See the formatting recommendations in Part III, Section A.

The Project Narrative must respond to each sub-criterion below.

**Technical Merit**

1. Provide a clear and concise description of the proposed project’s technological, scientific knowledge advancement, and/or innovation that will overcome barriers to achieving the State’s statutory energy goals.
2. Describe the competitive advantages of the proposed technology over state-of-the-art (e.g., efficiency, emissions, durability, cost).
3. Provide the proposed technical specifications and describes how the project will meet or exceed the technical specifications by the end of the project.
4. Describe the scale at which the technology has been successfully demonstrated, including size or capacity, number of previous installations, location and duration, results, etc.
5. Describe how the proposed demonstration will lead to increased adoption of the technology in California.

**Technical Approach**

1. Describe the technique, approach, and methods to be used in performing the work described in the Scope of Work.
2. The Scope of Work identifies goals, objectives, and deliverables, details the work to be performed, and aligns with the information presented in the Project Narrative.
3. Identify the reliability that the project and site recommendations as described will be carried out if funds are awarded.
4. Identify and discuss factors critical for success, in addition to risks, barriers, and limitations (e.g. loss of demonstration site, key subrecipient). Provide a plan to address them.
5. Discuss 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.
6. Describe the knowledge transfer plan, including how key stakeholders and potential users will be engaged, and the plan to disseminate knowledge of the project’s results to those stakeholders and users.
7. Provide 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.
8. Provide 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
9. Provide information described in Section I.C

*Establishing the Pilot Line*

* Describe the overall capabilities of the pilot line, including manufacturing capacity, and battery technologies and formats supported.
* Describe the location of the proposed facility and any renovation, utility improvements, and construction activities, along with associated timelines, that will be needed to prepare the facility for the project.
* Describe the ownership/lease relationship with the proposed site.
* Describe the proposed layout of the facility, including descriptions of all intended uses (manufacturing space, office space, storage, classroom, etc.) and their associated size (e.g. square footage for each of the proposed uses).
* Describe your approach to having the pilot line up and running by mid-2026. Alternatively, if a different timeline or approach is anticipated, describe that timing, approach, and justification.
* Describe your approach to sourcing the manufacturing equipment for the pilot line and the expected associated lead time. Include contingencies for delays or other challenges.
* Describe your approach to ensuring that all out-of-country purchases comply with applicable state and federal laws including federal export control laws prohibiting certain activities between the United States and foreign companies.
* Describe your approach to maximizing use of a domestic supply chain supporting battery manufacturing.
* Describe your approach to partnering with industry to ensure that the outputs of the pilot line (battery cells and testing results) meet industry standards.
* Discuss your approach to engaging with the Lithium Valley Vision and the broader battery value chain in California.

*Operating the Pilot Line*

* Describe your overall approach to operating the pilot line. At a minimum, your response should describe:
	+ Breadth of services offered to battery innovators,
	+ Expected length of engagement for the various services, and
	+ Approach for recruiting users to the pilot line.
* Describe your approach to safeguarding and protecting the intellectual property of the battery innovators who will use the facility.
* Describe your approach for recycling and/or disposing of waste materials as sustainably as possible.
* Describe your approach to establishing a sustainable ongoing operation model for the pilot manufacturing line, demonstrating its effective continuation beyond the grant term. At a minimum, describe the proposed revenue model, upstream feedstock sourcing, and staffing plan, both during and beyond the grant term.

*Leveraging and Expanding Partnerships*

* Describe your approach to leveraging the facility to support workforce development in partnership with labor groups and academic institutions. In this section, applicants should describe, at a minimum:
	+ Approach to developing a curriculum for a workforce development program that supports this pilot line and domestic battery manufacturing in California more broadly.
	+ How the training program will be operationalized at the pilot line facility, including classroom training and hands-on time on the pilot line.
	+ Partnerships with private industry that can serve as employers for those trained at the pilot line on an ongoing basis.
* Describe your approach to leveraging the facility to support a broader battery manufacturing ecosystem in California, including plans for connecting to and supporting Lithium Valley efforts and relevant state and federal initiatives.
* Describe how the pilot manufacturing line will provide benefits to the local community. Include discussion of planned community outreach and engagement activities and partnerships with community-based organizations.

**Impacts and Benefits to California IOU Ratepayers**

1. Explain how the proposed project will benefit California Investor-Owned Utility (IOU) ratepayers and provide clear, plausible, and justifiable (quantitative preferred) potential benefits.
2. State the timeframe, assumptions with sources, and calculations for the estimated benefits, and explain their reasonableness. Include baseline or “business as usual” over timeframe.
3. Explain 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.

**Team Qualifications, Capabilities and Resources**

1. Identify credentials of applicant and any subrecipient core personnel, including the project manager and principal investigator *(include this information in Project Team Form Attachment).*
2. Demonstrate that the project team has appropriate qualifications, experience, financial stability and capability to complete the project.
3. Explain the team structure and how various tasks will be managed and coordinated.

*Include an organization chart similar to the one below*

 **Figure X: Organization Chart**

1. Describe the facilities, infrastructure, and resources available that directly support the project.
2. Describe the team’s history of successfully completing projects in the past 10 years including subsequent deployments and commercialization.

**Budget and Cost Effectiveness**

1. Budget forms are complete for the applicant and all subrecipients, as instructed in Budget Attachment.

*Provide a budget by tasks, such as:*

**Table X: Task Budget**

| **Task (by major task)** | **Energy Commission Funds** | **Match Share** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Task 1: General Project Tasks |       |       |       |
| Task 2: |       |       |       |
| Task [TBD-1]: Evaluation of Project Benefits |       |       |       |
| Task [TBD-2]: Technology/ Knowledge Transfer Activities \* |       |       |       |

\* **Requires 5% of total CEC funds**

1. Justify the reasonableness of the requested funds relative to the project goals, objectives, and tasks.
2. Justify the reasonableness of direct costs (e.g., labor, fringe benefits, equipment, materials & misc. travel, and subrecipients).
3. Justify the reasonableness of indirect costs (e.g., overhead, facility charges (e.g., rent, utilities), burdens, subrecipient profit, and other like costs).

**Funds Spent in California**

This project proposes to spend $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Energy Commission funds in California.

**Benefits to Disadvantaged/Low-Income Communities and Localized Health Impacts**

*Applications should include evaluation and performance measures that the CEC can use to ensure short- and long-term delivery of identified health and environmental benefits and prevention of negative environmental and health outcomes, and respond to each sub-criterion below.*

Benefits to Disadvantaged/Low-Income Communities

1. Identify the energy and economic needs of the community based on project location, what steps the applicant has taken to identify those needs, and how the community input was solicited and considered in the design of the project.
2. Identify how the project will increase access to clean energy or sustainability technologies for the local community.
3. Identify 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.

Community Engagement Efforts

* 1. Identify how community input was solicited and considered in the design of the project.
	2. Identify and describe how the impacted community will be engaged in project implementation.
	3. Identify and describe 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. Identify how the project, if successful, will build community capacity.

Localized Health Impacts

1. Summarize the potential localized health benefits and impacts of the proposed project and provide reasonable analysis and assumptions.
2. Identify how the proposed project will reduce or not otherwise impact the community’s exposure to pollutants and the adverse environmental conditions caused by pollution. If projects have no impacts in this criterion, provide justification for why impacts are neutral.
3. Identify health-related Energy Equity indicators and/or health-related factors in CalEnviroscreen that most impact the community and describes how the project will reduce or not otherwise impact the indicators or factors. If projects have no impacts in this criterion, provide justification for why impacts are neutral.

Technology Replicability

1. Identify how the project, if successful, will lead to increased deployment of the technology or strategy in other disadvantaged or low-income communities.

Project Support Letters

1. Include 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.