). | Pass  Fail |
| 1. The application Form (Attachment 1) is signed where indicated. | Pass  Fail |
| 1. The Applicant Declaration Form (Attachment 12) is signed where indicated. | Pass  Fail |
| 1. The Application includes Commitment Letters that total the minimum of 20*%* in match share of the total requested CEC funds. | Pass  Fail |
| 1. *If the project involves technology demonstration/ deployment activities*  * The Application identifies one or more demonstration/ deployment site locations. * The proposal includes a site commitment letter (Section III.D.11) for each demonstration/ deployment site. | Pass  Fail |

The CEC may have waived the requirement for a signature on application materials for this solicitation. If a notice regarding CEC’s waiver of the signature requirement appears here: https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations, the waiver applies to this solicitation. In the event of a conflict between the notice and any language in this solicitation regarding signatures, the notice will govern.

## Stage Two: Application Scoring

Proposals that pass ALL Stage One Screening Criteria and are not rejected as described in Section IV.C. will be evaluated based on the Scoring Criteria on the next page and the Scoring Scale below (with the exception of criteria 6−9, which will be evaluated as described in each criterion). Each criterion has an assigned number of possible points, and is divided into multiple sub-criteria. The sub-criteria are not equally weighted. The Project Narrative (Attachment) must respond to each sub-criterion, unless otherwise indicated.

**Scoring Scale**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **% of Possible Points** | **Interpretation** | **Explanation for Percentage Points** |
| 0% | Not Responsive | Response does not include or fails to address the requirements being scored. The omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s) are significant and unacceptable. |
| 10-30% | Minimally Responsive | Response minimally addresses the requirements being scored. The omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s) are significant and unacceptable. |
| 40-60% | Inadequate | Response addresses the requirements being scored, but there are one or more omissions, flaws, or defects or the requirements are addressed in such a limited way that it results in a low degree of confidence in the proposed solution. |
| 70% | Adequate | Response adequately addresses the requirements being scored. Any omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s) are inconsequential and acceptable. |
| 75% | Between Adequate and Good | Response better than adequately addresses the requirements being scored. Any omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s) are inconsequential and acceptable. |
| 80% | Good | Response fully addresses the requirements being scored with a good degree of confidence in the applicant’s response or proposed solution. No identified omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s). Any identified weaknesses are minimal, inconsequential, and acceptable. |
| 85% | Between Good and Excellent | Response fully addresses the requirements being scored with a better than good degree of confidence in the applicant’s response or proposed solution. No identified omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s). Any identified weaknesses are minimal, inconsequential, and acceptable. |
| 90% | Excellent | Response fully addresses the requirements being scored with a high degree of confidence in the applicant’s response or proposed solution. Applicant offers one or more enhancing features, methods or approaches exceeding basic expectations. |
| 95% | Between Excellent and Exceptional | Response fully addresses the requirements being scored with a better than excellent degree of confidence in the applicant’s response or proposed solution. Applicant offers one or more enhancing features, methods or approaches exceeding basic expectations. |
| 100% | Exceptional | All requirements are addressed with the highest degree of confidence in the applicant’s response or proposed solution. The response exceeds the requirements in providing multiple enhancing features, a creative approach, or an exceptional solution. |

**Additional Screening Criteria for Past Performance**

| **Screening Criteria** |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicant Past Performance with CEC**  The applicant—defined as at least one of the following: the business, principal investigator, or lead individual acting on behalf of themselves—received funds from the CEC (e.g., contract, grant, or loan) and entered into an agreement(s) with the CEC and demonstrated **severe performance issues** characterized by significant negative outcomes including:   * Significant deviation from agreement requirements; * Termination with cause; * Demonstrated poor communication, project management, and/or inability, due to circumstances within its control, from materially completing the project; * Quality issues with deliverables including poorly written final report that prevents publishing * Severe unresolved negative audit findings. |  |
| **Must pass to continue with Scoring Criteria** | **Pass/Fail** |
| **Scoring CRITERIA**  **The Project Narrative (Attachment)** must respond to each criterion below. The responses must directly relate to the solicitation requirements and focus as stated in the solicitation. Any estimates of energy savings or GHG impacts should be calculated as specified in the References for Calculating Energy End-Use and GHG Emissions (Attachment), to the extent that the references apply to the proposed project. | |

| **Scoring Criteria** | **Maximum Points** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **Technical Merit** 2. The proposed project provides a clear and concise description of the technological, scientific knowledge advancement, and/or innovation that will overcome barriers to achieving the State’s statutory energy goals. 3. Describes the competitive advantages of the proposed technology over state-of-the-art (e.g., efficiency, emissions, durability, cost). 4. Provides the proposed technical specifications and describe how the project will meet or exceed the technical specifications by the end of the project. 5. Describes the technology readiness level (TRL) the proposed technology has achieved and the expected TRL by the end of the project. 6. Describes at what scale the technology has been successfully demonstrated, including size or capacity, number of previous installations, location and duration, results, etc. 7. Describes how the proposed demonstration will lead to increased adoption of the technology in California. 8. Provides information described in Section I.C. | **15** |
| 1. **Technical Approach** 2. Proposal describes the technique, approach, and methods to be used in performing the work described in the Scope of Work. 3. The Scope of Work identifies goals, objectives, and deliverables, details the work to be performed, and aligns with the information presented in Project Narrative. 4. Proposal identifies the reliability that the project and site recommendations as described will be carried out if funds are awarded. 5. Identifies and discusses factors critical for success, in addition to risks, barriers, and limitations (e.g. loss of demonstration site, key subcontractor). Provides a plan to address them. 6. Discusses the degree to which the proposed work is technically feasible and achievable within the proposed Project Schedule and the key activities schedule in Section I.E. 7. Describes the technology transfer plan to assess and advance the commercial viability of the technology. 8. Provides a clear and plausible measurement and verification plan that describes how energy savings and other benefits specified in the application will be determined and measured. 9. Provides information documenting progress towards achieving compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by addressing the areas in Section I.I and Section III.D.3., and Section III.D.8 10. Provides information described in Section I.C. | **25** |
| 1. **Impacts and Benefits for California IOU Ratepayers** 2. Explains how the proposed project will benefit California Gas Investor-Owned Utility (Gas IOU) ratepayers and provides clear, plausible, and justifiable (quantitative preferred) potential benefits. Estimates the energy benefits including:    * annual thermal savings (kilowatt-hour and therms), energy cost reductions, peak load reduction and/or shifting, infrastructure resiliency, infrastructure reliability.   **In addition, estimates the non-energy benefits including:**   * greenhouse gas emission reductions, air emissions reductions (e.g. NOx), water savings and cost reduction, and/or increased safety; and * lower carbon intensity by using H2 sourced from low carbon pathways in the project.  1. States the timeframe, assumptions with sources, and calculations for the estimated benefits, and explains their reasonableness. Include baseline or “business as usual” over timeframe. 2. Explains the path-to-market strategy including near-term (i.e. initial target markets), mid-term, and long-term markets for the technology, size and penetration or deployment rates, and underlying assumptions. 3. Identifies the expected financial performance (e.g. payback period, ROI) of the demonstration at scale. 4. Identifies the specific programs which the technology intends to leverage. *(e.g., clean electricity programs, energy investment programs, hydrogen-related incentives under the Inflation Reduction Act) and extent to which technology meets program requirements)*. | **20** |
| 1. **Team Qualifications, Capabilities, and Resources**   Evaluations of ongoing or previous projects including project performance by applicant and team members will be used in scoring for this criterion. This can include contacting references.   1. Identifies credentials of prime and any subcontractor key personnel, including the project manager, principal investigator and technology and knowledge transfer lead *(include this information in the Project Team Form).* 2. Demonstrates that the project team has appropriate qualifications, experience, financial stability and capability to complete the project. 3. Explains the team structure and how various tasks will be managed and coordinated. 4. Describes the facilities, infrastructure, and resources available that directly support the project. 5. Describes the team’s history of successfully completing projects in the past 10 years including subsequent deployments and commercialization. | **15** |
| **Total Possible Points for criteria 1− 4**  **(Minimum Passing Score for criteria 1− 4 is 70% or 52.50)** | **75** |
| 1. **Budget and Cost-Effectiveness** 2. Budget forms are complete for the applicant and all subcontractors, as described in the Budget instructions. 3. Justifies the reasonableness of the requested funds relative to the project goals, objectives, and tasks. 4. Justifies the reasonableness of direct costs (e.g., labor, fringe benefits, equipment, materials & misc. travel, and subcontractors). 5. Justifies the reasonableness of indirect costs (e.g., overhead, facility charges (e.g., rent, utilities), burdens, subcontractor profit, and other like costs). | **10** |
| 1. **CEC Funds Spent in California**   Projects that maximize the spending of CEC funds in California will receive points as indicated in the table below (see CEC Funds Spent in California and California-Based Entities section for more details).   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Percentage of CEC funds spent in CA vs Total CEC funds requested**  (derived from budget Attachment) | **Percentage of Possible Points** | | >60% | 20% | | >65% | 30% | | >70% | 40% | | >75% | 50% | | >80% | 60% | | >85% | 70% | | >90% | 80% | | >95% | 90% | | >98% | 100% | | **10** |
| 1. **Ratio of Direct Labor to Indirect Costs**   The score for this criterion will be calculated by the following formula:  This ratio will then be multiplied by the maximum possible points for this criterion and rounded to two decimal places.  NOTE: For the purposes of this criterion, the CEC will include the facility charges (e.g., rent, utilities, etc.), burdens and other like costs that are budgeted as direct costs into the indirect costs in the formula. | **5** |
| **Total Possible Points**  **(Minimum Passing Score for Criteria 1 – 7 is 70% or 70.00)** | **100** |

| **Scoring Criteria** | **Maximum Points** |
| --- | --- |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Preference Points** Applications must meet both minimum passing scores (Scoring Criteria 1-4, and 1-7) to be eligible for the additional points. | |
| 1. **California Based Entities (CBE) Preference Points**   Projects that maximize the spending of CEC funds on California Based Entities will receive points as indicated in the table below (see Funds Spent in California and California-Based Entities section for more details).  Projects that meet these requirements will receive preference points as indicated below:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Percentage of Gas R&D Funds Allocated to CBEs**  (derived from budget attachment “Category Budget”) | **Percentage of Possible Points** | | > 60% | 20% | | > 70% | 40% | | > 80% | 60% | | > 90% | 80% | | =100% | 100% | | **5** |
| 1. **Match Funds** 2. Cash match share is preferred; however, in-kind cost share is permitted and will be considered for solicitation match requirements. Points for this criterion will be evaluated based on the proposed cash match relative to the total match (cash + in-kind) contributions using the Cash Match Scoring Table:   **Cash Match Scoring Table**   | Percentage of Proposed Cash Match Funds | Score | | --- | --- | | 80 to 100% | 5 | | 60 to <80% | 4 | | 40 to <60% | 3 | | 20 to <40% | 2 | | 10 to <20% | 1 | | **5** |
| 1. Additional points will be awarded to applications that exceed the minimum match requirements based on the percentage amount above minimum using the Exceeds Minimum Match Scoring table:   **Exceeds Minimum  Match Scoring Table**   | Percentage above Minimum Match (cash and in-kind) | Score | | --- | --- | | 80% | 5 | | 60 to <80% | 4 | | 40 to <60% | 3 | | 20 to <40% | 2 | | 10 to <20 % | 1 | | **5** |
| 1. **Disadvantaged & Low-Income Communities**   In order to receive or qualify for additional points, the proposed project must demonstrate benefits to the disadvantaged and/or low-income community in order to receive additional points.   1. Proposal identifies how the target market(s) will benefit disadvantaged and/or low-income communities. 2. Identifies economic impact on low-income and disadvantaged communities including customer bill savings, job creation, partnering and contracting with micro- and small-businesses, and economic development. 3. Describes how the project will increase access to clean energy or sustainability technologies within disadvantaged and/or low-income communities and how the development will benefit the communities. 4. Applicants have letters of support from technology partners, community based organizations, environmental justice organizations, or other partners that demonstrate their belief that the proposed project will lead to increased equity, and is both feasible, and commercially viable in the identified low-income and/or disadvantaged communities. | **5** |

1. Capstone Green Energy Achieves Goal of 30% Hydrogen Blend-Compatible Products. Business Wire <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20220329005359/en/Capstone-Green-Energy-Achieves-Goal-of-30-Hydrogen-Blend-Compatible-Products> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality. California Air Resources Board. November 16, 2022 (<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/2022-sp.pdf>) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. California Independent System Operator. Emissions, Today’s Outlook, (<https://www.caiso.com/TodaysOutlook/Pages/emissions.aspx>) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. QFER CEC-1304 Power Plant Owner Reporting Database. California Energy Commission. (<https://ww2.energy.ca.gov/almanac/electricity_data/web_qfer/index_cms.php>) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. A Comprehensive Assessment of Small Combined Heat and Power Technical and Market Potential in California. (<https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/CEC-500-2019-030.pdf>) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. California Air Resources Board. Air District Rules, (<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/air-district-rules>) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. U.S. Department of Energy. 2020. Hydrogen Program Plan. (<https://www.hydrogen.energy.gov/pdfs/hydrogen-program-plan-2020.pdf>) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Partially premixed combustion occurs when fuel and oxidizer enter the combustion chamber separately and are partially mixed by turbulence before the mixture is ignited. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Impact of Hydrogen/Natural Gas Blends on Partially Premixed Combustion Equipment: NOx Emission and Operational Performance. Gas Technology Institute. (<https://www.mdpi.com/1996-1073/15/5/1706/htm>) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. Hydrogen as a fuel for gas turbines. GE. (<https://www.ge.com/content/dam/gepower-new/global/en_US/downloads/gas-new-site/future-of-energy/hydrogen-fuel-for-gas-turbines-gea34979.pdf>), p. 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. Smutzer, C., 2006. Application of Hydrogen Assisted Lean Operation to Natural Gas-Fueled Reciprocating Engines (HALO). Tiax LLC. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. Chapman, K.S. and Patil, A., 2007. Performance, Efficiency, and Emissions Characterization of Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines Fueled with Hydrogen/Natural Gas Blends. Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS (United States). [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. Montgomery County Power Station Enters Commercial Operation with Mitsubishi Power Technology, Enabling Cleaner Energy Today. Mitsubishi Power Americas. (<https://power.mhi.com/regions/amer/news/20210121.html?utm_source=amerweb&utm_medium=release&utm_campaign=Bakken>) [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. Siemens Energy to provide hydrogen-capable turbines to back up utility-scale solar installation in Nebraska. Siemens Energy. (<https://press.siemens-energy.com/global/en/pressrelease/siemens-energy-provide-hydrogen-capable-turbines-back-utility-scale-solar-installation>) [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. The Road to Zero: New York Power Plant Teams with GE On ‘Green Hydrogen’ Demonstration Project. GE. (<https://www.ge.com/news/reports/the-road-to-zero-new-york-power-plant-teams-with-ge-on-green-hydrogen-demonstration-project>) [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. Project Selections: University Turbines Systems Research (UTSR) - Focus on Hydrogen (H2) Fuels. USEPA. (<https://www.energy.gov/fecm/articles/project-selections-university-turbines-systems-research-utsr-focus-hydrogen-h2-fuels>) [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. U.S. Department of Energy Selects 12 Projects to Improve Fossil-Based Hydrogen Production, Transport, Storage and Utilization. USDOE. (<https://www.energy.gov/fecm/articles/us-department-energy-selects-12-projects-improve-fossil-based-hydrogen-production>) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. DOE Announces Nearly $25 Million to Study Advanced Clean Hydrogen Technologies for Electricity Generation. (<https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-nearly-25-million-study-advanced-clean-hydrogen-technologies-electricity>) [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. GFO-21-503 - Examining the Effects of Hydrogen in End-Use Appliances for Large Commercial Buildings and Industrial Applications. CEC. (<https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/GFO-21-503_NOPA_Cover_Letter_2022-04-08_ada.docx>) [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. GFO-21-507 - Targeted Hydrogen Blending in Existing Gas Network for Decarbonization. CEC. (<https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/GFO-21-507_NOPA_Cover_Letter_ADA.docx>) [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. **Pursuant to this solicitation, these exempted systems generally include microturbines up to 250 kW and engines less than 37 kW. For reference, please see CARB’s Distributed Generation Certification Program:** [**https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/dgcert/about**](https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/dgcert/about)**.** [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. U.S. Department of Energy. Hydrogen Shot. USDOE. (<https://www.energy.gov/eere/fuelcells/hydrogen-shot>) [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. Pacific Standard Time or Pacific Daylight Time, whichever is being observed. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
24. This deadline does not apply to non-technical questions (e.g., questions concerning application format requirements or attachment instructions) or to questions that address an ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other error in the solicitation. Such questions may be submitted to the Commission Agreement Officer listed in Section G at any time prior to the application deadline. Please see Section G for additional information. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
25. See Public Resources Code section 25620 https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&division=15.&title=&part=&chapter=7.1.&article= [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
26. See CPUC Decision 04-08-010, August 19, 2004, http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/WORD\_PDF/FINAL\_DECISION/39314.PDF. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
27. *Id.* at pp. 25 and 46. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
28. 2021. *The Gas Research Development and Demonstration Program: Proposed Program Plan and Funding Request for Fiscal Year 2021-22*. California Energy Commission. Natural Gas Research and Development Program, Proposed Budget Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-22 | California Energy Commission <https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2021/natural-gas-research-and-development-program-proposed-budget-plan-fiscal-year> [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
29. 2022. *The Gas Research Development and Demonstration Program: Proposed Program Plan and Funding Request for Fiscal Year 2022-23*. California Energy Commission. Natural Gas Research and Development Program, Proposed Budget Plan for Fiscal Year 2022-23 | California Energy Commission <https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2022/gas-research-and-development-program-proposed-budget-plan-fiscal-year-2022-23> [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
30. AB 32 (Statutes of 2006, chapter 488) [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
31. SB 100 (Statutes of 2018, chapter 312) [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
32. SB 350 (Statutes of 2015, chapter 547 [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
33. SB 1075 (Statutes of 2022, chapter 363) [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
34. “Key personnel” are individuals that are critical to the project due to their experience, knowledge, and/or capabilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)