GFO-23-402

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS #2

Geothermal Grant and Loan Program

November 22, 2024

The purpose of this document is to provide answers to questions for grant funding opportunity GFO-23-402. The following answers are based on California Energy Commission (CEC) staff’s interpretation of the questions received during the second round of pre-application workshops, office hours, and questions submitted in writing between August 14, 2024, to October 11, 2024.

In addition to this questions and answers document (Q&A #2) CEC staff posted a first questions and answers document (Q&A #1) on April 24, 2024, with questions received during the first round of pre-application workshops and written questions. We would like to invite applicants to review the [Q&A #1](https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/GFO-23-402_Questions_and_Answers_ada.docx) document found on GFO-23-402 webpage. It is the applicant’s responsibility to review the purpose of the solicitation and to determine whether their proposed project is eligible for funding by reviewing the Eligibility Requirements within the Solicitation Manual. The CEC cannot give advice as to whether a particular project is eligible for funding, because not all application details are known.

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# General/Administrative Questions

1. What is a solicitation?
2. A California Energy Commission (CEC) solicitation is a competitive funding opportunity that is used as a strategy by the CEC to advance the state of California’s transition to clean energy and transportation. This is done through innovation, mitigation, and geothermal energy sector studies by selecting and funding the highest ranking proposed projects (based on specified criteria laid out in a solicitation manual) that benefit the public, local jurisdictions, a specific sector of the economy, and the state.
3. Is this the only grant funding opportunity for geothermal projects within the CEC?
4. This funding opportunity is the only current grant funding opportunity at CEC for geothermal projects. However, CEC has released other solicitations seeking to fund geothermal energy and related activities in the past and may do so again in the future. Please visit the CEC [Solicitations](https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations) webpage to learn about other active and future solicitations. We encourage you to [subscribe](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/31719) to Geothermal Energy topics to receive notifications of future solicitations for geothermal energy projects.
5. Does this solicitation have solar energy project opportunities for local municipalities?
6. This solicitation (GFO-23-402) aims to fund projects that help advance the geothermal energy and lithium recovery from geothermal brine sectors. Projects focused exclusively on solar energy are not eligible for funding under GFO-23-402. Local municipalities are eligible applicants under this solicitation. To determine if your project could be eligible for funding, please refer to the comprehensive list of selected eligible purposes under the Solicitation Manual, Section I.C., Project Focus, page 6.
7. Can you provide a status of Phase One?
8. Phase One of this solicitation, GFO-23-402 closed on May 3, 3024. The Notice of Technical Assistance Results was posted on the [GFO-23-402](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-02/gfo-23-402-geothermal-grant-and-loan-program) solicitation web page on June 18, 2024. The awarded project was approved at a CEC Business Meeting on August 14, 2024.
9. If we did not apply for Phase One, can we still apply for Phase Two?
10. Yes, all eligible applicants can apply for Phase Two of the solicitation, regardless of whether they applied to Phase One. Phase One aimed to provide technical assistance funds to local jurisdictions to help develop the full application for Phase Two.
11. Where can I start and obtain information about this solicitation?
12. Please visit the [GFO-23-402](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-02/gfo-23-402-geothermal-grant-and-loan-program) solicitation web page to obtain all key information on the solicitation. The web page includes the solicitation manual and its attachments, terms and conditions, application portal, and recordings of all pre-application workshops and office hours. The Notice of Proposed Award will also be posted on that web page. If you have not already done so, staff recommends that interested parties listen to the pre-application workshop recordings and read through the solicitation manual to see if your project aligns with the solicitation.
13. What is the difference between an office hour and a pre-application workshop? What is the format for a pre-application workshop?
14. Pre-application workshops are an opportunity for interested applicants to listen to a structured presentation about all aspects of the solicitation and the application process, as well as pose questions to staff about the solicitation. Office hours do not include a structured presentation and provide an informal venue for applicants to ask questions that come up as they develop their applications.
15. Is there a web page to view previous grant applications?
16. CEC does not have a web page to access previous grant applications. However, to submit a request for viewing past applications, please contact the Commission Agreement Officer, Crystal Willis at [crystal.willis@energy.ca.gov](mailto:crystal.willis@energy.ca.gov). You can also visit the list of completed [reports](https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/geothermal-grant-and-loan-program/list-geothermal-projects-and-reports) from projects that have been funded by the Geothermal Program.
17. Who do we submit written questions to? What is the administrative questions deadline?
18. The technical questions deadline was October 11. Any administrative questions about the solicitation can be submitted to Commission Agreement Officer, Crystal Willis at [crystal.willis@energy.ca.gov](mailto:crystal.willis@energy.ca.gov) until January 27, 2025.
19. Is there only one grant given? Will this solicitation have multiple recipients?
20. This solicitation aims to fund multiple applications. The CEC will select and fund qualifying, competitive proposals until it exhausts the available funding amount allocated to the current solicitation ($5.79 million). Please refer to Solicitation Manual, Section I.D. Funding for more details on the allocation of funds under this solicitation.
21. Do we need to provide a commercialization plan on how we scale our technology for later?
22. No, a commercialization plan is not required for this solicitation.
23. Has there been historic examples of applicants applying two years in a row for different scopes of work.
24. Yes, in previous solicitations applicants have applied with different scopes of work. GFO-23-402 applicants can apply to future Geothermal Program solicitations as a continuation of a current project, or for a proposal with a different scope of work.
25. Is it an expectation that every project will have a final report?
26. Yes, funded projects must submit and publish final reports. The Geothermal Program provides guidelines for recipients to develop final reports.
27. We are thinking of working with local counties. Is there a way for multiple counties to apply together or would one county take the lead and the rest be subcontractors? Would all counties need to submit Attachment 11?
28. Only one entity can serve as the applicant and the grant recipient if awarded a grant. If multiple counties intend to work together on a single application, one county would be the applicant, and the rest could be subcontractors or project partners.

For an application involving multiple counties, the county that is the applicant is the only one who would need to submit Attachment 11, Local Jurisdiction Resolution. Please see Solicitation Manual, Section III.D.11., Local Jurisdiction Resolution, page 27.

1. Can funding be used in commercialization of more than one project?
2. Please see answer A14.

# Technical Questions

## Project Focus

1. Are there areas in California restricting geothermal?
2. This solicitation is open to eligible projects throughout California. We encourage you to reach out to your local jurisdiction on any restrictions. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 1665 (a) (8), private entity applicants must explain how, if awarded a grant, it will obtain approval for the grant from a representative of the city, county, or Indian reservation where the project is to be located, in accordance with Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 3822(g)(3). Please see the Solicitation Manual, Section III.D.9, Commitment and Support Letter Form (Attachment 9), page 26.
3. Is this solicitation not only about creating energy from geothermal brine from a geothermal asset, but also extraction of minerals?
4. Projects under this solicitation can be focused on geothermal energy resources and/or lithium recovery from geothermal brine. Proposed projects do not need to combine both resources. For the list of selected eligible topics, please see the Solicitation Manual Section I.C., Project Focus, page 6.
5. Have some eligible topics been removed from the scope of this solicitation?
6. Yes, PRC Section 3823 lists twelve (12) topics eligible for funding under the Geothermal Program, and CEC selected eight (8) of these topics to be eligible for funding under this specific solicitation based on stakeholder input resulting from a [pre-solicitation workshop](https://energy.zoom.us/rec/share/xXJUjvnNB7E8Rnw2Jhc3kO8JXR-pKVPv4JjjF3c549P-olFNRwttQnzeU115jvhq.jDOc43B7l1QhLJKy?startTime=1687896124000), held in June 2023.
7. Is the extraction of minerals and related activities not a required condition of the solicitation?
8. Correct, the extraction of minerals is not a required element of this solicitation, except if choosing eligible topic letter (l), which states, “In furtherance of the state’s zero-emission vehicle and energy storage objectives, undertaking projects to recover lithium, metals, agricultural products, and other beneficial minerals from highly mineralized geothermal brines at a geothermal facility that is in a disadvantaged community and provides local employment opportunities. This also includes a projected greenfield geothermal facility that is not currently installed or in operation”. It is up to the applicant to select the eligible topic that best fits their project. Please refer to the comprehensive list of selected eligible topics under the Solicitation Manual, Section I.C., Project Focus, page 6.
9. Can the project focus on minerals other than lithium?
10. For projects involving mineral recovery from geothermal brine, the solicitation currently limits eligible projects to lithium. However, CEC staff is considering broadening the scope of this solicitation to include other criterial minerals through an addendum. To be notified of the most recent addendum, please be sure to [subscribe](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/31719) to the Geothermal Energy listserv.
11. Eligible topic (a) and (b) seem very similar, if resource assessment is needed for a local or regional planning process. Can a project have more than one focus?
12. Proposed projects are allowed to have activities that fit more than one eligible topic. Eligible topics are identified in the Solicitation Manual, Section I.C., Project Focus, page 6. However, applicants must select only one eligible topic when completing the Attachment 1, Application Form. If a proposed project has activities that fits more than one eligible topic applicants should select the topic that most closely relates to their project.
13. We own a small (less than 1MW) power plant in Lassen County near Honey Lake. We’re considering submitting an application to plan and drill an injection well for the project. I'm curious if you're aware of any previous projects that are similar?
14. We recommend reviewing our list of published final [reports](https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/geothermal-grant-and-loan-program/list-geothermal-projects-and-reports) for examples of previously funded projects.
15. Can early-stage projects apply? We want to make sure that we understand that research and development (R&D) projects are eligible. Does this solicitation have a limit for Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 5 or 6?
16. Early and late-stage projects or any TRL level projects are eligible to apply. To see if your application could be eligible for funding, please refer to the list of selected eligible topics under the Solicitation Manual, Section I.C., Project Focus, page 6.
17. Do you have an idea of the scope of work that the funds can be used for?
18. The funds can only be used for the selected eligible topic found in the Solicitation Manual, Section I.C., Project Focus, page 6.
19. A local government is considering pursuing funding under Phase Two – to conduct a feasibility study to create a geothermal network to public facilities. We believe this would fall under project area focus (i). Please confirm those seeking planning dollars for feasibility study would not need to submit Attachment 12 (Feasibility Study).
20. Staff is unable to provide a suggestion on selecting an eligible topic. It is up to the applicant to decide which topic they believe their project will fall under. Additionally, as mentioned in the Solicitation Manual, Section I.C. Project Focus, page 6, only proposed projects focused on resource development that will directly result in revenue or energy savings are required to include a feasibility study (Attachment 12). Since the project seems to be focused on preparing a feasibility study which might be used to inform a separate future project that could result in revenue or energy savings, Attachment 12 does not need to be submitted.
21. Do the projects need to use geothermal energy for the public facilities? Or could the project fund the construction of a visitors’ center, or any needed element of the visitor center, to educate the community about the geothermal efforts?
22. The CEC is unable to provide advice as to whether a particular project is eligible for funding and/or provide a suggestion on selecting an eligible topic, because not all application details are known. It is up to the applicant to decide whether they believe their project is eligible for funding under the solicitation and, if so, which topic they believe their project will fall under. Please refer to the list of selected eligible topic under the Solicitation Manual, Section I.C., Project Focus, page 6. See answer A21. To help with examples of previous projects, please see answer A22.
23. A proposed project we are considering is a closed loop geothermal systems in California, and we think topic (I) would make the most sense for our project. We wanted to double check this would be an eligible topic.
24. Yes, project focus (l) is an eligible topic for this solicitation. Please see answer A26 for additional information.
25. Would a generator that pulls water from the ground to put water back into the grid match one of these topics listed?
26. Please see answer A26.
27. Is geothermal funding able to go to HVAC systems for heating and cooling?
28. Please see answer A26.
29. A past Geothermal Program project funded fire trucks and other emergency service vehicles and the training that may go with them, to provide services for hazardous substances. Is that still an opportunity for this grant?
30. Please see answer A26.
31. Can this project be used as a field test on an already existing operation? We are looking to conduct a field test, is there a resource within an existing project so we can get a lead for field testing?
32. Please see answer A26.
33. How does geothermal energy work? Where does it derive from?
34. Geothermal energy is energy that is continually created from naturally occurring heat from within the earth. Geothermal resources are derived from reservoirs of hot salty brine or steam that naturally exist at varying temperatures and depths below the earth's surface. Geothermal wells, ranging from a few feet to several miles deep, can be drilled into underground reservoirs to tap steam or very hot brine that can be brought to the surface for use in a variety of applications, including electricity generation, heating, and cooling. For more information please see the [frequently asked questions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/geothermal-grant-and-loan-program/geothermal-grant-and-loan-program-0) about geothermal energy.
35. What is lithium recovery from geothermal brine? Would we need to get the water tested?
36. Lithium is recovered from geothermal brine by tapping into underground reservoirs and bringing brine up to the surface. Geothermal brine circulates through the very hot rocks of geothermal areas and is enriched with minerals, such as lithium, boron, and potassium. Please take a look at the [frequently asked questions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/geothermal-grant-and-loan-program/geothermal-grant-and-loan-program-1) about lithium recovery from geothermal brine. Testing the water could be included in the scope of work in the application.

## Key Activities Schedule

1. Is there a timeline for Phase Two? What is the funding timeline to actually complete this project?
2. Yes, a timeline of the solicitation is posted in the Solicitation Manual, Section I.E., Key Activities Schedule, page 8. The timeline to complete the project is three (3) years. Please be sure to [subscribe](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/31719) to the Geothermal Energy listserv to receive updates to the timeline, if any.

## Funding and Match Funding

1. If we get this grant does this stop us from getting future Geothermal Program grants?
2. An applicant that has received other state funding is still eligible to apply to the Geothermal Program. Being selected as a recipient for this solicitation will not prohibit the applicant to apply again for future Geothermal Program solicitations. However, please note, per Section 8.h. of the Geothermal Program [Terms and Conditions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/9161), no payments will be made for project costs that have been or will be reimbursed by another entity. Additionally, some restrictions might apply if the funds received from other state funding are being proposed as match funds in this Geothermal Program application. For reference, the following is the definition of match funds found in the Solicitation Manual, Section I.J., Match Funding, page 15:

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

Lastly, CEC staff cannot assess whether a Geothermal Program award would impact an applicant’s eligibility under other programs.

1. If I cannot get 100% match funding, would I have to do free labor?
2. Overtime labor that is unpaid can be used for match costs (the value of that would be the hourly rate x number of hours). Private entity applicants need to include 100% match funds, but you can work with project partners who can provide commitment letters to help attain 100% match funds. See the Solicitation Manual, Section I.J., Match Funding, page 16 for additional information about what qualifies as match funding.
3. Can personal, retirement savings, tax credits, or loans be used as match funding?
4. Yes, personal savings and retirement savings can be used as match funding. Cash derived from loans are acceptable. A construction loan that is converted to cash is a cash match. Tax credits may be able to be used if the applicant can demonstrate a market cash value. Anything that can be converted to cash is acceptable. Recipients need to show proof of payment if cash match and value determined with in-kind (non-cash) contribution.
5. If I request $1.5 million dollars, can this solicitation give less than that? What is the maximum amount of funding for this solicitation?
6. For Phase Two, the maximum award amount per project is $1.5 million and the minimum award amount per project is $250,000. This solicitation has $5.79 million of available funding in total. The CEC reserves the right to 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 to commensurate with available funding. Please see Solicitation Manual, Section I.D., Funding, page 8.
7. Do subcontractors need to provide 100% match funds? For example, if a university is a subcontractor, do they have to provide 100% match funds? Let’s say I request to the CEC $250k, where $50k of the total would go to a university. Do I have to provide match funds to the $50k or to the $200k that did not go to the university?
8. This solicitation requires private entity applicants to provide 100% match funds of the total amount requested to the CEC. In this example, the full application would need to provide $250k of match funds. However, it is up to each applicant to determine the source or sources of the match funds. In other words, match funding can come from multiple sources (e.g. the applicant, subcontractors, project partners) but the total match funding for private entity applicants must meet or exceed the 100% match funds requirement.

All entities providing match funding must submit commitment letters. This includes the applicant itself. Please see Solicitation Manual, Section I.J, Match Funding, page 16, and Attachment 9 Commitment and Support Letters for more information and requirements about match funding and commitment letters.

1. Regarding match funds, is there a limitation to how we determine in-kind match? Is there a percentage limit?
2. There is no percentage limit. The preference of the CEC is cash match, but no penalty will be provided for using in-kind match. For a description of in-kind and match funds, please see the Solicitation Manual, Section I.J, Match Funding, page 16. Also see the Match Funds scoring criterion in the Solicitation Manual, Section IV.H, page 44.
3. What is the funding timeline, and how is the payment made? Is there an upfront payment, or some portion of upfront payment? Is it 100% reimbursement based on the completion of the milestone? Is the money awarded on the agreement start date?
4. This program does not advance funds, other than payments that will flow to U.S. Department of Energy national laboratory subcontractors. In all other cases, the grant recipient will submit invoices to the CEC for reimbursement of allowable project costs after those costs have been incurred. For more information, please read Section 8, Payment of Funds, in the Geothermal Standard [Terms and Conditions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/9161).
5. If the full award is not issued, does that mean we need to wait again for another cycle? Or will the funds be provided in the subsequent year in order to expend yearly amount of funds provided to the program? Do funds roll over if they are not all used?
6. If the full award is not issued, CEC staff will work with the awardee to try to reach agreement on a reduced Scope of Work commensurate with the available funding. Any unused funds under this solicitation is expected to be made available for future funding opportunities under the program.

## Terms and Conditions

1. Can you walk us through the intellectual property licensing?
2. Please refer to Section 20, Intellectual Property, in the Geothermal Standard [Terms and Conditions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/9161), for more information. For additional questions about intellectual property rights under this program it is recommended that applicants seek their own legal counsel.
3. Are there Build America, Buy America (BABA) or Davis Bacon Act (DBA) requirements, and do those requirements flow down?
4. There are no BBA and DBA requirements under the Geothermal Grant and Loan program.

## California Secretary of State Registration

1. Is Secretary of State registration necessary for limited liability companies (LLCs)?
2. Yes, all corporations, 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](http://www.sos.ca.gov/) prior to its project being recommended for approval at a CEC Business Meeting. Please see Solicitation Manual, Section II.C., California Secretary of State Registration, page 19.
3. When we submit the application, we wouldn't need to be registered with the state but if it moves forward, we would be. Can you explain that requirement and what the timeline is?
4. If a project is awarded in the Notice of Proposed Award, any entity participating in the project (e.g. the grant recipient, subcontractors, vendors, etc.) that conducts intrastate business in California needs to be registered and in good standing with the [California Secretary of State](http://www.sos.ca.gov/) before the award is recommended for approval at a CEC Business Meeting. To avoid potential delays in the development of a grant agreement and in the beginning of the proposed project (should the application be successful), applicants are encouraged to register to the Secretary of State as soon as possible if selected as an awardee. Please see Solicitation Manual, Section II.C., California Secretary of State Registration, page 19.
5. Does the company need to be California based?
6. The solicitation does not require applicants, subcontractors, project partners, or individuals employed by any of those entities to reside in California or the United States. However, applicants that are California Native American tribes must be located in California. Please note that proposed projects under this solicitation must be conducted in California.

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](http://www.sos.ca.gov/) prior to its project being recommended for approval at an CEC Business Meeting. Please refer the Solicitation Manual, Section II.C., California Secretary of State Registration, page 19.

1. Do you have any prohibitions or limitations for partnering with companies that are outside of the United States?
2. Please see A47. As noted in the Solicitation Manual, Section III.D.7.7, Budget Forms, page 25, grant funds cannot be spent on entities or activities outside of the United States or for out-of-country travel. Match funds may cover these costs if there are no legal restrictions. So, if the out-of-country project partner is paid they must be paid with match funds.

## Full Application Phase Two – Content

### Attachment 3 – Project Narrative

1. Can you list some of the benefits that you expect a project will provide to the local jurisdiction?
2. It is up to the applicant to explain how a project will provide benefits to a local jurisdiction where the project is to be located, and it is recommended the applicant refer to the scoring criteria to understand how the explanation of benefits can affect an application’s score.

For example, in Attachment 3, Project Narrative, both the Public Involvement and Economic and Employment Benefit sections require the applicant to describe certain benefits. The applicant needs to provide responses such as including a sound plan for public outreach/involvement, communication of project results, and identifying how the project will provide local employment opportunities and benefits to the community and/or Tribal lands.

1. How do we justify public benefits if it is in early-stage project? Can we speak of potential benefits at the deployment stage?
2. The applicant can demonstrate potential benefits at any stage of the project. Please see answer A49.

### Attachment 4 – Project Team Form

1. Do applicants have to prove the subcontractors were competitively selected?
2. Applicants do not need to prove that subcontractors were competitively selected. The applicant is responsible to select the project team that best fits its application and achieves solicitation requirements.
3. Are there specific types of organization we should engage with to demonstrate the need for the project? What would be the ideal way to get support for the project?
4. It is the applicant’s responsibility to reach out to potential project partners. CEC staff has provided opportunities for stakeholders to connect with prospective partners by conducting several in-person and hybrid pre-application workshops dedicated to this solicitation. To support collaboration, CEC staff has posted all pre-application workshop attendee lists with contact information on the [solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-02/gfo-23-402-geothermal-grant-and-loan-program). In addition, the CEC provides the [Empower Innovation Network](https://www.empowerinnovation.net/en/custom/funding/view/41333) to serve as a platform for stakeholders to connect with potential partners. The Empower Innovation Network is a trusted place where entrepreneurs, developers, investors, local communities, and others can connect to work toward a shared vision for a clean economy. Members can directly message each other to build their networks and develop business around hundreds of funding opportunities. Staff encourages contacting the [CEC Public Advisor’s Office](mailto:publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov) if you would like support connecting with stakeholders in a specific region.
5. Will the CEC provide a resource/clearing house for entities to search for potential interested partners? The attendee lists are helpful, but some grant solicitations will take an extra step in helping entities collaborate on grant applications.
6. Please see answer A52.
7. Do subcontractors or any consultants have to be identified before app submittal?
8. No, subcontractors and consultants are not required to be identified at the time of application submittal. However, a TBD subcontractor or other entity could affect the application’s score, especially if that subcontractor or entity is expected to have an important role in the project. See the Likelihood of Success, Public Involvement and Payback and Cost Effectiveness scoring criteria in the Solicitation Manual, Section IV.H, pages 42-43.
9. If we are partnering with local jurisdictions, California based subcontractors, local entities, or private entities, is that taken into consideration? Would there be a higher score?
10. No, whether an applicant is partnering with California-based partners will not affect an application’s score. There are no extra points for applicants working with California based subcontractors or for partnering with local or private entities.

### Attachment 7 – Budget Form

1. Is there anything stopping me from doing development before the agreement start date?
2. The grant recipient can begin development before an agreement start date if it wishes; but will not be reimbursed for those costs since they are incurred prior to the agreement term. As per the Geothermal Grant and Loan Program’s terms and conditions, all reimbursable work and expenditure of funds (CEC-reimbursed and/or match share) must occur within the agreement term specified on the Grant Agreement (CEC-146 form). The CEC cannot authorize any payments until all parties sign the final grant agreement. The costs for which the recipient may be reimbursed under the grant agreement include all actual costs, direct and indirect, as identified in the Budget Form (Attachment 7), and incurred in the performance of the work identified in the Scope of Work (Attachment 5).
3. Are costs, such as for training and administration (i.e. paying invoices, meetings), reimbursable? Is there an upper boundary for what is reasonable for administrative costs?
4. Recipients may be reimbursed for training and administration costs incurred during the term of the Agreement. These costs should be identified in both Attachment 7, Budget Form and in a Commitment Letter as match share, if applicable. The CEC does not have a set threshold for what it considers reasonable for administrative costs. The applicant must indicate the distribution and maximum amount for each category described in the budget and adhere to the Agreement Terms and Conditions, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular or Federal Acquisition Regulations applicable to their organization as described in Attachment 7. Please refer to A56 for additional information regarding reimbursement of costs under this solicitation.

### Attachment 9 – Commitment and Support Letter Form

1. Do we need a support letter from local jurisdictions if it’s an early-stage research project?
2. No, if your project is not in a physical location, it will not need a support letter from local jurisdictions.

### Attachment 12 – Feasibility Study

1. Which project focus needs a feasibility study? What if it’s an early-stage research project? Do applied research projects demonstrating a sample at a laboratory instead of from a demonstration site need to submit a feasibility analysis?
2. If the project is going to be focused on any resource development that will directly result in revenue or energy savings, a feasibility study is required. For example, eligible topics (a), (i), or (l) would most likely require submission of a feasibility study with the application. An early stage applied research project most likely does not require a feasibility study if the proposed project will not directly result in revenue or energy savings. For a detailed list of information to be included in the feasibility study, please see the Solicitation Manual, Section III.D.12., Feasibility Study (Attachment 12), page 27.