**GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

**Optimizing Long-Duration Energy Storage to Improve Resilience and Reliability in Disadvantaged and Low-Income Communities and Native American Tribes**

**EPIC Program**



**GFO-22-307**

**Addendum 3**

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

**State of California**

**California Energy Commission**

~~June 2023~~ [**September 2023**]

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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 | References for Calculating Energy End-Use and GHG Emissions | | 14 | Special Terms and Conditions for California Native American Tribes | |

# I. Introduction

## Purpose of Solicitation

The purpose of this solicitation is to fund technology demonstration and deployment projects that accelerate commercialization and validate the capability of long-duration energy storage (LDES) technologies to improve grid reliability and resilience in disadvantaged communities (DACs), low-income communities (LICs), and California Native American Tribes (Tribes). This solicitation supports the EPIC Interim Investment Plan Initiative 4 titled “Optimizing Long-Duration Energy Storage to Improve Grid Resiliency and Reliability in Under-resourced Communities.”[[1]](#footnote-2)

The Senate Bill (SB) 100 Joint Agency Report indicates that California will need a total of 50 gigawatts (GW) or more of energy storage, including 4GW of long-duration storage, in order to meet its 2045 goal of reliably supplying end-use customers with electric retail sales that are 100% renewable and carbon-free.[[2]](#footnote-3) The CPUC has called for 15,000 megawatts (MW) of new storage and demand response resources by 2032.[[3]](#footnote-4)

Currently, most of the energy storage deployed in California is lithium-ion (Li-ion) technology, useful for shorter duration storage (i.e., less than 8 hours), but economically prohibitive at longer durations. As more renewable energy is integrated into the grid, particularly considering the potential retirement of Diablo Canyon and retirement of other fossil fuel assets, the need for energy storage of longer durations will continue to increase. In addition, more frequent extreme weather events, such as wildfires and heat waves, affect the grid’s ability to provide continuous power to customers. In the last few years, California’s electrical grid experienced considerable challenges from extreme weather, resulting in a greater application of Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. Extreme weather-related power outages have risen in frequency and duration over time, accelerating the need for long-duration storage.

The State's increased priority of grid resiliency is driving a growing demand for longer duration energy storage systems. For example, LDES can offer a clean alternative to conventional backup diesel generators that maintain operation of critical facilities during multi-day PSPS events and other grid power-loss events. These critical facilities must be equipped with sufficient fuel to operate emergency power systems at the full load for up to 48 hours, per the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 110.[[4]](#footnote-5) According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), nearly 125,000 additional generators are used during PSPS events, causing about 170 tons of NOx emissions.[[5]](#footnote-6) Providing critical facilities with backup power using LDES, rather than diesel generators, can reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality.

Extreme weather events and power outages have disproportionately impacted DACs, LICs, and Tribes. These communities experience higher energy burdens due to inadequate housing conditions, such as insufficient insulation or inefficient HVAC systems, and commonly rely on fossil-fuel-dependent energy infrastructure. In addition, power outages can exacerbate medical conditions, particularly in medically vulnerable individuals who rely on electricity-dependent medical equipment. This solicitation will fund demonstrations of LDES systems to accelerate the adoption of clean energy solutions, support community resilience, and address the immediate needs of the most vulnerable communities.

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. 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](http://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. |
| AHJ | Authority Having Jurisdiction |
| Authorized Representative | *Authorized Representative*, the person signing the application form who has authority to enter into an agreement with the CEC. |
| CAISO | California Independent System Operator |
| 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 |
| 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. |
| CCA | Community Choice Aggregation |
| 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. |
| CPUC | California Public Utilities Commission |
| Days | *Days refers to calendar days.* |
| Disadvantaged Community/DAC | These are communities designated pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 39711 as representing the top 25% scoring census tracts from CalEnviroScreen along with other areas with high amounts of pollution and low populations as identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency. (<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40>) |
| Energy Equity | The fair distribution of benefits and burdens from energy production and consumption. |
| EPIC | *Electric Program Investment Charge,* the source of funding for the projects awarded under this solicitation. |
| IOU | *Investor-owned utility,* an electrical corporation as defined in California Public Utilities Code section 218. For purposes of this EPIC solicitation, it includes Pacific Gas and Electric Co., San Diego Gas and Electric Co., and Southern California Edison Co. |
| Low Income Community/LIC | *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 by the Department of Housing and Community Development. (<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. |
| 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

This solicitation seeks to accelerate the commercialization of promising long-duration storage technologies by demonstrating their technical readiness and commercial scale-up potential at durations of 24 hours or more in real-world environments.

Minimum Requirements:

The following describes the minimum requirements that applicants must include in their proposal:

This solicitation is open to non-Li-ion electrochemical or thermal long-duration storage technologies with a full rated power of at least 100 kW and a minimum duration of 24 hours

Proposed technologies under this solicitation should have the ability to achieve a Levelized Cost of Storage (LCOS) of 5 cents/kWh or less at scale consistent with ARPA-E goals[[6]](#footnote-7).

Demonstration sites must be located in a California IOU service territory.

* The targeted community and customers must be located in or benefitting DAC, LIC, or Tribe. Applicants must provide the address and coordinates (latitude and longitude in degrees) with a precision of at least six decimal places. **The site of LDES system is not required to** **be located in a DAC, LIC or Tribe.**
* The proposed applications of LDES systems must provide direct benefits to the residents of the identified communities such as higher resiliency, increased reliability, reduced energy demand, improved air quality, and lower utility bills.
* The proposed LDES systems must stay in operation for at least one year before the end of the grant agreement, and the recipient must complete this period at least six months prior to the end of the agreement. This requirement ensures that sufficient data on the system's performance and capabilities can be gathered and analyzed to validate its performance.

**Optional:**

The following describes end-use applications for project consideration. These are not required but optional:

* Proposals should consider at least one “critical facility” (defined as either a public or private facility that provides critical services to its community in times of public emergency such as a natural disaster, power outage, disease epidemic, or chemical emergency). Some possible examples of critical facilities include:
  + Hospitals
  + Emergency operation centers
  + Care facilities
  + Fire stations
  + Police stations
  + Water and wastewater treatment plants
  + Fueling facilities
  + Ports
  + Critical federal, state, and municipal facilities (e.g., courts and jails)
  + Schools
  + Shelters (e.g., facilities that provide shelter to humans or animals during public emergencies)
  + Supermarkets
* Proposals are encouraged to select demonstration sites highly impacted by PSPS events or located in a Tier 2 or 3 High Fire-Threat District (HFTD), as defined by the CPUC.[[7]](#footnote-8) Applicants should describe the impacts of PSPS events on their selected demonstration sites, including the number and durations of past outages.

In addition to responding to the scoring criteria listed in the Section IV.F, proposals to this solicitation should address the following in the Project Narrative (Attachment 3):

* Describe the specific LDES use case being demonstrated under the proposed project from the six use cases identified in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) LDES Liftoff Report. These represent possible applications for LDES in the power market context and include load management services, firming for PPAs, microgrid resiliency, utility resource planning, transmission and distribution deferral, and energy market participation. It is also possible for LDES to fill multiple of these use cases at the same time (e.g., value stacking).[[8]](#footnote-9)
* Describe the advantages that the proposed technology has at scale over conventional lithium-ion-based Energy Storage Systems in terms of cost, response time, duration, safety, and other key performance attributes for the proposed use case.
* Describe the expected level of scale the technology needs to reach to be competitive with lithium-ion energy storage systems. Explain how the proposed project will advance the technology to the level of scale needed to be competitive.
* Describe the customer’s requirements or criteria for storage at the proposed site in terms of response time, nominal duration, ramp rate, footprint, etc., and describe how the proposed technology meets these requirements.
* Describe what testing and validation has been done to ensure the technology is ready for a demonstration in a real-world environment. Explain who conducted the testing and when it took place.
* Describe opportunities the applicant has identified to reduce balance of system (BOS) costs for the LDES system. Identify the specific actions the applicant will take to disseminate key learnings that reduce BOS costs to future deployments.
* Describe the LDES project in terms of major subsystems and how the applicant intends the LDES system to operate and provide grid services under both blue sky and islanding conditions.
* Define the proposed demonstration project and explain how it meets the requirements of this solicitation.
  + Describe the technical specifications of the proposed system, including but not limited to, critical loads, generation and storage systems, standards and communication protocols utilized, and existing or planned certifications.
  + Explain how the proposed design provides the best value in terms of economic, environmental, and technical performance.
* Identify demonstration site(s) located in a California investor-owned utility (IOU) service territory.
  + Describe the location of the demonstration site(s), how the applicant selected it, and the extent to which the community is subject to public safety power shutoffs or other outage events.
  + Explain the primary value and benefits the project will deliver to the community.
* Explain how the applicant intends to successfully execute the proposed LDES demonstrations while minimizing the risks and uncertainties associated with the permitting, financing, and implementation.
* Describe how safety will be achieved and prioritized for the project, which may include but is not limited to ensuring product safety, fostering a strong safety culture, developing safety plans, and training local first responders and AHJs.
* Describe the cybersecurity needs of the proposed LDES demonstration, its associated technologies as applicable, and how the applicant will address the needs through the project
* Describe the requirements and plans for interconnection, permitting, and certification necessary for their systems. Applicants must identify the relevant and applicable federal, state, and local codes, regulations, and permitting requirements anticipated to site, construct, commission, and operate the LDES systems. For example, systems must be Rule 21 compliant; Rule 21 is a tariff that describes the interconnection, operating, and metering requirements for generation facilities to be connected to a utility’s distribution system.[[9]](#footnote-10)
* Describe how the project will meet the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or other environmental review requirements in the Project Narrative. If an applicant obtains environmental review by the lead agency having jurisdiction over the project, they are encouraged to provide written proof of the review in the proposal. The proof could be, for example, lead agency CEQA approval or environmental review by the Tribe under its ordinances.
* Describe the strategy or methods for overcoming potential interconnection and permitting challenges, such as how to partner with IOUs early in the application process to support project design and interconnection.
* Describe the efforts that will be taken to address public safety concerns, which may include, but are not limited to, having or obtaining the necessary certifications for ensuring system safety and performance. The information supplied will be considered during the evaluation of the proposals.
* Describe a measurement and verification plan detailing how actual project benefits will be measured, quantified, and reported to the facility owners. The measurement and verification must continue for a post-installation period of 12 months for energy use (kW-hours, therms), renewable energy generation (kW-hours), cost savings for energy, and other benefits, as applicable.

## Funding

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

There is **up to** **$29,200,000** available for grants awarded under this solicitation. The minimum funding amount for each project is **$4,000,000**. The maximum funding amount is **$9,000,000**.

1. **Match Funding Requirement**

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

For the definition of match funding see Section I K.

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.
* Reallocate funding between any of the groups
* 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.**

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

| ACTIVITY | DATE | TIME[[10]](#footnote-11) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Solicitation Release | 6/13/2023 |  |
| **Pre-Application Workshop** | **6/28/2023** | **9:00 a.m.** |
| **Deadline for Written Questions[[11]](#footnote-12)** | **7/6/2023** | **5:00 p.m.** |
| Anticipated Distribution of Questions and Answers | Week of 07/30/2023 |  |
| **Deadline to Submit Applications** | [~~9/21/2023~~] **9/25/2023** | **11:59 p.m.** |
| Anticipated Notice of Proposed Award Posting Date | Week of [~~11/7/2023~~] **11/30/2023** |  |
| Anticipated Energy Commission Business Meeting Date | 5/8/2024 |  |
| Anticipated Agreement Start Date | 6/11/2024 |  |
| Anticipated Agreement End Date | March 31, 2028 |  |

## 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 refer to the CEC's website at www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html to confirm the date and time.

**Date and time:** June 28, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

**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:** 897 5452 8964

**Meeting Password:** 638810

**Topic:** This is the Pre-Application workshop for GFO-22-307, Optimizing Long-Duration Energy Storage to Improve Resilience and Reliability in Disadvantaged and Low-Income Communities and Native American Tribes. This solicitation will fund TD&D projects that support DAC, LIC, and Tribes.

**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 CEC’s Public Advisor’s Office at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, or 800-822-6228.
* System Requirements: To determine whether your computer is compatible, visit:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-requirements-for-Windows-macOS-and-Linux>.

* If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please Erica Rodriguez by e-mail at [Erica.Rodriguez@energy.ca.gov](mailto: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:

Phil Dyer, Commission Agreement Officer

California Energy Commission

715 P, MS-1

Sacramento, California, 95814

E-mail: [Phil.Dyer@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Phil.Dyer@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 or anyone else 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 EPIC 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.

## Additional Requirements

* Time is of the essence. Funds available under this solicitation have encumbrance deadlines as early as June 30, 2024.  This means that the CEC must approve proposed awards at a business meeting (usually held monthly) prior to June 30, 2024 in order to avoid expiration of the funds. Prior to approval and encumbrance, the CEC must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). To comply with CEQA, the Commission must have CEQA-related information from applicants and sometimes other entities, such as local governments, in a timely manner. Unfortunately, even with this information, the Commission may not be able to complete its CEQA review prior to the encumbrance deadline for every project. For example, if a project requires an Environmental Impact Report, the process to complete it can take many months. For these reasons, it is critical that applicants organize project proposals in a manner that minimizes the time required for the Commission to comply with CEQA and provide all CEQA-related information to the Commission in a timely manner such that the Commission is able to complete its review in time for it to meet its encumbrance deadline.
* Reservation of right to cancel 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 the CEQA review associated with a proposed project would not likely be completed prior to the encumbrance deadline referenced above, and that the Commission’s ability to meet its encumbrance deadline may thereby be jeopardized, the CEC may cancel a proposed award and award funds to the next highest scoring applicant, regardless of the originally proposed applicant’s diligence in submitting information and materials for CEQA review. Examples of situations that may arise related to CEQA review include but are not limited to:
* Example 1: If another state agency or local jurisdiction, such as a city or county, has taken the role of lead agency under CEQA, the CEC’s review may be delayed while waiting for a determination from the lead agency.
* Example 2: If the proposed work is part of a larger project for which a detailed environmental analysis has been or will be prepared by another state agency or local jurisdiction, the CEC’s review may be delayed as a result of waiting for a supplemental or initial analysis, respectively, from the other agency.
* Example 3: If the nature of the proposed work is such that a project is not categorically or otherwise exempt from the requirements of CEQA, and an initial study or other detailed environmental analysis appears to be necessary, the CEC’s review, or the lead agency’s review, may take longer than the time available to encumber the funds. If an initial study or environmental impact report has already been completed by another state agency or a local jurisdiction, serving as the lead agency, the applicant must ensure that such an analysis covers the work in the proposed project, or must obtain a revised analysis and determination from the lead agency reviewing the proposed project.
* Example 4: If the proposed project clearly falls under a statutory or categorical exemption, or is project for which another state agency or local jurisdiction has already adopted a CEQA finding that the project will cause no significant effect on the environment, the project will likely have greater success in attaining rapid completion of CEQA requirements.

The above examples are not exhaustive of instances in which the CEC may or may not be able to comply with CEQA within the encumbrance deadline and are only provided as further clarification for potential applicants. Please plan project proposals accordingly.

## Background

1. **Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program**

This solicitation will award projects funded by the EPIC, an electricity ratepayer surcharge established by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in December 2011.[[12]](#footnote-13) The purpose of the EPIC program is to benefit the ratepayers of three investor-owned utilities (IOUs), including Pacific Gas and Electric Co., San Diego Gas and Electric Co., and Southern California Edison Co. The EPIC funds clean energy technology projects that meet the guiding principles of (1) improving safety, (2) increasing reliability, (3) increasing affordability, (4) improving environmental sustainability, and (5) improving equity, all as related to California's electric system.[[13]](#footnote-14) In addition to providing IOU ratepayer benefits, funded projects must lead to technological advancement and breakthroughs to overcome the barriers that prevent the achievement of the state’s statutory energy goals.[[14]](#footnote-15) The EPIC program is administered by the CEC and the IOUs.

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

EPIC projects must fall within the following **program areas** identified by the CPUC:

* Applied research and development;
* Technology demonstration and deployment; and
* Market facilitation.

In addition, projects must fall within one of the general focus areas (**“strategic objectives”**) identified in the CEC’s EPIC Investment Plans[[15]](#footnote-16)[[16]](#footnote-17) [[17]](#footnote-18) and within one or more specific focus areas (**“funding initiatives”**) identified in the plan. This solicitation targets the following program area, strategic objective, and funding initiative:

***Electric Program Investment Charge Interim Investment Plan 2021***

* **Program Area**: Technology Demonstration and Deployment
* **Funding Initiative**: Optimizing Long-Duration Energy Storage to Improve Grid Resiliency and Reliability in Under-Resourced Communities

**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[[18]](#footnote-19) - 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](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=200520060AB32;%20https://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.

* **AB 2514[[19]](#footnote-20) - Energy Storage Systems,**

AB 2514 required the CPUC to determine targets for the procurement of viable, cost-effective energy storage systems by load-serving entities. The CPUC adopted the procurement targets in Decision 13-10-040, issued on October 17, 2013 (see the summary of Decision 13-10-040 in the “Policies/Plans” section below).

Additional information: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/general.aspx?id=3462>

Applicable Law: California Public Utilities Code §§ 2835 et. seq., and § 9620 (<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=200920100AB2514>)

* **SB 350[[20]](#footnote-21) 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>

* **Senate Bill (SB) 100 - The 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018**

SB 100 requires that 100 % of retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers and 100 % of electricity procured to serve all state agencies come from eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources by December 31, 2045. The bill requires the CPUC and the Energy Commission, in consultation with the California Air Resources Board to ensure that California’s transition to a zero-carbon electric system does not cause or contribute to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) increases elsewhere in the western grid.

Additional information: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB100>

* **Senate Bill (SB) 846 - Diablo Canyon powerplant: extension of operations**

SB 846 tasked multiple state agencies, including the CPUC and CEC, with nearly 50 action items, the goal of which is to analyze the state's near- and long-term power needs and study whether Diablo Canyon is both a needed and cost-effective source of power between 2025 and 2030.

Additional information: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB846>

* **Assembly Bill (AB) 205 – Energy**

AB 205 requires the CEC to establish and implement the Long-Duration Energy Storage Program to provide financial incentives for projects that have power ratings of at least one megawatt and can reach a target of at least 8 hours of continuous discharge of electricity to deploy innovative energy storage systems to the electrical grid for purposes of providing critical capacity and grid services.

Additional information: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB205>

* **Senate Bill (SB) 423 – Energy: firm zero-carbon resources**

SB 423 requires the CEC biennially adopt an integrated energy policy report (IEPR) that includes an overview of major energy trends and issues facing the state and an assessment and forecast of system reliability. It also requires the CEC to incorporate into the IEPR electrical resources that can deliver electricity for the expected duration of multiday extreme or atypical weather events and facilitate integration of eligible renewable energy resources into the electrical grid and the transition to a zero-carbon electrical grid, referred to as “firm zero-carbon resources.”

Additional information: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB423>

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.

* **CPUC Decision 13-10-040, “Decision Adopting Energy Storage Procurement Framework and Design Program” (2013)**

The Decision establishes policies and mechanisms for energy storage procurement, as required by AB 2514 (described above). The IOU procurement target is 1,325 megawatts of energy storage by 2020, with installations required no later than the end of 2024.

Additional information: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedfiles/cpuc_public_website/content/about_us/organization/former_commissioners/peevey(1)/news_and_announcements/ferron_peevey_concurrence_storaged1310040.pdf>

Reference Documents

Refer to the link below for information about past CEC research projects and activities:

* <http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/>

## 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, EPIC funds received from other sources, 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 EPIC 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. EPIC 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

* Only CEC reimbursable funds counts towards funds spent in California total.
* "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.

# II. Eligibility Requirements

## Applicant Requirements

1. **Eligibility**

This solicitation is open to the entities listed below with the exception of local publicly owned electric utilities.[[21]](#footnote-22) This solicitation has special applicant eligibility requirements because the CEC is looking for applicants with clear intentions, and a path forward for commercializing the technology in California as demonstrated by the responses in the Project Narrative. This solicitation requires the prime applicant to be one of the following:

* Project Developer/System Integrator: An individual, corporation, or other legal entity responsible for the overall planning, installation, and commissioning of the LDES system.
* Site Owner or Operator: The owner or operator of the site where the LDES system will be installed and operated.
* Technology Developer: A for-profit commercial entity or individual with the rights to commercialize the intellectual property being advanced under the proposed project.

Because the purpose of this solicitation is to advance technology development to commercialization, the following entities are not eligible to be prime applicants for projects under this solicitation:

* Public and private universities
* National Labs, and
* Private non-profit research organizations.

All public and private entities, with the exception of local publicly owned electric utilities, may serve as subrecipients for this solicitation. In accordance with CPUC Decision 12-05-037, funds administered by the CEC may not be used for any purposes associated with local publicly owned electric utility activities.

1. **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 EPIC 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.

1. **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](http://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.

1. **Disadvantaged & Low-income Communities**

At least 25% of available Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) technology demonstration and deployment funding must be allocated to project sites located in, and benefiting, disadvantaged communities; and an additional minimum 10% of funds must be allocated to projects sites located in and benefiting low-income communities.[[22]](#footnote-23) The Energy Commission in administering EPIC must also take into account adverse localized health impacts of proposed projects to the greatest extent possible,[[23]](#footnote-24) and give preference for funding to clean energy projects that benefit residents of low-income or disadvantaged communities.[[24]](#footnote-25)

Disadvantaged Communities are those designated pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 39711 as representing the 25% highest scoring census tracts in CalEnviroScreen or other areas with high amounts of pollution and low populations as identified by CalEPA. Please see <https://calepa.ca.gov/envjustice/ghginvest/> for the most current CalEPA designations.

“Low-income communities” are defined as communities within census tracts with median household incomes at or below either of the following levels:

1. Eighty percent of the statewide median income.
2. The applicable low-income threshold listed in the state income limits updated by the Department of Housing and Community Development and filed with the Office of Administrative Law pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 50093 of the Health and Safety Code.

Visit the California Department of Housing & Community Development site for the current HCD State Income Limits at: <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) at:

<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40>

Another resource is the Healthy Places Index Tool for California, located at: <https://healthyplacesindex.org/>

## Project Requirements

1. **Technology Demonstration and Deployment Stage**

Projects must fall within the “technology demonstration and deployment” stage, which involves the installation and operation of pre-commercial technologies or strategies at a scale sufficiently large and in conditions sufficiently reflective of anticipated actual operating environments to enable appraisal of operational and performance characteristics, and of financial risks.**[[25]](#footnote-26)**

1. **Ratepayer Benefits, Technological Advancements, and Breakthroughs**

California Public Resources Code Section 25711.5(a) requires EPIC-funded projects to:

* Benefit electricity ratepayers; and
* Lead to technological advancement and breakthroughs to overcome the barriers that prevent the achievement of the state’s statutory energy goals.

EPIC's mandatory guiding principle is to provide ratepayer benefits, which is defined as (1) improving safety, (2) increasing reliability, (3) increasing affordability, (4) improving environmental sustainability, and (5) improving equity, all as related to California's electric system.[[26]](#footnote-27)

Accordingly, the Project Narrative Form (Attachment) and the “Goals and Objectives” section of the Scope of Work Template (Attachment) must describe how the project will: (1) benefit California IOU ratepayers by improving safety, increasing reliability, increasing affordability, improving environmental sustainability, and improving equity, all as related to California's electric system; and (2) lead to technological advancement and breakthroughs to overcome barriers to achieving the state’s statutory energy goals. Any estimates of energy and water savings or GHG impacts must be calculated using the References for Calculating Electricity End-Use, Electricity Demand, and GHG Emissions (Attachment 13).

1. **Knowledge Transfer Expenditures**

To maximize the impact of EPIC projects and to promote the further development and deployment of EPIC-funded technologies, a minimum of 2.5 percent of CEC funds requested should go towards knowledge transfer activities. Appropriate knowledge transfer activities for this solicitation are listed in the Scope of Work Template (Attachment 5). The Budget Forms (Attachment) should clearly distinguish funds dedicated for knowledge transfer.

1. 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 pre- and post-project energy use (kW-hours, kW) and reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. 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)

1. Community Based Organizations

In TD&D solicitations with set aside funding for proposed projects located in and benefiting low-income and/or disadvantaged communities within IOU service territories, the project must allocate appropriate funding for CBO engagement for relevant tasks under the scope of work.

Community Based Organizations (CBO) should meet, and will be evaluated on the following criteria for this solicitation:

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. Have 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.

# 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): **thirty** 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. Please reference each individual attachment for a detailed description of the information requested by that attachment. 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. 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.

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. 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. **Group Specific Questions**
     + Include required group specific information (see Section I.C.) in the specified sections.
  2. **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 within the timeframes specified in this solicitation (see Section I.E). All supporting documentation must be included in Attachment 8.

1. Project Team Form (Attachment 4)

Identify by name all key personnel[[27]](#footnote-28) 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 III.A.

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 EPIC 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.
2. 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 must: (1) identify the source(s) of the funds; and (2) guarantee the availability of the funds for the project.

* If the project involves **demonstration** activities, the applicant must include a site commitment letter signed by an authorized representative of the proposed demonstration site. The letter should: (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 demonstration 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 demonstration site.

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. 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 being sued by any public agency or entity; 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 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. References for Calculating Energy End-Use and GHG Emissions (Attachment 13)

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 105.0 points** is required for criteria 1-8 to be eligible for funding. In addition, the application must receive a minimum score of **52.50 points for criteria 1−4, and 70.00 points for criteria 1-7** 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 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. (Delete this screening criterion if using only one Group) The application addresses only one of the eligible project groups, as indicated on the Application Form. | Pass  Fail |
| 1. (Delete this screening criterion if using only one Group) If the applicant has submitted more than one application for the same project group, each application is for a distinct project (i.e., no overlap with respect to the tasks described in the Scope of Work, Attachment).   *If the projects are not distinct and the applications were submitted at the same time, only the first application screened by the CEC will be eligible for funding. If the applications were submitted separately, only the first application received by the CEC will be eligible for funding.* | 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. * All demonstration/ deployment sites are located in a California electric IOU service territory (PG&E, SDG&E, or SCE). * 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 6−7, 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 Energy Commission**  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 Energy Commission (e.g., contract, grant, or loan) and entered into an agreement(s) with the Commission 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; and * Severe unresolved negative audit findings. |  |
| **Must pass to continue with Scoring Criteria** | **Pass/Fail** |

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| --- |
| **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 Investor-Owned Utility (IOU) ratepayers and provides clear, plausible, and justifiable (quantitative preferred) potential benefits. Estimates the energy benefits including:    * annual electricity savings (kilowatt-hour), 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 emission reductions (e.g. NOx), water savings and cost reduction, and/or increased safety.  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. feed-in tariffs, IOU rebates, demand response, storage procurement) 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 *including Community Based Organization* 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 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** |
| 1. **Benefits to Disadvantaged/Low-Income Communities and Localized Health Impacts** |  |
| 8.1 Benefits to Disadvantaged/Low-Income Communities   1. Identifies and describes the energy and economic needs of the community based on project location, and what steps the applicant has taken to identify those needs. 2. Identifies and describes how the project will increase access to clean energy or sustainability technologies for the local community. 3. Identifies and describes how the proposed project will improve opportunities for economic impact including customer bill savings, job creation, collaborating and contracting with micro-, local, and small-businesses, economic development, and expanding community investment. 4. Identifies how the projects’ primary beneficiaries are residents of the identified disadvantaged/low income community(ies) and describes how they will directly benefit from the project outcomes. | 15 |
| * 1. Community Engagement Efforts  1. Identifies how community input was solicited and considered in the design of the project. 2. Identifies and describes how the impacted community will be engaged in project implementation. 3. Identifies and describes how the applicant will disseminate educational materials and career information to best support community understanding and engagement as applicable (e.g., culturally appropriate and translated materials, translation services, and considerate scheduling of stakeholder events as needed). 4. Identifies how the project, if successful, will build community capacity. | 10 |
| * 1. Localized Health Impacts  1. Summarizes the potential localized health benefits and impacts of the proposed project and provides reasonable analysis and assumptions to support the findings. 2. Identifies how the proposed project will reduce or not otherwise impact the community’s exposure to pollutants and the adverse environmental conditions caused by pollution and/or climate change. If projects have no impacts in this criterion, provide justification for why impacts are neutral. 3. Identifies health-related Energy Equity indicators and/or health-related factors in CalEnviroscreen 4.0[[28]](#footnote-29) that most impact the community and describes how the project will reduce or not otherwise impact the indicators or factors. | 15 |
| * 1. Technology Replicability  1. Identifies how the project, if successful, will lead to increased deployment of the technology or strategy in other disadvantaged or low-income communities. | 5 |
| * 1. Project Support Letters  1. Includes 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 community. | 5 |
| **Total Possible Points for criteria 8**  **(Minimum Passing Score for Criteria 8 is 70% or 35.00 points)** | **50** |
| **Total Possible Points** | **150** |
| **Preference Points** Applications must meet all minimum passing scores (Scoring Criteria 1-4, 1-7, and 8) to be eligible for the additional points. | |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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. California Energy Commission Proposed EPIC Interim Investment Plan 2021, https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=236882 and approved by CPUC decision 21-07-006, July 15, 2021, https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?docformat=ALL&docid=394265545. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Gill, Liz, Gutierrez, Gutierrez, and Weeks, Terra, 2021 SB 100 Joint Agency Report., 2021.

   https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2021/2021-sb-100-joint-agency-report-achieving-100-percent-clean-electricity [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/news-and-updates/all-news/cpuc-approves-long-term-plans-to-meet-electricity-reliability-and-climate-goals [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. [Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems](https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/detail?code=110)

   https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/detail?code=110 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. [Emission Impact: Additional Generator Usage Associated with Power Outage January 30, 2020](https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2020-01/Emissions_Inventory_Generator_Demand%20Usage_During_Power_Outage_01_30_20.pdf)

   https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2020-01/Emissions\_Inventory\_Generator\_Demand%20Usage\_During\_Power\_Outage\_01\_30\_20.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. [Why Long-Duration Energy Storage Matters, Max Tuttman & Dr. Scott Litzelman](https://www.arpa-e.energy.gov/news-and-media/blog-posts/why-long-duration-energy-storage-matters)

   https://www.arpa-e.energy.gov/news-and-media/blog-posts/why-long-duration-energy-storage-matters [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. [California Public Utilities Commission Fire-Threat Maps and Fire-Safety Rulemaking](https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/wildfires/fire-threat-maps-and-fire-safety-rulemaking)

   https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/wildfires/fire-threat-maps-and-fire-safety-rulemaking [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. [Long Duration Energy Storage Pathway to Commercial Liftoff, U.S. Department of Energy](https://liftoff.energy.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/20230320-Liftoff-LDES-vPUB-0329-update.pdf)

   https://liftoff.energy.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/20230320-Liftoff-LDES-vPUB-0329-update.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. [California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Electric Rule 21](https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Rule21/). https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Rule21/ [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. Pacific Standard Time or Pacific Daylight Time, whichever is being observed. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. 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-12)
12. [See CPUC “Phase 1” Decision 11-12-035](mailto:http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/WORD_PDF/FINAL_DECISION/156050.PDF.), December 15, 2011, http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/WORD\_PDF/FINAL\_DECISION/156050.PDF. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. [CPUC Decision 21-11-028, Appendix A](mailto:https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M425/K515/425515575.) https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M425/K515/425515575.PDF (revising former guiding principles within [CPUC “Phase 2” Decision 12-05-037, Ordering Paragraph 2](mailto:http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/WORD_PDF/FINAL_DECISION/167664.PDF) http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/WORD\_PDF/FINAL\_DECISION/167664.PDF.). [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. [California Public Resources Code, Section 25711.5(a),](mailto:http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=prc&group=25001-26000&file=25710-25712) http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=prc&group=25001-26000&file=25710-25712. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. [2018-2020 EPIC Triennial Investment Plan](mailto:https://docketpublic.energy.ca.gov/PublicDocuments/17-EPIC-01/TN217347_20170428T145448_The_Electric_Program_Investment_Charge_Proposed_20182020_Trienn.pdf),

    https://docketpublic.energy.ca.gov/PublicDocuments/17-EPIC-01/TN217347\_20170428T145448\_The\_Electric\_Program\_Investment\_Charge\_Proposed\_20182020\_Trienn.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. [Electric Program Investment Charge Interim Investment Plan 2021](mailto:https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=236882), https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=236882. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. [2021-2025 EPIC Investment Plan](mailto:https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=240609), https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=240609. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. AB 32 (Statutes of 2006, chapter 488) [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. AB 2514 (Statutes of 2010, chapter 469) [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. SB 350 (Statutes of 2015, chapter 547 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. **A local publicly owned electric utility is an entity as defined in California Public Utilities Code section 224.3.** [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. Public Resources Code § 25711.6. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. Public Resources Code § 25711.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
24. Public Resources Code § 25711.6. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
25. See CPUC “Phase 2” Decision 12-05-037 at pp. 39-40 and 90, http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/WORD\_PDF/FINAL\_DECISION/167664.PDF. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
26. CPUC Decision 21-11-028, Appendix A https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M425/K515/425515575.PDF (revising former guiding principles within CPUC “Phase 2” Decision 12-05-037, Ordering Paragraph 2 http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/WORD\_PDF/FINAL\_DECISION/167664.PDF.). [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
27. “Key personnel” are individuals that are critical to the project due to their experience, knowledge, and/or capabilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
28. https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40 [↑](#footnote-ref-29)