NOTICE OF PROPOSED AWARD (NOPA)

**Geothermal Grant and Loan Program**

**GFO-23-402**

September 29, 2025

On February 6, 2024, the California Energy Commission (CEC) released a competitive two-phase grant solicitation entitled “Geothermal Grant and Loan Program" (GFO-23-402). The purpose of this competitive solicitation is to award grants for projects focused on advancing the geothermal sector and related activities in California, including the development of geothermal energy and/or recovery of lithium or other critical minerals from geothermal brine that support local jurisdictions and private entities.

Phase One aimed to provide technical assistance funds to support local jurisdictions in developing and preparing a full proposal for Phase Two of this solicitation. Phase Two is for eligible applicants to submit a full proposal for projects related to the development of geothermal energy resources and/or the recovery of lithium or other critical minerals from geothermal brine. The grant solicitation initially announced that there would be up to $5,790,000 available funding for Phase Two. The CEC has reduced the total available funding for Phase Two of this solicitation to $4,109,902. Pursuant to Solicitation Manual, Section I.D.3, page 8, the CEC reserves the right to “increase or decrease the available funding in any phase (…)” of the solicitation. The attached NOPA reflects the new total available funding for Phase Two.  The maximum and minimum individual award amounts of $1,500,000 and $250,000 have not been changed.

During Phase Two, the CEC received fourteen (14) proposals by the Full Applications deadline, i.e. January 27, 2025. Each proposal was screened, and applications that passed screening were reviewed, evaluated, and scored according to the solicitation criteria. A total of eleven (11) proposals passed the scoring evaluation process, and three (3) proposals are recommended for funding, as listed in the attached NOPA table.

The NOPA table identifies each applicant/project selected and recommended by CEC staff for Phase Two funding and includes the project title, the requested and recommended funding amount, match funds, score, and the award status. The total funding amount recommended is $4,109,902.

Funding of the proposed projects resulting from Phase Two of this solicitation is contingent upon the approval of the associated grant awards by the CEC at a publicly noticed CEC business meeting and subsequent execution of the grant agreements. CEC approved grants for selected projects must be submitted to the California State Legislature for review and comment. After a 30-day period, the CEC will execute the grant agreements for the awarded projects. If the CEC is unable to negotiate and execute a grant agreement with an applicant in a timely manner, the CEC, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to cancel or otherwise modify the pending award. In addition, the CEC, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to negotiate with successful applicants to modify the project scope, schedule, or level of funding.

This notice for GFO-23-402 is posted on the CEC’s [Awards website](https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/awards).

For additional information, please contact:

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**Proposed Awards**

| **Rank Number** | **Applicant** | **Project Title** | **CEC Funds Requested** | **CEC Funds Recommended** | **Match Funds** | **Score** | **Award Status** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Eden GeoPower | Demonstration of Electrical Reservoir Stimulation: Enhancing Power and Lithium Production in Salton Sea Geothermal Wells | $1,250,192 | $1,250,192 | $1,750,200 | 82.38 | Awardee |
| 2 | Last Frontier Healthcare District | Geothermal Injection Capacity Expansion | $1,500,000 | $1,500,000 | $0 | 81.19 | Awardee |
| 3 | County of Sonoma | Sonoma-Lake-Mendocino Proactive Regional Geothermal Planning Project | $1,359,710 | $1,359,710 | $164,170 | 80.06 | Awardee |
|  |  | **Total:** | **$4,109,902** | **$4,109,902** | **$1,914,370** |  |  |

**Passed, but not Funded**

| **Rank Number** | **Applicant** | **Project Title** | **CEC Funds Requested** | **CEC Funds Recommended** | **Match Funds** | **Score** | **Award Status** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4 | XGS Energy | Expanding Next-Generation Geothermal Potential in Imperial County | $377,986 | $0 | $496,539 | 78.63 | Finalist |
| 5 | County of Imperial | Geothermal - Themed Outdoor Park | $1,500,000 | $0 | $705,000 | 77.63 | Finalist |
| 6 | Exergy Systems Inc. | Sustainable Geothermal Processing: Lithium and Critical Mineral Recovery with Electro-Separation Technologies | $1,495,132 | $0 | $1,496,616 | 76.06 | Finalist |
| 7 | County of Imperial | Lithium, Education, and Geothermal for Advancing Careers with Youth (LEGACY) Initiative | $1,500,000 | $0 | $0 | 75.44 | Finalist |
| 8 | Imageair Inc. | Monitoring of Surface Deformation in Imperial Valley for Environmental Impact Mitigation | $582,500 | $0 | $826,800 | 75.06 | Finalist |
| 9 | EELI Technology Inc. | Pilot-scale Demonstration of Electrochemical Lithium Recovery from Geothermal Brines | $1,300,000 | $0 | $1,314,989 | 72.81 | Finalist |
| 10 | Salton Sea Lithium Extraction Company, LLC | Qualification of Potential New Lithium Resources Adjacent to the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area | $950,000 | $0 | $950,000 | 71.69 | Finalist |
| 11 | High Desert Lumber LLC | High Desert Lumber Geothermal Project | $250,000 | $0 | $250,000 | 70.69 | Finalist |
|  |  | **Total:** | **$7,955,618** | **$0** | **$6,039,944** |  |  |

**Did Not Pass**

| **Rank Number** | **Applicant** | **Project Title** | **CEC Funds Requested** | **CEC Funds Recommended** | **Match Funds** | **Score** | **Award Status** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 12 | City of Calipatria | Calipatria Wastewater Repair Project | $1,500,000 | $0 | $0 | N/A | Did Not Pass |
|  |  | **Total:** | **$1,500,000** | **$0** | **$0** |  |  |

**Disqualified**

| **Rank Number** | **Applicant** | **Project Title** | **CEC Funds Requested** | **CEC Funds Recommended** | **Match Funds** | **Score** | **Award Status** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| N/A | Control Systems Corp | N/A | $0 | $0 | $0 | N/A | Disqualified |
| N/A | Rabbit Inc. | N/A | $0 | $0 | $0 | N/A | Disqualified |
|  |  | **Total:** | **$0** | **$0** | **$0** |  |  |