Recommend the response be **10** pages. See the formatting recommendations in Section III.A.

1. **Technical Merit and Need**
	1. Describes how the project will meet or exceed the technical specifications set by the federal funding opportunity and the Clean Hydrogen Program, and lead to competitive advantages (e.g., efficiency, emissions, durability, cost, equity) over state-of-the-art technology. Specifically, describe the extent of which the project will:
		* Reduce sector-wide emissions.
		* Maximize air quality, equity, health, and workforce benefits.
	2. Describes current technology readiness level (TRL) and scale the proposed technology has achieved, including successful demonstrations, size/capacity and number of previous installations, location, duration, results, etc. to justify technical and economic viability and feasibility of the project and the value proposition.
	3. Describes the expected results by the end of the project, including TRL, scale, and estimated market size. Discusses technology transfer plan, path to market, and how this project will enable broad adoption of the technology(ies) in California.
2. **Technical Approach**
	1. Describes the technique, approach, and methods to be used in performing the work described in the Scope of Work and Schedule, including adequacy of time, funds, and other resources.
	2. Provides a clear and concise description of the goals, objectives, and metrics to assess project performance, baseline, and target values of these metrics. Discusses adequacy of these metrics.
	3. Describes how measurements and verification will be carried out and data that will be gathered and shared with stakeholders and the public.
	4. Provides risk assessment and risk management discussion and factors including, but not limited to: community acceptance; availability of project site(s) and subcontractor(s); and technical, construction, regulatory, permitting, safety, scale-up, supply chain, and infrastructure integration risks.
	5. Provides information documenting permitting required and progress towards achieving compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Section I.H and Section III.C.5), if applicable.
	6. Describes major milestones to be accomplished during the project term, criteria of success, importance of these milestones to the overall development of the project, path to market, and technology transfer, a clear and concise description of the goals, objectives, technological or scientific knowledge advancement, and innovation in the proposed project.
	7. Describes any use of compliance credits and provides information that ensures the project will not supplant or result in duplicative offset credits, renewable energy credits, or other forms of compliance credits.
3. **Impacts and Benefits to California**
	1. Explains how the proposed technology(ies) will benefit the people of California and provides clear, plausible, and justifiable descriptions of annual benefits (including estimates with assumptions and calculations) of the following:
		* Annual clean hydrogen produced (kilograms or metric tons), annual thermal and electricity savings (therms and kilowatt-hours), annual cost reductions.
		* Greenhouse gas emission reductions in metric tons, air emission reductions (e.g., NOx) by pollutant and type, water savings in gallons and associated cost reduction, and/or increased safety.
		* Improved equity (e.g., responsibly sourcing and managing water).
		* Workforce development (e.g., jobs creation and retention).
	2. Identifies the expected financial performance (e.g., payback period, ROI) of the technology/approach/strategy at scale.
	3. Identifies how outputs of the advancement(s) will benefit key stakeholders (e.g., streamline planning, help eliminate barriers, stimulate growth of applicable market sectors).
4. **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.
6. **Budget and Cost-Effectiveness**
7. Budget forms are complete as instructed in Section III.
8. Justifies the reasonableness of the requested funds relative to the project goals, objectives, and tasks.
9. Justifies the reasonableness of direct costs (e.g., labor, fringe benefits, equipment, materials & misc. travel, and subcontractors).
10. Justifies the reasonableness of indirect costs (e.g., overhead, facility charges (e.g., rent, utilities), burdens, subcontractor profit, and other like costs).
11. Explains how the applicant will maximize funds for technical tasks necessary to achieve the milestones described in the Project Narrative and minimize expenditure of funds for program administration and overhead.
12. Where appropriate, describes how the applicant plans to leverage other private, federal and/or state programs and partnerships.
13. **CEC and Federal Funds Spent in California**

Points for this section will be assigned based on the formula and table in Section IV, Scoring Criteria, of the solicitation manual.

**Preference Points**

1. **Disadvantaged/Low-Income Communities and/or Tribes**

To receive or qualify for additional points, the proposed project must be located in and demonstrate benefits to the disadvantaged/low-income community(ies) and/or Tribe(s).

* 1. Demonstrates that project is located within a disadvantaged/low-income community(ies) and/or Tribe(s).
	2. Describes community benefits plan (as described in the federal funding opportunity) that demonstrates:
		1. Societal benefits.
		2. Measures to mitigate negative impacts.
		3. Concerns and expectations of local communities.
		4. Engagement with local communities and inclusion of community-based organizations, disadvantaged/low-income community(ies) and/or Tribe(s) as core partners of the project.
	3. Provides support letters from groups such as community-based, environmental justice, and workforce organizations, and the community(ies) where the project is located. Include any agreements/partnerships.
	4. Demonstrates integration of the community benefits plan, project schedule, and other key documents.