**GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

**Clean Transportation Program**

**Rural Electric Vehicle Charging 2.0 (REV 2.0)**



GFO-24-608

[Solicitation Information](https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations)

https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations

State of California

California Energy Commission

February 2025

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##### Attachments

1 - Project Narrative

2 - Scope of Work Template

3 - Scope of Work Instructions

4 - Schedule of Products and Due Dates

5 - Budget Form(s)

6 - Resumes (optional)

7 - Contacts List

8 - Letters of Commitment

9 - Letters of Support (optional)

10 - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Worksheet

11 - Localized Health Impacts Information Form

12 - Past Performance Reference Form(s)

13 - Applicant Declaration

14 - Special Terms and Conditions for California Native American Tribes and California Tribal Organizations Serving California Native American Tribes with Sovereign Immunity (conditional)

# I. Introduction

## Purpose of Solicitation

This is a competitive grant solicitation. The California Energy Commission’s (CEC’s) Clean Transportation Program announces the availability of up to $10,000,000 in grant funds for projects that will install light-duty electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in rural communities. The purpose of the Rural Electric Vehicle Charging 2.0 (REV 2.0) Solicitation is to:

* Provide convenient, reliable charging for rural residents and people traveling through rural communities.
* Increase EV adoption in rural areas, especially in low-income or disadvantaged communities.
* Demonstrate replicable and scalable business and technology models that can drive EV charging stations to serve rural EV drivers.

## Background

Assembly Bill (AB) 118 (Nuñez, Chapter 750, Statutes of 2007), created the Clean Transportation Program. The statute authorizes the CEC to develop and deploy alternative and renewable fuels and advanced transportation technologies to help attain the state’s climate change and clean air goals. AB 126 (Reyes, Chapter 319, Statutes of 2023) reauthorized the funding program through July 1, 2035 and focused the program on zero-emission transportation.

The Clean Transportation Program has an annual budget of approximately $100 million and provides financial support for projects that:

* Develop and deploy zero-emission technology and fuels in the marketplace.
* Produce alternative and renewable low-carbon fuels in California.
* Deploy zero-emission fueling infrastructure, fueling stations, and equipment.
* Establish workforce training programs and conduct public outreach on the benefits of alternative transportation fuels and vehicle technologies.

## Commitment to Diversity

The CEC is committed to ensuring that participation in its programs and funding opportunities reflects the rich and diverse characteristics of California and its people. To meet this commitment, CEC staff conducts activities to:

* Ensure potential new applicants throughout the state are aware of CEC’s programs and the funding opportunities.
* Encourage greater participation by underrepresented groups including disabled veteran-, women-, minority-, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ)-owned businesses.
* Assist applicants in understanding how to apply for funding from CEC’s programs.

## Key Activities and Dates

Key activities including dates and times for this solicitation are presented below. An addendum will be released if the dates change for the asterisked (\*) activities. Times listed are Pacific Standard Time or Pacific Daylight Time, whichever is being observed.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ACTIVITY** | **ACTION DATE** |
| Solicitation Release | February 21, 2025 |
| Pre-Application Workshop\* | March 12, 2025  **10 a.m.- 12 p.m.** |
| Deadline for Written Questions\* **by 5pm** | March 28, 2025 |
| Anticipated Distribution of Questions/Answers | Week of April 14, 2025 |
| Support for Application Submission in the Energy Commission Agreement Management System (ECAMS) until 5:00 p.m. | Ongoing until **May 23, 2025** |
| **Deadline to Submit Applications by 11:59 p.m.\*** | **May 23, 2025** |
| Anticipated Notice of Proposed Awards Posting | Q3\*\* 2025 |
| Anticipated CEC Business Meeting | Q4\*\* 2025 |

\*\* Quarters:

* Q1: January 1 – March 31
* Q2: April 1 – June 30
* Q3: July 1 – September 30
* Q4: October 1 – December 31

## How Award Is Determined

Applicants passing administrative and technical screening will compete based on evaluation criteria and will be scored and ranked based on those criteria. Unless CEC exercises any of its other rights regarding this solicitation (e.g., to cancel the solicitation or reduce funding), applications obtaining at least the minimum passing score will be recommended for funding in ranked order until all funds available under this solicitation are exhausted.

If the funds available under this solicitation are insufficient to fully fund a grant proposal, CEC reserves the right to recommend partially funding that proposal. In this event, the proposed Applicant/Awardee and Commission Agreement Manager (CAM) shall meet and attempt to reach agreement on a reduced scope of work commensurate with the level of available funding.

## Availability of Funds

A total of $10,000,000 is available for awards under this solicitation. CEC, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to increase or decrease the amount of funds available under this solicitation.

## Maximum and Minimum Award Amounts

Projects are eligible for up to 80% of the total allowable project costs or $4,000,000 whichever is less.

There will be no minimum project award. Projects must install a minimum of 50 charging ports or have a charging output of at least 900kilowatts (kW). See Section II.B for details on project requirements.

## Maximum Number of Applications

Applicants are only eligible to submit one application under this solicitation.

## Pre-Application Workshop

There will be one Pre-Application Workshop; participation in this meeting is optional but encouraged. The Pre-Application Workshop will be held remotely through Zoom at the date and time listed below. Please call the Commission Agreement Officer (CAO) listed below or refer to [CEC's solicitation information website](https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations) at https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations to confirm the date and time.

**March 12, 2025**

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Via Zoom

## Participation Through Zoom

Zoom is the CEC's online meeting service. When attending remotely, presentations will appear on your computer/laptop/mobile device screen, and audio may be heard via the device or telephone. Please be aware that the Zoom meeting will be recorded.

**Zoom Instructions:**

To join this workshop, go to Zoom at: <https://energy.zoom.us/j/83950843299?pwd=q8V0JpVcD0rUipEeHrpAh2hucIYq1g.1>. You may also access the workshop by going to the [Zoom webpage](https://join.zoom.us) at https://join.zoom.us and enter the unique meeting ID and password below:

**Meeting ID:** **839 5084 3299**

**Meeting Password:** REV2@10

**Topic:** Rural Electric Vehicle Charging 2.0 (REV 2.0) Pre-Application Workshop

**Telephone Access Only:**

Call (888) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (toll-free). When prompted, enter the unique meeting ID number above. To comment over the telephone, 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) at 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 (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or you may contact the CEC’s Public Advisor’s Office at [publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov), or (916) 957-7910.

To determine whether your computer is compatible with Zoom, visit

[this website](https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-requirements-for-Windows-macOS-and-Linux) at https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-requirements-for-Windows-macOS-and-Linux.

## Questions

During the solicitation process, for questions only related to submission of applications in ECAMS, please contact [ECAMS.SalesforceSupport@energy.ca.gov](mailto:ECAMS.SalesforceSupport@energy.ca.gov). By contacting this email address, Applicants will be able to access a team of technical assistants who can answer questions about application submission. Please also see Section III for additional information about ECAMS.

Applicants may ask questions at the Pre-Application Workshop, and may submit written questions via e-mail to the CAO listed in the following section. However, all technical questions must be received by the deadline listed in the “Key Activities and Dates” table 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 CAO at any time prior to 5:00 p.m. of the application deadline date. Similarly, questions related to submission of applications in ECAMS may be submitted to [ECAMS.SalesforceSupport@energy.ca.gov](mailto:ECAMS.SalesforceSupport@energy.ca.gov) at any time prior to 5:00 p.m. of the application deadline date.

The question and answer set will be posted on the [CEC’s solicitation information website](http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html) at https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations.

Any verbal communication with a CEC employee concerning this solicitation is not binding on the State and shall in no way alter a specification, term, or condition of the solicitation. All communication must be directed in writing to the CAO assigned to the solicitation.

## Contact Information

Natalie Johnson, Commission Agreement Officer

California Energy Commission

715 P Street, MS-18

Sacramento, California 95814

E-mail: natalie.johnson@energy.ca.gov

## Reference Documents

Applicants responding to this solicitation may want to familiarize themselves with the following documents:

* [Investment Plan Update for the Clean Transportation Program](https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2024/2024-2025-investment-plan-update-clean-transportation-program)(CEC-600-2024-047)  
  https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2024/2024-2025-investment-plan-update-clean-transportation-program
* [AB 2127 Second Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Assessment](https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2024/assembly-bill-2127-second-electric-vehicle-charging-infrastructure-assessment)  
  (CEC-600-2024-003)  
  <https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2024/assembly-bill-2127-second-electric-vehicle-charging-infrastructure-assessment>.
* California Air Resources Board, [California Climate Investments Priority Populations 2024 Map](https://gis.carb.arb.ca.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=e746df40e39144029cd1f9fd748c81b2) https://gis.carb.arb.ca.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=e746df40e39144029cd1f9fd748c81b2
* CalEPA, [Final Designation of Disadvantaged Communities](https://calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2022/05/Updated-Disadvantaged-Communities-Designation-DAC-May-2022-Eng.a.hp_-1.pdf)  
  https://calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2022/05/Updated-Disadvantaged-Communities-Designation-DAC-May-2022-Eng.a.hp\_-1.pdf
* [CalEnviroScreen](https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen). https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen.
* California Air Resources Board, [Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Standards](https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/electric-vehicle-supply-equipment-evse-standards). https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/electric-vehicle-supply-equipment-evse-standards.
* California Department of Food and Agriculture, Division of Measurement Standards. [Zero-Emission Vehicle Projects](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs/zevfuels/). https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs/zevfuels/.
* [2022 Senate Bill 1000 California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Assessment: Drive Times to Direct-Current Fast Chargers](https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2022/2022-senate-bill-1000-california-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-deployment)  
  (CEC-600-2022-059)  
  https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2022/2022-senate-bill-1000-california-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-deployment.
* [CARB Senate Bill 350 Low-Income Barriers Study, Part B: Overcoming Barriers to Clean Transportation Access for Low-Income Residents](https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/carb-barriers-report-final-guidance-document) https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/carb-barriers-report-final-guidance-document.
* [Executive Order N-79-20](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9.23.20-EO-N-79-20-Climate.pdf)  
  https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9.23.20-EO-N-79-20-Climate.pdf.
* [Senate Bill 454 (Corbett, Chapter 418, Statutes of 2013)](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB454) https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\_id=201320140SB454.
* [Senate Bill 350 (De León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015)](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB350) https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\_id=201520160SB350.
* [Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016)](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1550) https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\_id=201520160AB1550.
* [Assembly Bill 2127 (Ting, Chapter 365, Statutes of 2018)](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2127) https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\_id=201720180AB2127.
* [Senate Bill 1000 (Lara, Chapter 368, Statutes of 2018)](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB1000) https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\_id=201720180SB1000.
* [Assembly Bill 841 (Ting, Chapter 372, Statutes of 2020)](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB841) https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\_id=201920200AB841.
* [Assembly Bill 2061 (Ting, Chapter 345, Statutes of 2022)](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB2061) https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\_id=202120220AB2061.
* [Energy Commission Agreement Management System (ECAMS)](https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources/ecams-resources) https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources/ecams-resources.

# II. Eligibility Requirements

## Applicant Requirements

1. **Eligibility**

This solicitation is open to all public and private entities including California Native American Tribes, and California Tribal Organizations serving California Native American Tribes.

Ineligible applicants include investor-owned utilities.

The entity applying to the Solicitation (Applicant) will become the Recipient, if awarded. The CEC encourages (but does not require) community-based organizations or local government entities to serve as the primary applicant. Electric Vehicle Service Providers may serve as the primary applicant. Please note that primary applicants must forgo profit.

Project teams may include, but are not limited to:

* Community-based organizations (defined for this solicitation as an organization that (a) is place-based, with an explicit geographic focus area that includes the proposed project area(s), (b) has staff members, volunteers, or Board members that reside in the community where the project is located or intended to serve, and (c) has a demonstrated track record of at least one year providing services in the proposed project area)
* Electric vehicle service providers
* Federally-recognized California Native American Tribes and California Tribal Organizations serving Federally-recognized California Native American Tribes
* Environmental or environmental justice organizations
* Local governments (cities, counties, municipalities, etc.)
* Metropolitan planning organizations or regional transportation planning agencies
* Non-profit organizations (for example churches, public schools, public charities, volunteer organizations, and some governmental agencies)
* Property management companies
* Utilities

1. **Terms and Conditions**

Each grant agreement resulting from this solicitation will include terms and conditions that set forth the grant recipient’s rights and responsibilities. By providing the authorizations and certifications required under this solicitation, each Applicant agrees to enter into an agreement, if awarded, 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.

In addition to the applicable terms and conditions listed above, the following terms and conditions may apply to the Applicant: Special Terms and Conditions for California Native American Tribes and California Tribal Organizations serving California Native American Tribes with Sovereign Immunity, in addition to the standard terms and conditions; and any other special terms and conditions required by the CEC. The standard terms and conditions are located at [CEC's funding resources website](http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/contractors.html) at https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources.

Failure to agree to the terms and conditions by taking actions such as failing to provide the required authorizations and certifications or indicating that acceptance is based on modification of the terms may result in rejection of the application. Applicants must read the terms and conditions carefully. CEC reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions prior to executing grant agreements.

If a California Native American Tribe (Tribe) or a California Tribal Organization serving a California Native American Tribe (Tribal Organization) with sovereign immunity is listed as a proposed awardee in the Notice of Proposed Awards (NOPA), before bringing the proposed award to a Business Meeting, CEC staff must receive (a) resolution(s) or other authorizing document(s) by the governing body of the Tribe or Tribal Organization which:

* + 1. Authorizes the Tribe or Tribal Organization to enter into the proposed agreement, including accepting the Special Terms and Conditions for California Native American Tribes and California Tribal Organizations Serving California Native American Tribes with Sovereign Immunity, including the Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity and Consent to Jurisdiction (see Attachment 14); and
    2. Approves a limited waiver of tribal sovereign immunity, to the extent that any such sovereign immunity exists, for any and all claims by the CEC that may arise relating to this Agreement and any remedies therefore under the laws of the state of California and the laws of the United States of America; and
    3. Consents to personal jurisdiction over the Tribe or Tribal Organization, and consents to venue in any court of the State of California and any federal court sitting in the State of California; and waives any and all claim that the Tribe or Tribal Organization may have, including without limitation that such court is an inconvenient forum, for the purposes of any proceeding related to this Agreement; and, with respect to a proceeding in a court of the State of California or a federal court sitting in the State of California, any requirement that tribal remedies must be exhausted; and
    4. Delegates authority to execute the proposed agreement to an appropriate individual.

The above requirements may be provided in one or more documents. The document(s) will be included as an exhibit to the resulting grant agreement.

**Delay in award.** Any delay in the Tribe or Tribal Organization’s ability to provide the documentation specified in sections (i)-(iv) above may result in delayed award of the grant agreement.

**Reservation of right to cancel proposed award.** Funds available under this solicitation have encumbrance deadlines which the CEC must meet in order to avoid expiration of the funds. In addition to any other rights reserved to it under this solicitation or that it otherwise has, the CEC reserves the right to cancel a proposed award if it determines, in its sole and absolute discretion, that the documentation described in sections (i)-(iv) above would likely not be provided prior to an encumbrance deadline, and that the CEC’s ability to meet its encumbrance deadline may thereby be jeopardized. In this instance, the CEC may cancel the proposed award and award funds to the next highest scoring applicant.

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 a CEC Business Meeting. If not currently registered with the California Secretary of State, Applicants and project team members (e.g. subrecipients and even match fund partners) 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 proposed for funding).

For more information, contact the Secretary of State’s Office via [the Secretary of State Office’s website](https://www.sos.ca.gov/) at https://www.sos.ca.gov/. Sole proprietors using a fictitious business name must be registered with the appropriate county and provide evidence of registration to CEC prior to their project being recommended for approval at a CEC Business Meeting.

## Project Requirements

* 1. **Eligible Projects**

Eligible projects will demonstrate business and technology models for the deployment of public light-duty EV charging infrastructure to support rural communities and those that travel through rural communities.

All applications must clearly demonstrate how they will provide convenient, accessible, and reliable charging to these communities, especially those that are low-income and/or disadvantaged communities.

A project that receives incentive funding from another CEC grant funding opportunity (GFO) or block grant incentive project is not eligible for this GFO.

* 1. **Minimum Project Size**

Applicants must propose projects that will install a **minimum of 50 charging ports OR** install charging stations that can simultaneously supply **at least 900 kW** to vehicles when requested. Projects can be comprised of installations at multiple project sites.

* 1. **Project Location**

All project sites must be located within California and in designated rural tracts or rural center tracts. Applicants should use CEC’s [REV 2.0 Eligibility Map](https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/data-exploration-tools/rural-electric-vehicle-charging-20-rev-20-eligibility-map) at https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/data-exploration-tools/rural-electric-vehicle-charging-20-rev-20-eligibility-map to identify eligible project sites for this solicitation.

Rural communities are census tracts where less than 10 percent of the tract’s land area is designated as urban by the Census Bureau using the 2020 urbanized area criteria.

Rural centers are contiguous urban census tracts with a population of less than 50,0000. Urban census tracts are tracts where at least 10 percent of the tract’s land area is designated as urban by the Census Bureau using the 2020 urbanized area criteria.

All deployments must be at existing structures or facilities and involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

Project sites and chargers must be accessible to the public at least 18 hours per day.

Charging locations and parking areas must be well-lit. The charger user must be able to easily read any instructions on the charger and the area around the vehicle must have adequate lighting to allow the driver to safely walk from the charger to the charging port on the vehicle.

Sites must incorporate signage as required by any applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards.

* 1. **Disadvantaged and Low-Income Communities**

A minimum of 50 percent of a project’s charging ports or charger kW output must be installed within disadvantaged communities (DIC) and/or low-income communities (LIC).

Disadvantaged communities are communities disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution and with population characteristics that make them more sensitive to pollution. Disadvantaged communities are designated by the California Environmental Protection Agency per Senate Bill 535.

Low-income communities are defined per Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016) as census tracts with median household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with median household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits adopted under California Health and Safety Code Section 50093.

Applicants should use the [California Climate Investments Priority Populations 2024 map](https://webmaps.arb.ca.gov/PriorityPopulations/) at https://webmaps.arb.ca.gov/PriorityPopulations/ to identify disadvantaged communities and/or low-income communities. Applicants can also view these priority communities by turning on the DAC/LIC layer on the [REV 2.0 Eligibility Map](https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/data-exploration-tools/rural-electric-vehicle-charging-20-rev-20-eligibility-map) at https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/data-exploration-tools/rural-electric-vehicle-charging-20-rev-20-eligibility-map.

* 1. **Charging Equipment**

Applications may include Level 2 (L2), Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC), or mobile or moveable (not grid connected) L2 chargers.

* Project sites with L2 chargers must have at least 50 percent of the connectors be SAE standard J1772; SAE standard J3400 connectors are optional and eligible. Each L2 port must be capable of outputting at least 6.2 kW of power. L2 dual-port chargers must be capable of outputting at least 6.2 kW of power from each port simultaneously.
* Project sites with DCFC chargers must have at least 50 percent of the connectors be Combined Charging System (CCS) connectors; SAE standard J3400 connectors are optional and eligible. Each DCFC port must be capable of outputting at least 150 kW of power. DCFC dual-port chargers must be capable of outputting at least 150 kW of power from each port simultaneously.
* Chargers not permanently connected to the grid (such as chargers with solar and battery storage) shall be configured to deliver at minimum 3.3 kW to an EV and at minimum 30 kWh per day. For such chargers with multiple ports, each port shall be configured to deliver at minimum 1.9 kW to each EV when multiple ports are in use and at minimum 30 kWh per day across all ports
* Automated Load Management Systems (ALMS) may be used, however the respective minimum power requirements will still apply.
* All chargers must meet applicable requirements, including those of Senate Bill 454 (Corbett, Chapter 418, Statutes of 2013), the California Air Resources Board Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Standards, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture Division of Measurement Standards, for public chargers.
* All chargers must be networked. For the purposes of this solicitation, a networked charger is defined as a charger that has/is:
  + Network connectivity with one of the following:
    - IEEE 802.11n for high-bandwidth wireless networking, or
    - IEEE 802.3 for Ethernet for local- or wide-area network applications, or
    - Cellular network of 4G or newer.
  + The ability to receive remote software updates, real-time protocol translation, encryption, and decryption, including:
    - Internet Protocol (IP)-based processor which must support multiple protocols, and
    - Compliance with Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)/IP and IPv6.
  + The ability to connect to a network’s back-end software.
  + Certification for Open Charge Point Protocol (OCPP) 1.6 or newer by the Open Charge Alliance (Core and Safety certificates).
  + ISO 15118 ready.
* The equipment must be able to withstand extreme weather conditions associated with the deployment area, including extreme temperature, flooding, heavy rains, and high winds.
* Display screens must be protected from malfunctions due to condensation and any local area weather conditions.

**Requirements for Charging Equipment Pursuant to AB 2061 (Chapter 345, Statutes of 2022)**In addition to the other requirements set forth in this solicitation, the terms and conditions applicable to the Applicant and the law, electric vehicle chargers and charging stations installed must comply with recordkeeping and reporting standards which CEC is currently in the process of developing. As background, [AB 2061](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fleginfo.legislature.ca.gov%2Ffaces%2FbillNavClient.xhtml%3Fbill_id%3D202120220AB2061&data=05%7C01%7C%7C42d6b61b96eb4134116008daf00cb71d%7Cac3a124413f44ef68d1bbaa27148194e%7C0%7C0%7C638086234657292031%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FjFT6dJ0RhiGO8Tn%2FRwBEe99Xyouv9b4PvmPOJQLU5c%3D&reserved=0) (Ting, Chapter 345, Statutes of 2022) and Cal. Pub. Resources Code sect. 25231.5 require the CEC, in consultation with the CPUC, to develop recordkeeping and reporting standards for EV chargers and charging stations. CEC is working to develop regulations in compliance with AB 2061. Other requirements, including but not limited to uptime and operation and maintenance requirements, may also be adopted by regulation. Once these regulations are finalized, chargers installed under agreements resulting from this solicitation, will need to comply with the new regulations. Applicants to this solicitation must be prepared to comply with any new or updated regulations, even if the regulations are not in existence at the time of application to this solicitation.

**Agreements funding electric vehicle charging infrastructure and equipment:** AB 841 (Ting, Chapter 372, Statutes of 2020) added Public Utilities Code (PUC) section 740.20, which requires Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) certification to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure and equipment for work performed on or after January 1, 2022, subject to certain exceptions.

Therefore, applying PUC 740.20 EVITP requirements to the grant agreement means that all electric vehicle charging infrastructure and equipment located on the customer side of the electrical meter shall be installed by a contractor with the appropriate license classification, as determined by the Contractors’ State License Board, and at least one electrician on each crew, at any given time, who holds an EVITP certification. Projects that include installation of a charging port supplying 25 kilowatts or more to a vehicle must have at least 25 percent of the total electricians working on the crew for the project, at any given time, who hold EVITP certification. One member of each crew may be both the contractor and an EVITP certified electrician. The requirements stated in this paragraph do not apply to any of the following:

* + - 1. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure installed by employees of an electrical corporation or local publicly owned electric utility.
      2. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure funded by moneys derived from credits generated from the Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program (Subarticle 7 (commencing with Section 95480) of Article 4 of Subchapter 10 of Chapter 1 of Division 3 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations).
      3. Single-family home residential electric vehicle chargers that can use an existing 208/240-volt outlet.

**Compliance with California EVSE Commercial Device Requirements**: All electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) installed for commercial[[1]](#footnote-2) use shall have a type approval certificate issued through the California Type Evaluation Program (CTEP) administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) or Certificate of Conformance issued by the National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) administered through the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM). California accepts NTEP certificates so long as the device also meets CCR Title 4, Section 4002.11.

Any installation, repair, or maintenance on commercial EVSE must be performed by a Registered Service Agency (RSA) and after the device is placed in service, the RSA must report this information to the county within 24 hours. To place a device into service, the RSA must perform accuracy testing. Device owners are responsible for registering their device with the county.

* 1. **Operation, Maintenance, and Uptime**

The Recipient will be required to meet operations and reliability standards as specified in the Scope of Work (Attachment 2).

The Recipient will be responsible for payment of all operating costs, including but not limited to payment of leases, rents, royalties, licenses, fees, taxes, revenue sharing, utilities, and electric power supply for the charging equipment and supporting elements, such as area lighting.

The Recipient will be responsible for ensuring the maintenance of the charging station pedestals, and all ancillary equipment, including but not limited to any awnings, canopies, shelters and information display kiosks or signage associated with the charging station. “Maintain,” as used in this solicitation means “to provide all needed repairs or desired and approved alteration, as well as to clean the equipment and keep it safe, clean, and presentable.”

The CEC may reimburse for maintenance of the equipment during the term of the agreement if costs are included in the executed agreement budget. Eligible maintenance costs must meet the following general requirements. In some instances, whether costs meet these general requirements will be determined by the CEC in its sole discretion, on a case-by-case basis.

* Costs must be documentable and measurable.
* Costs must be non-duplicative of other reimbursed or match share costs.
* Costs must be reasonable and allocable to the eligible charging stations.
  1. **Payment Options**

All installations must comply with any applicable local, state, or federal requirements for payments, including applicable regulations by the California Air Resources Board and Division of Measurement Standards.

Charging equipment must be capable of supporting multiple point-of-sale methods, such as pay-per-use and subscription methods, including the ability to accept a credit or debit card without incurring any additional fees. Applicants may offer additional payment mechanisms, such as ISO 15118 Plug-and-Charge, a device which accepts RFID or Smart cards, or payment through mobile apps. The point-of-sale and supporting network must be compliant with OCPP 1.6 or later to allow subscribers of other EV charging system networks to access the charging station.

* 1. **Data Collection**

The Recipient will be required to collect, analyze, and report data as specified in the Scope of Work (Attachment 2).

* 1. **CEC Cost Cap**

This solicitation will implement a cost cap for CEC reimbursable funds based on the number of charging ports installed. The cost cap is calculated using the following formula:

*(Number of Level 2 ports x $12,500) + (Number of DCFC ports x $100,000)*

This cost cap is the maximum amount of CEC funds that can be awarded to a project. Applicants should be mindful of this cost cap while preparing and submitting application materials. Applications that request more CEC funding than this cost cap may receive a lower evaluation score in certain criteria.

* 1. **Eligible Project Costs**

Costs incurred for the following are eligible for CEC reimbursement or as the Applicant’s match share:

* Level 2 and DCFC EVSE
* Applicant’s cost-share of utility installation:
  + Transformers
  + Electric panels
  + Conduit
  + Wiring
  + Meters
* Renewable distributed energy resources or energy storage equipment/systems capable of providing independent or supplemental power to the EV charging ports (separately metered for electric charging)
* Installation costs
* Planning and engineering design costs
* Stub-outs (i.e. exposed conduit for connection of future charging infrastructure)
* Hardware costs supporting the use of ALM systems. ALM systems manage load across multiple EVSE or charging ports to share electrical capacity and/or automatically manage power at each EVSE or charging port. Use of ALM systems is subject to the minimum power requirements outlined in Section II.B.5 above (“Charging Equipment”).
* Maintenance, or maintenance agreement for term of the agreement
* Data collection and analysis

The following are not eligible for CEC reimbursement but may be included as an Applicant’s match share:

* Equipment warranties for a six-year period (pre-payment for warranties beyond the agreement term, up to six years from installation, is allowed)
* Costs to network chargers, only within the agreement term
* Processes to comply with otherwise applicable legal requirements (e.g., permits from the local authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA))
* Lighting and customer safety costs

Costs other than those listed as eligible for CEC reimbursement or as match share, are not eligible as reimbursement or match share. This includes but is not limited to:

* Level 1 charging equipment
* Vehicle purchases
* A standard outlet (110/120 volt or 220/240 volt)
* Nonrenewable distributed energy resources
* Cost of electricity used to supply vehicles with a charge
* Distribution grid or other equipment costs that are otherwise covered by programs or tariff rules of the electric utilities
* Paper studies or research projects (e.g., a study which assesses the cost and feasibility of EV charging station installations along certain regions/corridors)
* Projects that are primarily surveys to determine interest in the installation of EV charging stations in a particular region/corridor
* Proposals for vehicle demonstrations or demonstrations of existing technologies

## Match Funding Requirements

1. **Total Match Share Requirement**

Applications must include a minimum 20 percent total match share for this solicitation.

“Match funding” or “match share” means cash or in-kind (non-cash) contributions provided by the Applicant/Recipient, subrecipients, or other parties that will be used in performance of the proposed project.Match share percentage is calculated by dividing the total match share contributions by the total allowable project cost. *“*Total allowable project cost” is the sum of the CEC’s reimbursable share and Recipient’s match share of the project costs. Match share expenditures have the following requirements:

1. Total match share must conform to the “Cash Match Share Requirement” contained in this solicitation.
2. All match share expenditures must conform to the terms and conditions of this solicitation and the resulting grant agreement.
3. Applicants must disclose the source and provide verification and documentation for the match share funding committed to the project. For any match share committed by a third party (i.e., other than match share committed by the Applicant), Applicants must submit a letter of commitment from each match share partner identifying the source(s) and availability of match funding.
4. During the term of the grant agreement, Recipients will be required to document and verify all match share expenditures through invoices submitted to CEC.
5. Match share funding may be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions such as donated labor hours, equipment, facilities, and other property.
6. Equipment, facilities, and property may count as match funds 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).
7. Match share expenditures (cash and/or in-kind) must be documented, reasonable, allowable, and allocable to the project as determined by CEC.
8. Match share expenditures are allowable under an agreement only if they are incurred after CEC notifies the Applicant that its project has been proposed for an award through the release of a Notice of Proposed Awards (NOPA). Match expenditures incurred after the release of a NOPA but prior to the execution of an agreement are made at the Applicant’s own risk. CEC is not liable for Applicant’s match share costs if the grant is not approved, if approval is delayed, or if the match share expenditure is not allowable under the terms and conditions of the grant or this solicitation. Please note that non-match expenditures incurred prior to agreement execution are not reimbursable from CEC funds.
9. **Cash Match Share Requirement**

Applications must include a minimum 50 percent ***cash*** match share.

Cash match means the net of any funds actually expended by the Applicant for the project. Net means after any sort of discount or rebate is applied. Expenditures for Applicant’s compensated labor hours, including allowable fringe benefit and overhead rates, travel, materials, supplies, equipment, subrecipient costs, and other miscellaneous expenditures may be claimed as cash match if the expenditures are included in the approved agreement budget, paid in full with funding sources other than grant funds, and supported with appropriate documentation, including proof of payment. For indirect overhead, backup documentation, such as a cost allocation plan based on actual expenditures incurred and paid, is required. Cost allocations must be reasonable and allocable to the proposed project.

1. **In-Kind Match Share**

The balance of the total match share requirement beyond the cash match share requirement (if any) may be met through in-kind match share contributions.

In-kind match share contributions are: 1) non-cash contributions provided by the Applicant; 2) cash or non-cash contributions provided by subrecipients; and 3) cash or non-cash contributions provided by other third parties. Applicant in-kind match share can be in the form of volunteer labor, real property, existing equipment, existing supplies, services provided by a third-party or subcontract, and other expendable property. The value of in-kind match is based on the fair market value of the goods and services provided at the time it is claimed as match. In-kind match share must be included in the agreement budget and supported with appropriate documentation. Cost allocations must be reasonable and allocable to the proposed project.

1. **Match Share Restrictions**
2. ***Other Sources of CEC Funding*** – Other sources of CEC funding may not be claimed as match share. This includes block grants funded by the CEC.
3. ***Property Not Owned by the Applicant*** – Donated property may be claimed as match based on the fair market value of renting or leasing the property. Fair market value is based on rental costs of comparable property (if any), market conditions in the area, alternatives available and the type, life expectancy, condition, and value of the property.
4. ***Existing Property Owned by the Grant Recipient*** – Applicants may use the property’s depreciation expense as a method to allocate the value of the property to the project. Valuation will need to be documented to support the initial acquisition costs as well as the method of depreciation.
5. ***Valuation of Land*** –Land cannot be depreciated. If the value of land is claimed as match, the Applicant must provide documentation to support a fair market value for the use of the land (i.e., rent or lease cost) for the time period it is used. Appraised value of land cannot be used since this represents the full value of the land if it is sold which includes value beyond the term of the proposed project.
6. ***Property Owned by a Related Party*** –Related parties are individuals or other entities that are able to control or substantially influence the actions of the Applicant and includes spouses, board members, family members of principals or employees of the Applicant as well as property owned by principals/employees of the Applicant. Because an agreement between an Applicant and a related party is a “less than arms-length” transaction, Applicants must disclose the relationship between the Applicant and the related party and be able to support the fair market value of property that is claimed as match.

If CEC funds are used to reimburse lease/rental payments for property owned by a related party, the Applicant can only claim the ***lesser*** of fair market value or actual lease payments, regardless of lease agreement terms.

1. ***Prorated Value of Property*** – The allowable claimed value of property must be prorated based on the percentage the property is used for the proposed project. For example, if only half of a building is being used for the proposed project, then only 50% of the monthly fair market value of the entire building can be claimed as match while the building is being used for the project.
2. ***Documentation*** – If selected for an award, all claimed match share expenditures must be adequately documented to CEC during the agreement invoicing process which may include but is not limited to: the fair market value of existing property, methodology to allocate existing property on a prorated basis, lease agreements, and other appropriate documentation.

## Unallowable Costs (Reimbursable or Match Share)

For an item of cost to be allowable for reimbursement with CEC funds or as match share expenditure, it must be included in the executed agreement budget and allowable per the terms and conditions of the resulting agreement. The following are examples of unallowable costs under an agreement resulting from this solicitation. This list is not comprehensive and additional items of cost may be unallowable in accordance with the agreement terms and conditions.

1. ***Forgone Profit*** – For example, if a company usually charges 10% profit but only charges 4% to CEC the unclaimed difference is not an allowable item of cost.
2. ***Forgone Rent*** – For example, rent that is not paid is not an allowable item of cost.
3. ***Discounted or Refunded Equipment Costs*** – For example, a claim that equipment costs $10,000 but the grant recipient only pays $6,000 due to some “special” discount. The difference of $4,000 is not an allowable match share expense. Another example is if the grant recipient actually pays $10,000 but the vendor refunds $4,000 – only the net $6,000 is an allowable item of cost.
4. ***Forgone Salary, Fringe, Indirect or Other Types of Cost*** – For example, a person normally charges or is paid $100 per hour, but will only charge $50 per hour towards the CEC award. Only actual costs incurred and paid to the employee are allowable. Therefore, if an employee is ***actually*** paid $100 per hour and CEC only reimburses at $40 per hour, then the unreimbursed $60 per hour is an allowable match share cost because this is an actual payment as opposed to a forgone salary amount. Volunteer labor (i.e., labor from a person who does not receive any compensation for their labor) may be an allowable in-kind match share expense if the value of the labor is reasonable and justified.
5. ***Utility Provided Electrical Upgrades and Funding***-– For example, expenses that are already paid or to be paid for through a utility program, tariff, or other ratepayer funding is not an allowable item of cost. This includes ratepayer funded enrollment incentives.
6. ***Compliance with Local, Regional, State, or Federal Law, Rule or Regulation*** - For example, expenses associated with ensuring compliance with state or federal building codes, including provisions of the California Green Building Standards Code requiring the installation of a minimum amount of electric vehicle supply equipment, Electric Vehicle Capable, or Electric Vehicle Ready parking spaces, is not an allowable item of cost.

# III. Application Format, Required Documents, and Delivery

## Required Format for an Application

This section contains the format requirements and instructions on how to submit an application. The format is prescribed to assist the Applicant in meeting State requirements and to enable CEC to evaluate each application uniformly and fairly. Applicants must follow all application format instructions, answer all questions, and supply all requested information.

All applications submitted under this solicitation must be typed or printed using a standard 11‑point font, single-spaced and a blank line between paragraphs. Pages must be numbered and sections titled.

## Method for Delivery

The method of delivery for this solicitation is the [Energy Commission Agreement Management System (ECAMS)](https://ecams.energy.ca.gov/s/login/), available at https://ecams.energy.ca.gov/.

Information about ECAMS will be provided at the Pre-Application Workshop. Information about how to register for an ECAMS account and guidance on how to apply through the system is available at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources> under General Funding Information.

The CEC is providing a team of technical assistants to support Applicants with this process. Please email[ECAMS.SalesforceSupport@energy.ca.gov](mailto:ECAMS.SalesforceSupport@energy.ca.gov) for support.

ECAMS allows Applicants to complete and submit their application to the CEC prior to the date and time specified in this solicitation. Files uploaded to the system must be in Microsoft Word (.doc format) and Excel Office Suite formats unless originally provided in the solicitation in another format. PDF format is acceptable. The completed Proposal Budget Template, Attachment 5, must be in Excel format.

The deadline to submit grant applications through ECAMS is **11:59 p.m**. ECAMS automatically closes at 11:59 p.m. 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 cannot guarantee staff will be available for 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 ECAMS, 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. First time users must register as a new user to access the system. There will be two types of user accounts to establish: 1) An organizational account, for the entity applying to the solicitation; and 2) user accounts for individuals who will be submitting the application on behalf of the organization.

Applicants will be required to upload all attachments marked “required” in the system in order for the application to be submitted.

## Page Limitations

The number of characters for each fillable question in the Project Narrative template is limited to 1,500 characters (including spaces). Resumes, Letters of Commitment, and Letters of Support (optional) are limited to a maximum of 2 pages each.

## Application Content

Items listed below are required as part of the application package. Failure to provide any items may result in disqualification of the application. Attachment requirements are expanded and explained below in this section and in the attachments themselves. Note that Letters of Support (Attachment 9) are optional.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Attachment Number** |
| Project Narrative | Attachment 1 |
| Scope of Work Template | Attachment 2 |
| Schedule of Products and Due Dates | Attachment 4 |
| Budget Form(s) | Attachment 5 |
| Resumes (optional) | Attachment 6 |
| Contacts List | Attachment 7 |
| Letters of Commitment | Attachment 8 |
| Letters of Support (optional) | Attachment 9 |
| CEQA Worksheet | Attachment 10 |
| Localized Health Impacts Information Form | Attachment 11 |
| Past Performance Reference Form(s) | Attachment 12 |
| Applicant Declaration | Attachment 13 |
| Special Terms and Conditions for California Native American Tribes and California Tribal Organizations with Sovereign Immunity (conditional) | Attachment 14 |

1. **Applicant Certifications**

***ECAMS will require Applicants to provide the required authorizations and certifications listed below prior to final submission of their application:***

All Applicants must certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that:

* I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the Applicant.
* I authorize the CEC to make any inquiries necessary to verify the information presented in this application.
* I authorize the CEC to obtain business credit reports and make any inquiries necessary to verify and evaluate the financial condition of the Applicant.
* I have read and understand the terms and conditions contained in this solicitation. I accept the terms and conditions contained in this solicitation on behalf of the Applicant and the Applicant is willing to enter into an agreement with the CEC to conduct the proposed project according to the terms and conditions without negotiation.
* I certify that (1) this application does not contain any confidential or proprietary information, or (2) if confidential information is allowed under the solicitation it has been properly identified.
* I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is correct and complete.
* I am authorized to agree to the above certifications on behalf of the Applicant.

1. **Project Narrative (Attachment 1)**

Complete the Project Narrative (Attachment 1) by filling in project details and responding to each of the scoring criteria required. Images may be included at the image section of the Project Narrative. Images are not required and will not be scored. Limit responses to each of the scoring criteria to 1,500 characters (including spaces).

Applicants must address each of the scoring criteria described in this solicitation by providing sufficient, unambiguous detail so that the evaluation team will be able to evaluate the application against each scoring criterion.

1. **Project Details**
   1. Complete the table with information on the proposed project. Add rows to the table if there are not enough rows to input all site addresses. Listed here are instructions for each column:
      1. Site Address – List the address of the proposed site. Use “TBD” if the site has yet to be determined.
      2. Priority Area – Check all applicable priority areas: disadvantaged communities (DAC), low-income communities (LIC), and Federally-recognized California Native American Tribes and California Tribal Organizations serving Federally-recognized California Native American Tribes (Tribal).
         * + For sites that are “TBD”, the CEC suggests the Applicant not select a priority area. Applicants can select a priority area if they are committed to their site being located within that priority area.
           + Applicants should use the California Climate Investments [Priority Populations 2024 map](https://webmaps.arb.ca.gov/PriorityPopulations/) at https://webmaps.arb.ca.gov/PriorityPopulations/ to identify disadvantaged communities and/or low-income communities. Applicants can also view these communities by turning on the DAC/LIC layer on CEC’s [REV 2.0 Eligibility Map](https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/data-exploration-tools/rural-electric-vehicle-charging-20-rev-20-eligibility-map) at https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/data-exploration-tools/rural-electric-vehicle-charging-20-rev-20-eligibility-map.
      3. Rural Designation – Select if the site is located in a rural tract or rural center.
         * + Applicants should use CEC’s [REV 2.0 Eligibility Map](https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/data-exploration-tools/rural-electric-vehicle-charging-20-rev-20-eligibility-map) at https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/data-exploration-tools/rural-electric-vehicle-charging-20-rev-20-eligibility-map to identify eligible project sites for this solicitation.
      4. Level 2 Ports per Site – Provide the number of Level 2 charging ports the proposed project will install at the site.
      5. Direct Current Fast Charger (DCFC) Ports per Site – Provide the number of DCFC charging ports the proposed project will install at the site.
      6. Level 2 kW per Site – Provide the cumulative total kW output of the Level 2 chargers to be installed at the site.
      7. DCFC kW per Site – Provide the cumulative total kW output of the DCFC chargers to be installed at the site.
      8. Approximate CEC Funds per Site – Estimate the funding requested from the CEC at the site.
      9. Approximate Match Funds per Site – Estimate the match share funding at the site.
2. **Images (optional)**
   1. Applicants are encouraged to include 1-2 images to provide additional context for their proposed project. Examples of images that can be included are proposed project sites on a map with their relativity to priority areas, site design plans, photos of chargers that will be deployed, etc. To insert images, click on the “Insert Image” box below and select “From a File.” Add a description for each of the images. Images are not required and will not be scored.
3. **Project Implementation**
   1. Describe how your project will support the stated goals of this solicitation.
   2. List the partner organizations and describe their roles in this project.
   3. Provide examples of the project team’s track record of timely project delivery and past performance on projects. Past Performance Reference Form(s) (Attachment 12) should be attached separately.
4. **Project Location and Benefits**
   1. Describe how the project will benefit rural communities, especially those in disadvantaged, low-income, and/or tribal areas. Include details on emission reduction, public health, economic, and cost-saving benefits.
   2. Discuss methods to reduce or minimize the charging cost to drivers. If applicable, discuss methods to further reduce or minimize cost of charging to disadvantaged community, low-income community, tribal, and/or rural residents and communities.
   3. Estimate the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in terms of grams of CO2 equivalent that will be avoided if the project is implemented. Provide all assumptions. Calculate the benefit-cost score, defined as the ratio of grams of CO2 equivalent reduction per dollar of CEC investment for the proposed project term and six years of operation.
5. **Priority Population kW Weighted Average**
   1. Complete the table in the Priority Population kW Weighted Average section of the Project Narrative (Attachment 1) to determine the Priority Population kW Weighted Average Score:
      * + kW Output – For each priority area type, input the cumulative amount of kW output by all chargers installed in that corresponding priority area.
        + kW Total – Input the sum of kW Outputs for all priority areas.
        + Weighted kW Output – For each priority area type, input the kW Output multiplied by the Category Point for that corresponding priority area.
        + Weighted kW Total – Input the sum of the Weighted kW Outputs for all priority areas.
        + Priority Population Weighted kW Average Score – Divide the Weighted kW Total by the kW Total.

For sites that are “TBD”, the CEC suggests the Applicant not select a priority area. The Applicant can select a priority area if they are committed to their site being located within that priority area.

1. **Project Readiness**
   1. Complete the table in the Project Readiness section of the Project Narrative (Attachment 1) indicating the estimated project milestone dates. Reference the dates provided in the Schedule of Products and Due Dates (Attachment 4).
   2. Describe the project’s schedule for completion of main tasks and how the project can achieve expedited delivery. Provide details and how timelines will be expedited for the following: permitting, equipment procurement, utility coordination, and site energization.
   3. For sites that have been secured, provide details on site host agreements. For project sites that have not been secured, describe the process of securing sites is expedited.
   4. Describe the risks, barriers, and limitations to successful project completion, and provide specific steps the project team will use to address and mitigate them. Describe how success will be measured.
   5. Summarize and describe all support, commitments, or interest obtained from site hosts, residents, project partners, utilities, and interested stakeholders. Support letters (Attachment 9) should be attached separately.
2. **Project Budget**
   1. Explain how the proposal budget is justifiable and reasonable relative to the project goals, objectives, and tasks defined in the Scope of Work. Include how the project will minimize reimbursable administrative and overhead costs.
   2. Explain why CEC funds are needed for this project.
   3. Describe match funding sources and commitments. Commitment Letters (Attachment 8) should be attached separately.
3. **Cost Effectiveness**
   1. Complete the table in the Cost Effectiveness section of the Project Narrative (Attachment 1) to determine the cost effectiveness score.
      1. Calculate the Cost Effectiveness Score (based on total funds requested from the CEC, excluding any match share) using the following formula:

For example, if a project proposes to install 40 Level 2 ports and 10 DCFC ports and requests the maximum amount of $1,500,000, the Cost Effectiveness Score will be 0.7:

1. **Operation, Maintenance, and Reliability**
   1. Provide details on how the project will track and ensure each charging port installed will have at least a 97 percent uptime for each year for six years after the beginning of operation. Include details on monitoring, diagnostics, record keeping, and reporting.
   2. Discuss measures taken for maintenance and repairs. Please include details on the availability of parts, timelines for repairs, and planned partnerships/service level contracts with local qualified technicians.
   3. Describe the customer service resources and steps that will be taken for site host training and their responsibilities.
   4. Describe plans to continue the proposed project beyond the agreement term.
   5. Provide any additional measures that will be implemented for the project, including but not limited to, amenities, lighting, signage, safety, accessibility, weatherproofing, and vandalism prevention.
2. **Sustainability and Innovation** 
   1. Describe how the project includes innovations or advanced features, if any, including (but not limited to) renewable energy generation and integration, battery energy storage systems, mitigating on-peak electricity demand, multi-use potential, innovative business models, reducing equipment or installation costs, and reduced operation and maintenance costs.
   2. Describe any innovative or advanced payment mechanisms, such as ISO 15118 Plug-and-Charge or payment through mobile apps.
   3. Describe methods, if any, to facilitate driver charging sessions (such as a reservation or queuing system, facilitator, or valet service).
3. **Scope of Work Template (Attachment 2)**

Applicants must include a completed Scope of Work utilizing the template contained in Attachment 2. Instructions for completing the Scope of Work as well as a sample are included in Attachment 3. The description of activities proposed in the Project Narrative must conform to the tasks described in the Scope of Work. Electronic files for the Scope of Work must be in MS Word.

Applicants must present a comprehensive and credible Scope of Work which includes (presented in a logical manner) comprehensive and sequential tasks, products resulting from the individual tasks, and how the tasks are related to or are dependent on each other.

1. **Schedule of Products and Due Dates (Attachment 4)**

Applicants must include a completed Schedule of Products and Due Dates. All work must be scheduled for completion by no later than **January 31, 2031** to allow timely processing of final invoices before the liquidation date of CEC funds. Instructions for the Schedule of Products and Due Dates are included in Attachment 4. The Schedule of Products and Due Dates must be in MS Excel.

1. **Budget Form(s) (Attachment 5)**

Because this solicitation is utilizing ECAMS for submitting applications, Applicants have two options for uploading a budget:

1. **Option 1: Prime Applicant’s budget is both keyed directly into ECAMS and uploaded as an MS Excel attachment; Major Subrecipient(s) budgets are uploaded as MS Excel attachments.** ECAMS allows Applicants to build the Prime Applicant’s budget directly into the system. At this time, there is no way to input major subrecipient budgets directly into the system. Instructions for inputting budget items into ECAMS are included at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/7956>.
2. **Option 2: Upload all budgets (Prime and Major Subrecipients) as MS Excel attachments** and leave the ECAMS budget sections blank in ECAMS.

The Applicant must submit information on ***all*** tabs of the budget forms. The salaries, rates, and other costs entered must reflect the salaries, rates, and other costs the Applicant would include if selected as a grant recipient. A separate set of complete budget forms is required for the Applicant and for each subaward containing $100,000 or more of CEC funds.

* + 1. Detailed instructions for completing these forms are included at the beginning of Attachment 5.
       1. Rates and job descriptions shown must reflect rates and job descriptions charged under an agreement resulting from this solicitation. The salaries, rates, and other costs entered on these forms become a part of the final agreement. The entire term of the agreement and projected rate increases must be considered when preparing the budget. Unless a federally approved indirect rate is used, indirect rates proposed are considered capped and shall not change during the term of the agreement. The grant recipient shall only be reimbursed for their actual rates up to the indirect rate cap. A description of available indirect rate options is available on the [ECAMS Resources webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources/ecams-resources) under [Budget Category Guidance](https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources/ecams-resources/budget-category-guidance?auHash=cEItgat6JNbO9BFGeVqe4E5T6koCOgTaqliFX6bmwtg) for indirect rates. Unlike indirect rates, the rates for Direct Labor and Fringe Benefits are treated as estimates; a grant recipient can invoice at higher rates as long as it is only invoicing for actual expenditures it has made. The hourly or monthly rates provided shall be unloaded (before fringe benefits or indirect costs).
       2. The information provided in these forms will not be kept confidential.
       3. All reimbursable expenditures must be expended within the approved term of the grant agreement. Expenditures may be counted as match share only after CEC notifies the Applicant that its project has been proposed for an award through the release of a Notice of Proposed Awards (NOPA). However, match expenditures incurred after release of the NOPA but prior to the execution of a grant agreement are made solely at the Applicant’s own risk.
       4. Applicants must budget for the expenses of a Kick-off Meeting, at least two (2) Critical Project Review meeting, and a Final meeting. Meetings may be conducted at the CEC or remotely, as determined by the CAM.
       5. Applicants must budget for permits, insurance, etc. CEC will not reimburse expenditures for permitting or insurance. However, these expenditures can be included as match share expenditure.
       6. Applicants must budget for the preparation and submission of quarterly progress reports during the term of the agreement, and a Final Report. Instructions for preparing the Final Report will be provided to Applicants that are proposed for funding.
       7. The purchase of equipment (defined as items with a unit cost greater than $5,000 and a useful life of greater than one year) with CEC funds will require disposition of purchased equipment at the end of the project. Typically, grant recipients may continue to utilize equipment purchased with CEC funds as long as the use is consistent with the intent of the original agreement. There are no disposition requirements for equipment purchased with match share funding.
    2. The Budget must reflect estimates for actual costs to be incurred during the approved term of the agreement. CEC can only approve and reimburse for actual costs that are properly documented in accordance with the grant agreement terms and conditions.
    3. Current policy dictates that Applicants shall NOT budget for, and CANNOT be reimbursed for, more than their actual allowable expenses (i.e., the budget cannot include profit, fees, or markups) under the agreement. Subrecipients (all tiers) are allowed to include up to a maximum total of 10% profit, fees or mark-ups on their own actual allowable expenses less any expenses budgeted to sub-subrecipients (i.e., profit, fees and markups are not allowed on lower tier subrecipient expenses). For example, if a subrecipient has $100,000 in actual allowable costs but has budgeted $20,000 to a sub-subrecipient, then the subrecipient can only include up to 10% profit on $80,000 ($100,000 minus $20,000). This direction may change as CEC updates its policy on allowable expenses. See terms and conditions for additional restrictions and requirements.

IMPORTANT – Payment of Prevailing Wage: Applicants must read and pay particular attention to the terms and conditions section related to Public Works and payment of Prevailing Wages. Prevailing wage rates can be significantly higher than non-prevailing wage rates. Failure to pay legally required prevailing wage rates can result in substantial damages and financial penalties, termination of the grant agreement, disruption of projects, and other complications.

1. **Resumes (Attachment 6 - optional)**

Applicants may include resumes for key personnel identified in the proposal. “Key personnel” are individuals that are critical to the project due to their experience, knowledge, and/or capabilities. Resumes are limited to a maximum of 2 pages each.

1. **Contact List (Attachment 7)**

Applicants must include a completed Contact List by including the appropriate points of contact for the Applicant. CEC will complete the CEC points of contact during agreement development.

1. **Letters of Commitment (Attachment 8)**

Applicants must submit a match funding commitment letter from each entity that is committing to providing match funding. A commitment letter commits an entity or individual to providing the service or funding described in the letter. Letters are limited to two-pages each.

* 1. **Key Project Partners:** Key project partners identified in the application must provide letters demonstrating their ability to fulfill their identified roles.
  2. **Match Share Contributors Letters of Commitment:** Any match share contributors (including the Applicant and/or a third-party) must identify the intended amount of match that will be committed to the project, the funding source(s), and state that the match share contributor will provide the identified match funding. Letters of commitment from match share contributors must contain a telephone number and email address to allow CEC to contact the match share partner or representative to confirm their authority to commit matching funds to the proposed project.

1. **Letters of Support (Attachment 9 - optional)**

Applicants are encouraged to submit letter(s) of support that substantiate the estimated demand and/or the potential benefits of the proposed project. Third-party letters of support can be provided by, but are not limited to: air districts, state or federal agencies, local safety officials, potential users of the proposed project, and any other relevant organizations. Letters are limited to two-pages each.

1. **CEQA Worksheet (Attachment 10)**

Applicants must include a completed CEQA Worksheet. CEC requires this information to assist it in making its own determination under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section §§ 21000 et seq).

Applicants must complete the detailed CEQA Worksheet and submit it with their application. This worksheet will help Applicants and CEC to determine CEQA compliance obligations by identifying which projects may require more extensive CEQA review. Failure to complete the worksheet may lead to disqualification of the application.

Applicants are encouraged to provide documentation of communication with the local lead agency, if one exists (e.g., a county or city). Documentation may include a completed notice of exemption, a letter from the local agency acknowledging its role in the CEQA process, or a permit application to the lead agency that is stamped as received. If no CEQA review would be required by the local lead agency, provide documentation (e.g. a letter or e-mail) from the local agency explaining why CEQA review is not required.

1. **Additional Requirements**

* Time is of the essence. Funds available under this solicitation have encumbrance deadlines as early as June 30, 2027. This means that the CEC must approve proposed awards at a business meeting (usually held monthly) prior to June 30, 2027, 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 CEC 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 CEC 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 CEC to comply with CEQA and provide all CEQA-related information to the CEC in a timely manner such that the CEC 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 CEC’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, must take 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 a 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.

1. **Localized Health Impacts Information Form (Attachment 11)**

Applicants must complete and submit a Localized Health Impacts Information Form. CEC requires this information to assist in developing and publishing a localized health impact report.

1. **Past Performance Reference Form(s) (Attachment 12)**

Applicants must complete and submit a separate Past Performance Reference Form for each CEC agreement (e.g., contract, grant or loan) received by the Applicant in the last 10 years, including ongoing agreements, and the 5 most recent agreements with other public agencies within the past 10 years.

1. **Applicant Declaration (Attachment 13)**

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 CEC or another public agency or entity; are in compliance with all judgments, if any, issued against the Applicant in any matter to which the CEC or another public agency or entity is a party; are complying with any demand letter made on the Applicant by the CEC or another public agency or entity; and are not in active litigation with the CEC regarding the Applicant’s actions under a current or past contract, grant, or loan with the CEC. The declaration must be signed under penalty of perjury by an authorized representative of the Applicant’s organization.

1. **Special Terms and Conditions for California Native American Tribes and California Tribal Organizations with Sovereign Immunity (Attachment 14 - conditional)**Applicants are not required to submit the Special Terms and Conditions for California Native American Tribes and California Tribal Organizations with Sovereign Immunity with their application package. If awarded, these Special Terms and Conditions will be incorporated into applicable agreements.

# IV. Evaluation Process and Criteria

## Application Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated and scored based on the responses to the information requested in this solicitation and on any other information available such as past performance of CEC agreements.[[2]](#footnote-3) The entire evaluation process from receipt of applications to posting of the Notice of Proposed Award is confidential.

To evaluate applications, the CEC will organize an Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee may consist of CEC staff or staff of other California state entities.

* 1. **Screening Criteria**

The CEC’s Contracts, Grants and Loans Office will screen applications for compliance with the Administrative Screening Criteria. The Evaluation Committee will screen applications for compliance with the Technical Screening criteria. Applications that fail any of the Administrative or Technical Screening Criteria shall be disqualified and eliminated from further evaluation.

* 1. **Administrative Screening Criteria**

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| --- | --- |
| **ADMINISTRATIVE Screening Criteria** | **Pass/Fail** |
| 1. The application is received by the CEC by the due date and time specified in the “Key Activities Schedule” in Section I of this solicitation. | Pass  Fail |
| 1. The Applicant has not included a statement that is contrary to the required authorizations and certifications when submitting in ECAMS. | Pass  Fail |

* 1. **Technical Screening Criteria**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Technical Screening Criteria** | **Pass/Fail** |
| 1. The Applicant is an eligible Applicant. | Pass  Fail |
| 1. The project is an eligible project. | Pass  Fail |
| 1. The project meets the minimum match share requirement, if any. | Pass  Fail |
| 1. The Applicant passes the past performance screening criterion. | Pass  Fail |
| 1. The Applicant supplies all required documentation (see Section III.D. Application Content), answers all required questions, and supplies all required information | Pass  Fail |

* 1. **Applicant’s Past Performance Screening Criterion (Pass/Fail)**

An Applicant may be disqualified under this solicitation due to severe performance issues under one or more prior or active CEC agreement(s) within the last 10 years. For the purposes of this screening criterion an Applicant is defined as either (a) an entity, principal investigator, or lead individual acting on behalf of themselves, that received funds from the CEC (e.g. a contract, grant, or loan) and entered into an agreement(s) with the CEC; or (b) an entity, principal investigator, or lead individual that received a CEC-funded incentive. Any Applicant that does not have an active or prior agreement and has not received a CEC-funded incentive equates to no severe performance issues and therefore would pass this screening criterion.

Severe performance issuesare characterized by significant negative outcomes under an agreement and may include:

* + Agreement was terminated with cause.
  + CEC filed litigation against the Applicant.
  + Severe audit findings are not resolved to CEC’s satisfaction. Severe audit findings may include but are not limited to: incomplete or unsatisfactory deliverables; grant funds used inappropriately (i.e., other than as represented); or questioned costs.
  + Project objectives were not met.
  + Significant delays in project completion resulting in delayed benefits for California. Project completion delays of one year or more from the originally proposed project schedule and caused by factors within the Applicant’s control may be considered significant.
  + Deliverables were not submitted to the CEC or were of poor quality. For example, Applicant delivered poorly written reports that required significant rework by staff prior to acceptance or publication.
  + Demonstrated poor or delayed communication when significant issues or setbacks were experienced that materially and negatively impacted the project. For example, delays in informing the CEC when the Applicant experiences loss of a key project partner or site control may be considered significant.
  1. **Grounds to Reject an Application or Cancel an Award**

In addition to the Screening Criteria identified within this solicitation, CEC reserves the right to reject an application and/or cancel an award for reasons including, but not limited to the following:

1. The application contains false or intentionally misleading statements or references which do not support an attribute or condition contended by the Applicant.
2. The application is intended to erroneously and fallaciously mislead the State in its evaluation of the application and the attribute, condition, or capability is a requirement of this solicitation.
3. The application does not comply or contains caveats that conflict with the solicitation and the variation or deviation is material or it is otherwise non-responsive.
   1. **Technical Evaluation**

Applications passing all screening criteria will be submitted to the Evaluation Committee to review and score based on the Evaluation Criteria using the Scoring Scale described below.

The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to schedule a clarification interview with an Applicant to clarify and/or verify information submitted in the application. However, these interviews may not be used to change or add to the contents of the original application. Applicants will not be reimbursed for time spent answering clarifying questions.

The total score for each application will be the average of the combined scores of all Evaluation Committee members. A minimum score of 70 percent is required for the application to be eligible for funding.

CEC will recommend awards to the highest ranked projects (according to final overall application score) until available funding under this solicitation has been exhausted.

## Notice of Proposed Awards

The results of the evaluation will be posted in a Notice of Proposed Awards (NOPA) and will include (1) the total proposed funding amount; (2) the rank order of Applicants; and (3) the amount of each proposed award. CEC will publish the NOPA on the CEC’s website.

## Debriefings

Applicants that are not proposed for funding may request a debriefing after the release of the NOPA by e-mailing the CAO listed in Part I. A request for debriefing should be received no later than 15 calendar days after the NOPA is released.

## Scoring Scale

Using this Scoring Scale, the Evaluation Committee will give a score for each criterion described in the Evaluation Criteria.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **% 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. |

## Evaluation Criteria

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criterion** | **Possible Points** |
| **Project Implementation**  Applications will be evaluated on the degree to which:   * The project aligns with the purpose of this solicitation and demonstrates a well-defined business and technology model for deploying EV chargers. * The project team has experience and is qualified to implement a project to deploy EV charging, including with working with local and utility partners to effectively execute projects. * The project team has a proven track record of timely project delivery, efficient use of resources, and exceptional past performance on EV charger deployment. | 20 |
| **Project Location and Benefits**  Applications will be evaluated on the degree to which:   * The proposed project will benefit rural communities, especially those in disadvantaged, low-income, and/or tribal communities. * Charging costs to drivers are minimized. * The proposed project results in a higher benefit-cost score in terms of CO2-equivalent reduced (in tons) per dollar of Energy Commission investment for the proposed project term. | 20 |
| **Priority Population kW Weighted Average**  Scores in this category will be calculated by multiplying the number of possible points available in this category (10) by the Priority Population kW Weighted Average Score.   * For example, if a project has a Priority Population kW Weighted Average Score of 0.8, the total number of points received in this category would be 4 (i.e., 10 X 0.8 = 8) | 10 |
| **Project Readiness**  Applications will be evaluated on the degree to which:   * Milestones and completion dates are reasonable and expedited. * The project is ready for deployment, sites have been secured or the process for securing sites is expedited. * The risks, barriers, and limitations that are critical for project success are identified and mitigated. * Letters from site hosts, residents, project partners, utilities, or other stakeholders indicate strong levels of support or commitment for the proposed project. | 15 |
| **Project Budget**  Applications will be evaluated on the degree to which:   * The proposal budget(s) is justifiable and reasonable relative to the project goals, objectives, and tasks defined in the Scope of Work. * CEC funds are needed for the project. * The proposed match funding commitments are documented and verifiable. | 10 |
| **Cost Effectiveness**  Scores in this category will be calculated by multiplying the number of possible points in this category (10) by the Cost Effectiveness Score.   * For example, if a project has a Cost Effectiveness Score of 0.7 the total number of points received in this category would be 7 (i.e., 10 X 0.7 = 7). | 10 |
| **Operations, Maintenance, and Reliability**  Applications will be evaluated on the degree to which:   * The Applicant describes clear, detailed, and convincing strategies, and demonstrates that it has the ability and capacity to execute reporting requirements of this solicitation and to ensure required charger uptime. * Measures for maintenance and repairs are detailed and expedited. * Customer service resources will be provided to users and site host training will be provided. * The Applicant can ensure chargers will be utilized beyond the agreement term. * The proposed project provides sufficient amenities that results in a safe environment for users. The charging equipment has features to deter vandalism and reduce potential downtime. | 10 |
| **Sustainability and Innovation**  Applications will be evaluated on the degree to which:   * The proposed project utilizes innovations or advanced features to promote sustainability (e.g., minimizes grid upgrades, enhances grid reliability, or enables load management). * The project will use innovative payment mechanisms. * The proposed project utilizes innovations or advanced features to enhance charging experience (e.g. reservation or queuing systems). | 5 |
| **Total Possible Points** | 100 |
| **Minimum Passing Score (70%)** | 70 |

## Tie Breakers

If the score for two or more applications are tied, the application with a higher score in the Cost Effectiveness criterion will be ranked higher. If still tied, an objective tiebreaker (such as a random drawing) will be utilized.

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# V. Administration

## Definition of Key Words

Important definitions for this solicitation are presented below:

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| --- | --- |
| **Word/Term** | **Definition** |
| AB | Assembly Bill |
| AC Level 2 | Alternating current. A charger that operates on a circuit from 208 volts to 240 volts and transfers AC electricity to a device in an electric vehicle (EV) that converts AC to direct current to charge an EV battery. |
| ADA | Americans with Disabilities Act |
| AHJ | Authority Having Jurisdiction |
| ALMS | Automated Load Management System. A system designed to manage load across one or more electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) to share electrical capacity and/or automatically manage power at each connection point. |
| Applicant | Respondent to this solicitation |
| Application | Formal written response to this document from applicant |
| CalEPA | California Environmental Protection Agency |
| CAM | Commission Agreement Manager |
| CAO | Commission Agreement Officer |
| CEC | California Energy Commission |
| Charger | A device with one or more charging ports. A device with one or more charging ports and connectors for charging EVs. Also referred to as electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE). This definition excludes any charger used solely for private use at a single-family residence or a multifamily dwelling with four or fewer dwelling units. |
| Charger | A device with one or more charging ports and connectors for charging EVs. Also referred to as electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE). This definition excludes any charger used solely for private use at a single-family residence or a multifamily dwelling with four or fewer dwelling units. |
| Charging network | A collection of chargers located on one or more property(ies) that are connected via digital communications to manage the facilitation of payment, the facilitation of electrical charging, and any related data requests. |
| Charging network provider | The entity that provides the digital communication network that remotely manages the chargers. Charging network providers may also serve as charging station operators and/or manufacture chargers. |
| Charging port | The system within a charger that charges one EV. A charging port may have multiple connectors, but it can provide power to charge only one EV through one connector at a time. |
| Charging session | The period after a charge attempt during which the EV is allowed to request energy. Charging sessions can be terminated by the customer, the EV, the charger, the charging station operator, or the charging network provider. |
| Charging station | The area in the immediate vicinity of one or more chargers and includes the chargers, supporting equipment, parking areas adjacent to the chargers, and lanes for vehicle ingress and egress. A charging station could comprise only part of the property on which it is located. |
| Charging station management system | A system that may be used to operate a charger, to authorize use of the charger, or to record or report charger data, such as by using OCPP. |
| Charging station operator | The entity that owns the chargers and supporting equipment and facilities at one or more charging stations. Although this entity may delegate responsibility for certain aspects of charging station operation and maintenance to subcontractors, this entity retains responsibility for operation and maintenance of chargers and supporting equipment and facilities. In some cases, the charging station operator and the charging network provider are the same entity. |
| Community based organization | Defined for this solicitation as an organization that (a) is place-based, with an explicit geographic focus area that includes the proposed project area(s), (b) has staff members, volunteers, or Board members that reside in the community where the project is located or intended to serve, and (c) has a demonstrated track record of at least one year providing services in the proposed project area. |
| Connector | The device that attaches an EV to a charging port in order to transfer electricity. |
| CPUC | California Public Utilities Commission |
| CPR | Critical Project Review |
| CTP | Clean Transportation Program |
| DAC | Disadvantaged Community(ies) |
| DCFC | Direct current fast charger. A charger that enables rapid charging by delivering direct-current (DC) electricity directly to an EV's battery. |
| ECAMS | Energy Commission Agreement Management System |
| EV | Electric vehicle. A vehicle that is either partially or fully powered on electric power received from an external power source. For the purposes of this Agreement, this definition does not include golf carts, electric bicycles, or other micromobility devices. |
| EVITP | Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program |
| EVSE | Electric vehicle supply equipment. A charger as defined. |
| GAAP | Generally Accepted Accounting Principles |
| GFO | Grant Funding Opportunity |
| FTD | Fuels and Transportation Division |
| LIC | Low-income Community(ies) |
| NOPA | Notice of Proposed Awards |
| Non-profit organization | For the purposes of this solicitation, a non-profit organization is an entity filing as and operating under the Internal Revenue Service’s requirements for a 501(c)(3) corporation. A community-based organization is an organization that (a) is place-based, with an explicit geographic focus area that includes the proposed project area(s), (b) has staff members, volunteers, or Board members that reside in the community where the project is located or intended to serve, and (c) has a demonstrated track record of at least one year providing services in the proposed project area. |
| OCPP | Open Charge Point Protocol. For purposes of this solicitation, OCPP Certificate 1.6 or newer by the Open Charge Alliance (Core and Safety certificates) is required for networked chargers. |
| Rural | Rural communities are census tracts where less than 10 percent of the tract’s land area is designated as urban by the Census Bureau using the 2020 urbanized area criteria. |
| Rural Center | Rural centers are contiguous urban census tracts with a population of less than 50,0000. Urban census tracts are tracts where at least 10 percent of the tract’s land area is designated as urban by the Census Bureau using the 2020 urbanized area criteria. |
| SB | Senate Bill |
| Solicitation | Grant Funding Opportunity, which refers to this entire solicitation document and all its attachments and exhibits. |
| State | State of California |
| Tribal Organization | California Tribal Organization serving a California Native American Tribe. 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. |
| Tribe | California Native American 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. |

## Cost of Developing Application

The Applicant is responsible for the cost of developing an application, and this cost cannot be charged to the State.

## Confidential Information

The Applicant shall not submit any confidential information as part of its application. All information submitted in an application will be considered and treated as non-confidential information that is subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 7920.000 et seq.).

## Solicitation Cancellation and Amendments

It is CEC’s policy 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, 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, CEC will post an addendum on [CEC’s solicitation information website](http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html) at www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations.

## Errors

If an Applicant discovers any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other error in the solicitation at any time prior to 5:00 p.m. of the application deadline date, the Applicant should immediately notify 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, without divulging the source of the request for clarification. The CEC shall not be responsible for failure to correct errors.

## Modifying or Recalling an Application

An Applicant may recall or modify a submitted application within ECAMS before the deadline to submit applications. 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.”

## Immaterial Defect

The CEC may waive any immaterial defect or deviation contained in an applicant’s application. CEC’s waiver shall in no way modify the application or excuse an Applicant proposed for funding from full compliance with solicitation requirements.

## Opportunity to Cure Administrative Errors

The CEC understands and appreciates the significant time and expense Applicants spend preparing applications. An administrative error that prevents an Applicant from submitting a complete application frustrates both the CEC and Applicants. The purpose of this process is to reduce the number of applications screened out or receiving a significantly reduced score for administrative errors while maintaining a fair competition. This process also ensures better competition and thus better projects to benefit California.

After the application deadline, an Applicant might identify, or the Evaluation Committee may find what reasonably appears to be, an administrative error. For purposes of this solicitation only, an administrative error is defined as an Applicant’s inadvertent mistake that prevents materials in existence as of the application deadline from appearing in its submitted application. Examples include, but are not limited to, accidentally:

* Scanning and submitting every other page in a document instead of every page.
* Submitting the wrong document.
* Leaving out a document.

If the Evaluation Committee find what reasonably appears to be an administrative error, they can communicate with the Applicant to confirm. If an Applicant finds an administrative error in its application, it should immediately contact the Commission Agreement Officer listed in the “Contact Information” section of this solicitation.

If an administrative error has been identified and communicated to the Commission Agreement Officer, the CEC may, but is not required to, allow the Applicant a period of time to provide the missing materials. Reasons why the CEC might NOT allow an Applicant to fix an administrative error include, but are not limited to:

* The funds have a deadline that does not allow time to fix the error.
* The application has been screened out or does not receive a passing score for reasons unrelated to the administrative error, making irrelevant any efforts to fix the error.
* The Applicant brings the error to the CEC’s attention too late in the solicitation process (e.g., after awards have been approved at a Business Meeting).

If the Evaluation Committee allows an Applicant the opportunity to fix an administrative error, the Commission Agreement Officer will communicate in writing to the Applicant’s project manager listed the deadline by which the Applicant must provide the missing materials. Reasonable efforts will be made to confirm receipt of the notice, but actual notice cannot be guaranteed and the obligation is on the Applicant to ensure the proper contact(s) are listed and available to respond. The Evaluation Committee will not consider any materials submitted after the deadline.

This process only allows Applicants to submit materials in existence as of the application deadline. This process does NOT allow Applicants to submit material created or modified after the application deadline. The CEC has sole discretion to determine whether materials submitted are eligible for consideration by the Evaluation Committee under this opportunity to cure.

Applicants must include the following certification along with the materials it submits to fix an administrative error and must explain why the materials were not provided due to an inadvertent administrative error:

“I certify on behalf of the Applicant that the materials provided herein existed at the time of the application deadline, have not been modified since, and were not originally provided due to an inadvertent administrative error as described herein.”

The Evaluation Committee is not responsible for finding, or communicating with the Applicant about, any errors in an application. Applicants remain solely responsible for submitting applications, including any material submitted to fix an administrative error, that meet all solicitation requirements. 

## Disposition of Applicant’s Documents

The entire evaluation process from receipt of applications up to the posting of the Notice of Proposed Award is confidential. On the Notice of Proposed Award posting date, or date of solicitation cancellation, all applications and related material submitted in response to this solicitation become a part of the property of the State and public record.

## Applicants’ Admonishment

This solicitation contains the instructions governing the requirements for a firm quotation to be submitted by interested Applicants, the format in which the technical information is to be submitted, the material to be included, the requirements which must be met to be eligible for consideration, and applicant responsibilities. Applicants are responsible for carefully reading the entire solicitation, asking appropriate questions in a timely manner, submitting all required responses in a complete manner by the required date and time, and making sure that all procedures and requirements of the solicitation are followed and appropriately addressed.

## Agreement Requirements

The content of this solicitation shall be incorporated by reference into the final agreement. See the standard terms and conditions on the [CEC Funding Resources](https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources) page at: https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources. This information is also in Section II.A.2.

CEC reserves the right to negotiate with Applicants to modify the project scope, the level of funding, or both. If CEC is unable to successfully negotiate and execute a funding agreement with an Applicant, CEC, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to cancel the pending award and fund the next highest ranked eligible project.

CEC must formally approve all proposed grant awards. Clean Transportation Program agreements for over $75,000 must be scheduled and considered at a CEC Business Meeting for approval by the CEC.

Public agencies that receive funding under this solicitation must provide an authorizing resolution approved by their governing authority to enter into an agreement with CEC and designating an authorized representative to sign.

CEC will send the approved agreement, including the standard terms and conditions and any additional terms and conditions, to the grant recipient for review, approval, and signature. Once the grant recipient signs, CEC will fully execute the agreement. Recipients are approved to begin the project only after full execution of the agreement.

## No Agreement Until Signed and Approved

No agreement between CEC and an Applicant is in effect until the agreement is approved at a CEC Business Meeting, and signed by both the grant recipient and the CEC.

CEC reserves the right to modify the award documents prior to executing the agreement.

## Executive Order N-6-22 – Russia Sanctions

On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-6-22 (the EO) regarding Economic Sanctions against Russia and Russian entities and  
individuals. “Economic Sanctions” refers to sanctions imposed by the U.S.  
government in response to Russia’s actions in Ukraine, as well as any sanctions  
imposed under state law. By submitting a bid or proposal, Applicant represents  
that it is not a target of Economic Sanctions. Should the State determine  
Applicant is a target of Economic Sanctions or is conducting prohibited  
transactions with sanctioned individuals or entities, that shall be grounds for  
rejection of the Applicant’s bid/proposal any time prior to agreement execution, or, if determined after agreement execution, shall be grounds for termination by the State.

1. “Commercial” in this context applies to “operations in which the amount dispensed affects customer charges or compensation” <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/docs/publications/2024/2024_Combined_FRM.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The Past Performance Evaluation is available on the CEC website at: https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/6595 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)