**Questions and Answers**

**GFO-22-903**

**Cost Share for Federal Funding Opportunities Clean Hydrogen Program**

**June 20, 2023**

The following answers are based on California Energy Commission (CEC) staff’s interpretation of the questions received. It is the Applicant’s responsibility to review the purpose of the solicitation and to determine whether their proposed project is eligible for funding by reviewing the Eligibility Requirements within the solicitation. The CEC cannot give advice as to whether a particular project is eligible for funding, because not all proposal details are known.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Q1: Is there flexibility to push back the CEC deadline (June 20) to match the Department of Energy (DOE) deadline (July 19), given the significant overlap in content between the two applications?**

A1: No, the CEC deadline for DE-FOA-0002922 will remain June 20, 2023. The CEC plans to complete the scoring and evaluation of proposals before the DOE application due date of July 19, 2023. The highest scoring passing proposals will receive a letter of intent for the funding amount specified in the proposal, until all funds are exhausted. Section IV.A.3. of the Solicitation Manual states that Awardees “will receive a letter of intent for cost share and may include the letter in an application to the federal awarding entity identified in the letter.” This timeline enables CEC awardees to leverage the CEC match commitment in their applications to the DOE.

**Q2. Please confirm the deadline for applying.**

A2: The deadline for GFO-22-903 applications is June 20, 2023. The application deadline can be found in Section II.A. of the solicitation manual.

**Q3: What is the “Scope of Work” Attachment? What information is expected to be provided here?**

A3: There is no Attachment for the Scope of Work for Phase I Pre-Federal Award applications. If selected by both the DOE and the CEC, the Scope of Work will be developed during the agreement development stage and will use the CEC’s Scope of Work template. Please see Section III.D.2 for more information.

**Q4: Do the following attachments need to be included in the application if they don’t apply to my entity: Attachments 7, 10, and 11?**

A4: Attachment 7, Special Terms and Conditions for California Native American Tribes and Tribal Organizations with Sovereign Immunity, will be included in any grant agreement with such an entity which results from this solicitation. In addition, CEC staff must receive certain documents prior to bringing a proposed award with such an entity to a Business Meeting. (See Section II.B.a.) Eligible entities which are not California Native American Tribes nor California Tribal Organizations with Sovereign Immunity need not provide these documents.

The Post-Federal Award Proposal Change Summary (Attachment 10) is to be filled out and submitted after federal funding award confirmation.

The California-Based Entities and Funds Spent in California Form (Attachment 11) is required by all applicants and should include the proposed spending of both CEC and federal funds spent in California. Please see Section I.K. for more information on documenting funds spent in California.

**Q5: The "Proposal Budget Template" lists "Invoice Supporting Documentation.” Where is the question of Invoice when I have not received any funding nor spent any funds for this project?**

A5: The budget template (Attachment 4) provides information about Invoice Supporting Documentation Requirements, or documentation that is required to be submitted with an invoice during the term of the Agreement, if awarded. For the purposes of submitting a Phase I Pre-Federal Award application, complete and submit information on all budget worksheets. Please reference Attachment 4 for a detailed description of the information requested.

**Q6: Are there any benefits to applying to GFO-22-903 before submitting a full application to DE-FOA-0002922? The other option is applying to GFO-22-903 after submitting a full application to DOE.**

A6: It is not possible to receive CEC match funding for DE-FOA-0002922 without applying to GFO-22-903 by June 20, 2023. The CEC will evaluate applications based on the Scoring Criteria in Section IV.D. in the solicitation manual. There is no scoring criterion related to when the full application to DOE is submitted. To receive CEC match funding for DE-FOA-0002922, applicants must apply for GFO-22-903 by June 20, 2023. The highest scoring applications will receive a Letter of Intent (which can then be included in the full application submitted to DOE), no later than 15 days after the deadline to submit applications to CEC.

**PROJECT AND APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

**Q7: Section II.A. of the manual has a table that says the eligible topic areas are related to electrolyzer manufacturing, and component and supply chain development. Section II.C. says that "Projects must produce, process, deliver, store or use hydrogen derived from water using eligible renewable energy resources.” What is the eligibility for GFO-22-903? Is it only for electrolyzer related or is as per Section II.C., or is it for both?**

A7: The purpose of GFO-22-903 is to provide cost share funding for projects that meet both the requirements in Section II.A. and Section II.C. of the solicitation manual and the applicable federal Funding Opportunity Announcement. Per Section II.C. of the CEC’s solicitation manual, eligible hydrogen produced by these projects includes hydrogen derived from water using eligible renewable energy resources, as defined in Section 399.12 of the California Public Utilities Code or produced from these eligible renewable energy resources. Applicants should refer to the Project Requirements and Project Eligibility sections of the DOE’s DE-FOA-0002922 and the CEC’s GFO-22-903 solicitation manual for more information.

**Q8: I am submitting a project application to produce 1 metric ton per day of hydrogen in California using Solar PV energy. Is GFO-22-903 relevant for that?**

A8: Without more project details, CEC staff cannot determine whether the proposed solution is eligible for this solicitation. CEC staff will review and evaluate project proposals based on the purpose and requirements of the solicitation. It is the Applicant’s responsibility to review the purpose of the solicitation and to determine whether their proposed project may be eligible for funding by reviewing the Eligibility Requirements within the solicitation. Please refer to the Project Requirements and Project Eligibility sections of DE-FOA-0002922 and the CEC’s GFO-22-903 solicitation manual for more information. That said, assuming all other eligibility requirements are met, a project which produces hydrogen from water using solar PV would be eligible.

**Q9: Will the CEC prioritize applications submitted by applicants that haven't submitted their applications to DOE, or if it will prioritize applications from entities that have already submitted their application to DOE?**

**A9**: The purpose of the solicitation is to provide CEC cost-share funding for DE-FOA-0002922, which had a Concept Paper deadline of April 19, 2023, and an upcoming full application deadline of July 19, 2023. According to DE-FOA-0002922, applicants must have submitted a Concept Paper by 5:00 pm ET on April 19, 2023, to be eligible to submit a Full Application to DOE. The CEC will evaluate applications based on the Scoring Criteria in Section IV.D. in the solicitation manual.

**BUDGET**

**Q10: What is the “Federal Share” (cell C8) on the budget template? Does it mean the total amount requested from the DOE, or is it the match cost share we are planning for the DOE grant, or is it the total DOE project cost?**

**A10:** The Federal Share column (starting at cell C8) on the budget template (Attachment 4) refers to the amount of DOE federal funds requested from DOE per category. The Federal Share Grand Total (cell C20) refers to the total DOE federal funds requested from DOE across all categories.

**Q11: What is the “CEC Share” (cell B8) on the budget template? Does it mean how much of the planned cost-share we will ask from CEC? For Topic 3 the CEC says the maximum allowed is $1.25 million. Is that figure included in the “Leverage ratio” in the solicitation manual?**

A11: In the budget template (Attachment 4), the CEC Share (starting at cell B8) refers to the amount of CEC funds requested per category. The Leverage Ratio compares the Federal and CEC funds spent in California to the amount of CEC funds requested using the equation in Section IV.D.6 of the solicitation manual. As such, the “Grand Total – CEC Share” on the budget template should be identical to “CEC funds requested” in the Leverage Ratio.

**Q12: Should we include speculated cost share assistance as “Other Funding Share” (cell D8, budget template) if it is not yet confirmed or finalized?**

A12: Please include all funding for which a commitment letter has been obtained under “Other Funding Share;” unconfirmed and unfinalized cost share should not be included in the budget template. Cost share information may be further addressed in the Budget and Cost-Effectiveness section of the Project Narrative (Attachment 2), and Commitment and Support Letters form (Attachment 9). Only the total amount pledged in the commitment letter(s) will be considered for match funding points. Please see the requirements for match funding in Section I.J. of the solicitation manual.

**Q13: For the “Leverage Ratio” detailed on page 45 of the solicitation manual, it has the terms: “CEC Funds Spend in CA”, “Federal Funds Spend in CA”, and “CEC Funds Requested.” In our case the CEC funds requested and those spent in CA for cost-share would be the same since the CEC won’t allow California money to be spent outside the state. If we understand the “Leverage Ratio” calculation correctly it should, therefore, simplify to “Federal Funds Spend in CA” divided by “CEC Funds Requested.” Is that correct? If so, where do we detail the federal funds spent in CA?**

A13: Applicants should use the Project Narrative (Attachment 2) to address Federal Funds Spent in California and complete the Leverage Ratio as stated in Section IV.D.6, “CEC and Federal Funds Spent in California,” which evaluates the amount of CEC and Federal Funds Spent in California relative to the amount of CEC funds requested. To clarify CEC’s requirement, all CEC reimbursable funds must meet the eligibility criteria in Section I.K. Funds Spent in California.

**Q14: The CEC budget form required for the application includes a Federal Share Category. Should this federal share category include the total DOE federal share for the project or ONLY the DOE federal share that would be spent in California?**

A14: The Federal Share category should include the total DOE federal share for the project.