

GFO-25-307 Pre-Application Workshop

Direct Air Capture Pre-Commercial Demonstration & Community Engagement

Energy Research and Development Division

Presenters: Maryam Haddad, Ph.D. & Patricia De La Torre, Ph.D.

Date: May 21, 2026





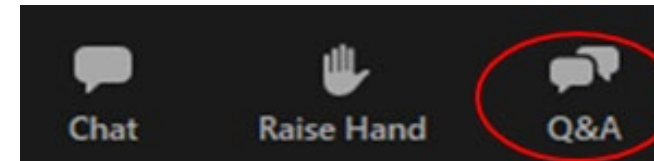
Agenda

Time	Item
10:00 am	Welcome and Introduction
10:05 am	Solicitation Background <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CRISP Research Program• Purpose of Solicitation• Available Funding
10:25 am	Application Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Requirements• Attachments• Submission Process• Evaluation Process
11:00 am	Q&As
12:00 pm	Adjourn



Housekeeping

- This workshop will be recorded and posted to the CEC website.
- Attendees will be muted during the presentation. Please chat your question using the Q&A window.



- Updates to solicitation documents will be posted at the [Grant Funding Opportunity's webpage](#).



Commitment to Diversity

The Energy Commission adopted a resolution strengthening its commitment to diversity in our funding programs. The CEC continues to encourage disadvantaged and underrepresented businesses and communities to engage in and benefit from our many programs.

To meet this commitment, Energy Commission staff conducts outreach efforts and activities to:

- Engage with disadvantaged and underrepresented groups throughout the state.
- Notify potential new applicants about the Energy Commission's funding opportunities.
- Assist applicants in understanding how to apply for funding from the Energy Commission's programs.
- Survey participants to measure progress in diversity outreach efforts.



We Want to Hear From You!

Participation Survey

Survey responses will be summarized anonymously to track attendance of underrepresented groups in our workshops for public reporting purposes.

Online participants, please use this link:
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/rYbWFg743S>

Thanks!



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California Energy
Commission
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Find a Partner on EmpowerInnovation.net

Empower Innovation strives to accelerate your clean tech journey with easy access to funding opportunities from the Energy Commission and other funding providers, curated resources and events, and connections to people and organizations.

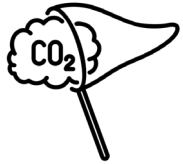
FIND A PARTNER: Announce your interest in this funding opportunity and message other interested parties to find potential partners.

RESOURCES & TOOLS: Browse the collection of resources for clean tech innovators, including Resource Libraries, Funding Sources, Tools, and Databases.



Research Program Background

- **Carbon Removal Innovation Support Program (CRISP):**



- Established by Assembly Bill 209 (2021) to develop direct air capture (DAC) technologies using physical and/or chemical processes.



- Aims to provide financial support for initiatives that promote DAC technologies that directly remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



- Is part of California Climate Investments, which uses Cap-and-Invest funds to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, strengthen the economy, and improve public health and the environment, especially in disadvantaged communities.



Policy Drivers

California Air Resources Board's 2022 Scoping Plan:

Outlines the need for strategies like carbon dioxide removal (CDR) to address residual emissions for carbon neutrality, concluding that mechanical CDR is essential.

AB 1279 ((California Climate Crisis Act):

Mandates an 85% reduction in anthropogenic GHG emissions below 1990 levels and carbon neutrality by 2045, requiring strict monitoring and enforcement to protect public health and the environment.

SB 905 (2022) (Carbon Sequestration):

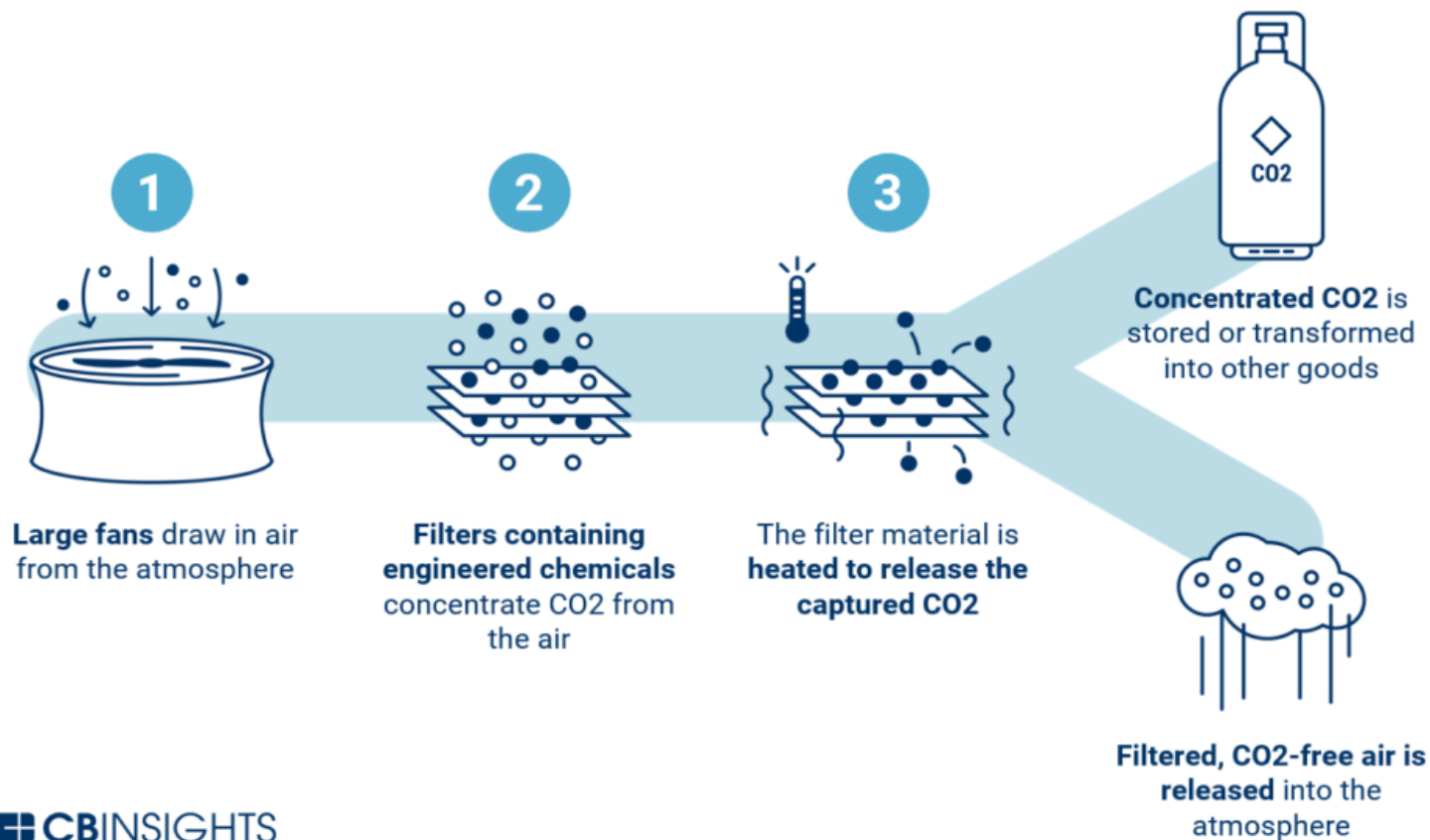
Establishes a framework for carbon capture, removal, utilization, and storage technologies to reduce GHG emissions, focusing on their development, deployment, and setting goals for carbon sequestration in California.



Background: Direct air capture (DAC)

Direct air capture (DAC) technology removes carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere for permanent underground storage or conversion into valuable products.

How direct air capture works



Source: [CB Insights](#). (April 7th, 2021)



Purpose of Solicitation

- Support the development and deployment of advanced DAC carbon dioxide removal technologies through pre-commercial pilot and demonstration projects under real-world conditions.
- Improve DAC performance and reduce costs by advancing technologies at TRL 6 or greater.
- Validate system integration, engineering feasibility, and operational performance under real-world conditions.
- Foster strong community partnerships, especially in or near disadvantaged communities, to ensure equitable, resilient, and locally beneficial project outcomes.
- Build strong early partnerships with the host community, industrial, and other relevant entities to support timely project development, enhance project delivery, and reduce risks that could delay implementation.



Available Funding

Project Group	Available Funding	Minimum Award Amount	Maximum Award Amount	Minimum total match share percentage
Direct Air Capture Demonstration and Community Engagement (2-4 projects)	\$11,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$5,500,000	20%



Match Funding



- The match requirement for this solicitation is 20% of the requested CEC funds.



- Match funding contributors must submit match funding commitment letters that meet the requirements. Failure to do so will disqualify the match funding commitment from consideration.



- Refer to the Solicitation Manual for more details on match funding.



Direct Air Capture Demonstration and Community Engagement

Funding Amount: \$11,000,000

Background: Projects are expected to demonstrate progress toward scalable, measurable, and verifiable CO₂ removal while incorporating strong community, environmental, and clean-energy considerations.

- Stand-alone or integrated DAC systems are eligible if DAC remains the primary driver of performance and excludes point-source capture and oil or gas operations.
- Key Performance Metrics (required at project completion):
 - Capture cost \leq 450 dollars per metric ton CO₂
 - Energy use \leq 1,400 kilowatt-hours per metric ton CO₂
 - Net CO₂ removal \geq 500 metric tons per year
- All demonstration sites must be in California.



Direct Air Capture Demonstration & Community Engagement

Requirements:

Projects must be TRL 6 or greater and advance at least one TRL by the end of the agreement.

At least 7 percent of CEC funds must support community engagement activities.

DAC must operate under real-world CO₂ conditions and remain the primary driver of project outcomes.

Priority will be given to proposed projects that initiate at higher TRLs, demonstrate larger starting scales, and show strong potential for technical and performance gains.

Applications with a detailed clean energy procurement plan for low- or zero-carbon energy and demand flexibility will receive preference points.



Examples of Eligible Projects:

- DAC systems powered by low-carbon, grid-flexible energy sources such as renewable electricity, waste heat, or zero-carbon fuels.
- DAC integrated with other carbon removal methods like ocean-based, mineralization, or geologic storage pathways and/or biomass or algae-based CO₂ pre-capture followed by DAC processes.
- Modular or mobile DAC units designed for remote or distributed settings that minimize water use, material impacts, maintenance needs, and reliance on toxic solvents or sorbents.
- DAC systems co-located at California hubs, industrial facilities, or waste-handling sites that utilize industrial byproducts or waste heat, incorporate novel capture materials or methods, and establish partnerships for CO₂ utilization or durable storage.



Ineligible Projects, Activities, Partnerships & Uses of CEC Funds

Ineligible Uses of CEC Funds

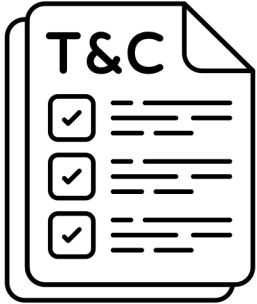
- Renewable energy generation equipment or installation; such costs may only be used with matching funds from non-CEC sources.
- Mineralization and/or other utilization activities; eligible only as non-CEC-funded matching contributions.
- CO₂ storage infrastructure or operations; allowable only as matching funds supported exclusively with non-CEC sources.
- Any activities associated with enhanced oil or gas recovery (not permitted with either CEC or match funding).

Ineligible Project Types

- Projects focused primarily on point-source carbon capture rather than DAC.
- Projects centered on non-DAC carbon dioxide removal (CDR) pathways without a DAC mechanism integrated into the system.
- Projects involving or providing direct or indirect benefit to enhanced oil or gas recovery.
- Projects relying primarily on terrestrial sequestration without integrating DAC technology.



Eligible Applicants



- This is an open solicitation for public and private entities.
- Applicants must accept applicable CRISP terms and conditions.
 - Standard, UC, and DOE T&Cs available online: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources>
- Applicants are encouraged to register with the California Secretary of State, as all recipients must be registered and in good standing to enter into an agreement with the Energy Commission: <http://www.sos.ca.gov>



Application Requirements

Each Applicant must complete and including the following:

1. Executive Summary (.docx)	7. CEQA Compliance Form (.docx)
2. Project Narrative (.docx)	8. Past Projects Information Form (.docx, .pdf)
3. Project Team (.docx, .pdf)	9. Commitment and Support Letters (.pdf)
4. Scope of Work (.docx)	10. Project Performance Metrics
5. Project Schedule (.xlsx)	11. Applicant Declaration (.docx)
6. Budget (.xlsx)	



Executive Summary (Attachment 1)

- Use the Executive Summary to clearly introduce the proposed DAC project. The summary should describe:
 - Overview of the project, including the DAC system, its purpose, and the California location.
 - Key objectives, expected technical advancements, and how the project supports scalable and verifiable CO₂ removal.
 - Alignment with solicitation goals, focusing on cost, energy use, system integration, and community and environmental considerations.
 - Resources and partnership backing the project, including the lead team, key partners, a high-level budget summary with CEC funding requests, match share, and community engagement plans.
 - Implementation plan within the agreement term, outlining major activities, expected outcomes, and risk reduction strategies.



Project Narrative (Attachment 2)

- This is your opportunity to explain the entirety of the project. The narrative should explain:
 - Why is your project necessary and important to California?
 - What is your project approach and how will each major task be implemented?
 - How will the project be completed in the term proposed?
 - Does the project have the appropriate resources (team and budget) to complete successfully?
 - How will the project outcomes benefit California?
 - Address the requirements as described in Section I.C. and Section II. B.
- Respond to the scoring criteria described in Section IV.F.



Project Narrative (Attachment 2)-Contd.

- Include the following in Project Narrative (Attachment 2):
 - Technical Merit
 - Technical Approach
 - Scope of work Alignment
 - Measurement Reporting and Verification (MRV) Plan
 - CEQA Compliance and Permitting Plan
 - Impacts & Benefits
 - Community Engagement, Outreach, and Education Plan
 - Team Qualifications, Capabilities, and Resources
 - Budget & Cost Effectiveness
 - Funds Spent in California
 - Benefits to Disadvantaged/Low-Income Communities (optional)
 - Clean Energy Procurement Plan (optional)



Project Narrative (Attachment 2)

Technical Merit

- Use the Technical Merit section to clearly explain the technical strength and demonstrated maturity of the proposed DAC system:
 - DAC system design: Capture and separation mechanisms, energy/resource inputs, land needs, and process flow.
 - TRL eligibility: Evidence of system operating at TRL 6+ and plans for TRL advancement during the agreement.
 - Performance baselines: Current data on energy use, cost, efficiency, net CO₂ removal, and expected improvements.
 - State of the art: Quantifiable advantages in efficiency, emissions, durability, reliability, and cost aligned with California's climate goals.
 - Performance validation: Key metrics, data-collection methods, and evaluation timeline.
 - Key barriers: Addressing technical and economic challenges for scale-up and commercialization.
 - Environmental considerations: Emissions, risks, hazardous materials, and TEA/LCA insights.
 - CO₂ management: Transport logistics and permanent sequestration/utilization with non-CEC funding.



Project Narrative (Attachment 2)-Technical Approach

- Use the Technical Approach section to clearly explain how the proposed DAC project will be carried out and how the work described in the Scope of Work will be executed:
 - Project design and implementation: Key design, engineering, integration, and operational tasks required for DAC system deployment.
 - Demonstration plan: Time-bound plan for system operation, testing conditions, data collection, key metrics, baselines, and performance targets.
 - Technology advancement and analysis: Activities to advance at least one TRL, plans for technology transfer, and TEA/LCA methodologies supporting commercialization.
 - Site readiness and permitting: Test location justification, infrastructure suitability, and CEQA/permitting pathway with expected timelines.
 - MRV, risks, and SOW alignment: Third-party MRV approach, major risks and mitigation strategies, and alignment of tasks and deliverables with the Scope of Work and project schedule.

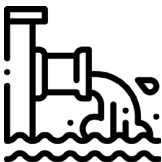


Project Narrative (Attachment 2)-Impacts and Benefits

- Use the Impacts and Benefits section to clearly explain the outcomes of the proposed DAC project on the local community, the environment, and public health:



- Community Engagement & Benefits: Meet requirements for $\geq 7\%$ CEC funds for engagement; provide a host-community support letter; and outline sustained engagement, outreach, education, and measurable community benefits.



- Environmental Impacts & Benefits: Identify and address impacts related to air emissions, water use, land/soil disturbance, waste generation, and material toxicity, including mitigation strategies and expected environmental benefits.



- Public-Health Impacts & Protections: Assess potential exposure pathways, health risks, monitoring approaches, early-warning indicators, and how community input informs health and safety protections



Project Narrative (Attachment 2)- Impacts & Benefits

Impacts and Benefits-Community Engagement, Outreach & Education Plan

- The plan must show how the project identifies the community, engages early and often, shares information clearly, and delivers accountable benefits.
 - **Community Identification & Relationship:**
 - Identify DAC site and nearby/affected communities.
 - Describe the project's direct relationship to the community and how input informs engagement.
 - **Engagement Approach & Participation:**
 - Start engagement early and continue through the project.
 - Engage community groups and maintain participation with an advisory structure.
 - **Outreach, Education & Communication:**
 - Provide accessible, multilingual outreach and education.
 - Use workshops, meetings, and workforce/education partnerships.
 - **Community Benefits & Accountability:**
 - Identify measurable community-informed benefits.
 - Track and report progress with accessible updates.



Project Narrative (Attachment 2)

Team Qualifications, Capabilities, and Resources

- Use the Project Team Qualifications section to clearly show that the team has the experience, capabilities, and resources needed to successfully deliver the DAC project:
 - Define roles and responsibilities; list credentials and relevant experience for key personnel.
 - Highlight experience with DAC/CCUS or similar pilot demonstrations, including permitting and data analysis.
 - Describe team coordination, management structure, and communication protocols.
 - Include expertise in scale-up, project management, engineering, and policy.
 - Demonstrate knowledge of environmental regulations, permitting, and carbon management.
 - Describe access to the tools, facilities, and resources needed for construction, testing, and operation.
 - Provide letters of support from partners providing technical expertise, site access, or infrastructure.
 - Identify the demonstration site, confirm access agreements, and describe available infrastructure



Scope of Work (Attachment 4) & Project Schedule (Attachment 5)

- Tell us exactly what you are proposing to do in your project.
- Identify what will be delivered to the Energy Commission.
- Be sure to include in the technical tasks:
 - At least one product deliverable per task.
 - Address requirements in Section I.C. under Project Focus & Section II.B under Project Requirements
- Be sure to include in the Project Schedule (Attachment 5):
 - Product deliverables that correspond with the Scope of Work.
 - Realistic dates on when product deliverables can be completed.



Budget (Attachment 6)

- Identify how the Energy Commission funds and match funds will be spent to complete the project.
- Ensure at least 7 % of the Energy Commission funds is allocated for community engagement activities.
- Subrecipients receiving \$100,000 or more Energy Commission funds must complete a separate budget form.
- Ensure that all rates provided are **maximum** estimated rates for the entire project term and any potential increases are included.
- Travel Restrictions:
 - CEC funds should be limited to project task-specific in-state travel.
 - Travel to conferences is generally not considered applicable travel for projects and should not use CEC funds.



CEQA Compliance Form (Attachment 7)

- Assists CEC in determining:
 - What type of CEQA review is necessary before the agreement can be approved at a Business Meeting, and
 - Which agency will perform any required environmental review as Lead Agency
 - This attachment is a supporting document for the CEQA Compliance and Permitting Plan (Project Narrative)

ATTACHMENT 06
CEQA Compliance Form

2. What are the physical aspects of the proposed activities? (Check all that apply and provide a brief description of work, including the size or dimensions of the project).

Type of Project	Yes	No	Project Description
Construction (including grading, paving, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Trenching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
New or replaced pipelines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modification or conversion of a facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
New or modified operation of a facility or equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
On-road demonstration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Paper study (including analyses on economics, feedstock availability, workforce availability, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laboratory research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Temporary or mobile structures (sid-mounted)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Design/Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (describe and attach sheets as necessary)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

3. Where are the proposed activities located or where will they be located? (Attach additional sheets as necessary.)

Street Address	City/County	Type of Work to Be Completed at Site

4. Will the proposed activities potentially have environmental impacts that trigger CEQA review? (Check a box and explain for each question).

Question	Yes	No	Unsur	Explanation
Is the proposed activity site environmentally sensitive?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the site located on agricultural land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are the activities part of a larger project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



What is CEQA?

- The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires public agencies to consider the environmental consequences of their discretionary actions before approving plans
 - Informs other agencies and the public about potential environmental effects of projects
 - Requires the lead agency to mitigate all significant adverse impacts to the maximum extent possible:
- Discretionary vs ministerial actions:
 - **Discretionary** = decision made using judgment, merit-based
 - Approving grant funding for technology demonstrations
 - **Ministerial** = decision made by satisfying pre-set criteria
 - Certain building and air quality permits



What is a Project under CEQA?

CEQA applies to "projects", defined as:

An activity which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

CEC research and demonstration projects are CEQA "projects"

- Study energy efficiency of sorbent regeneration approaches
- Design and build lab-scale CO₂ utilization prototypes
- Retrofit an industrial facility with heat pump technology
- Build a direct air capture demonstration facility



Is my project Exempt from CEQA?

Exempt projects do not require CEQA review (**subject to exceptions**)

Exemptions that **may** apply to carbon management projects:

- Categorical Exemptions (CEQA Guidelines §15300-15333): pre-determined not to have significant impacts on the environment
 - Common for lab-scale R&D, prototypes, and industrial retrofit activities
 - Information Collection (§15306)
 - Minor modifications to existing facilities (§15301)
 - Accessory structures (§15311)
 - New construction or conversion of small structures (§15303)
 - Minor alterations to land (§15304)



Other CEQA Exemptions

Exemption types **unlikely** for current CEC carbon management projects

- Common sense exemption (§15061(b)(3))
 - Paper studies/theoretical modeling only
- Statutory Exemption: updates to state legislation may allow specific project types to proceed without CEQA review

If a project does not meet the standard for an exemption, it likely requires additional environmental review



CEQA Lead Agency

Lead Agency: the public agency that has the principal responsibility of overseeing or approving a CEQA project. Usually, the city or county in which the project will be constructed.

- First agency to consider and contact in the development of your project!
- Determines the level of environmental review required
- Prepares environmental review documents and evaluates CEQA compliance
 - Will assess adequacy and compliance of environmental docs based on scientific and/or factual data



CEQA Responsible Agency

Responsible Agency: has discretionary approval over part of the project, such as approving grant funding.

CEC typically acts as the Responsible Agency under CEQA

- Considers environmental documents developed by the Lead Agency
- Provides comments/recommendations to Lead Agency
- Must review the project and make an independent CEQA determination
- CEC is not currently conducting involved CEQA review such as Initial Studies, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or EIRs for this program



Environmental Review

If your project is not exempt from CEQA, your CEQA Lead Agency must initiate environmental review

The first step is and **Initial Study**:

- Preliminary analysis that determines whether a project might result in significant environmental effects

Significant effect on the environment are defined as:

- a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project

Environmental resource evaluated through the initial study are listed in Appendix G of the 2026 CEQA Statute and Guidelines



CEQA Resource Categories

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact," as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture / Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |



Appropriate Level of Review

Depending on the Initial Study results, next steps in review may include:

- Negative Declaration
 - States that an Environmental Impact Report is not required because a project will not have significant adverse impacts on the environment
- Mitigated Negative Declaration
 - Conditional Neg. Dec., revisions to a project (mitigation measures) agreed upon with the developer to avoid significant adverse impacts
- Environmental Impact Report
 - Detailed review of each resource category through scientific data collection, predictive modeling, mitigation measures, project alternatives, etc.

All require a public comment period



Strategy for Timely CEQA Compliance

- For a project to be approved for CEC funds, it must be CEQA compliant (either exempt or with complete required environmental review)
 - The Scope of Work cannot include CEQA reviews
 - Ministerial permitting may be developed over the course of an agreement
- Identify and contact your Lead Agency for project review and to initiate any necessary environmental review
- Proper filling of the CEQA compliance worksheet with your application will:
 - Improve scoring
 - Help CEC understand whether you qualify for an exemption
 - Help CEC in determining next steps in environmental review as the Responsible Agency



CEQA Compliance Worksheet

- Provide a detailed description of:
 - proposed physical activities
 - location
 - project area (square feet), project height
- Describe your project's permitting and CEQA review progress in detail, attach existing CEQA docs
 - If environmental review documentation is in progress, identify documents needed and timelines for completion.
 - You can still qualify for a *proposed award* while the review is in progress
- Even if the project *may* be exempt, fill out this form in detail. Exemptions are determined by the CEC/Lead Agency, not the applicant



Understanding CEQA

Online Resources:

- [CEQA Flowchart](#)
- [CEQA 101 Slides pdf and CEQA 202 series on YouTube](#)
- [CEQAnet Database](#)
- [Technical Advisories](#)
- [2026 CEQA Statute and Guidelines](#)
- [Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 of California Code of Regulations](#)



Past Projects Information Form (Attachment 8)

- Provide information on previous projects completed by the applicant and key partners.
- Include project titles, funding amounts, timelines, and main objectives.
- Identify the role your organization played and key outcomes or deliverables achieved.
- Highlight experience relevant to DAC, clean energy, or technology demonstration.
- Ensure all information is accurate, complete, and consistent with Energy Commission requirements.



Commitment and Support Letter Forms (Attachment 9)

- Follow guidelines provided for commitment and support letters.
 - Commitment letters are required for entities or individuals that are committing match funding, testing/demonstration sites, including the **Applicant** (prime).
 - Support letters describe a project stakeholder's interest or involvement in the project.
- All applicants must submit **at least one** support letter.
- Match funding must be supported by a match fund commitment letter(s).
- Any project partners that will make contributions to the project (other than match and sites) must submit a commitment letter.
- Limit to two pages per letter, excluding the cover page.



Project Performance Metrics (Attachment 10)

- Identify the key metrics that will be used to measure project performance.
- Include baseline values and clear targets for each metric.
- Ensure metrics cover energy use, cost, efficiency, and net CO₂ removal.
- Explain how each metric will be measured and reported during the project.
- Use project-specific data (not literature) to support baselines and performance projections



GFO Submission Requirements

- Applicants must have or must create a user account to submit a solicitation application. To create an account, please see the guidance User Registration Instructions at: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/7893>

Note: One account manager per organization, but users can be added by account manager

- Applications must be submitted through the Energy Commission Agreement Management System (ECAMS) at: <https://ecams.energy.ca.gov/>

The screenshot shows the California Energy Commission website homepage. At the top left is the logo, and at the top right is a search bar and a 'Sign In' button. The main header area features a 'Welcome!' message and a 'Funding Opportunities' section with a 'View Solutions' button. Below this is a large banner image with a wind turbine, solar panels, and a house. A text block below the banner states: 'The California Energy Commission offers a variety of funding opportunities to advance the state's transition to clean energy and transportation through innovation, efficiency, and the development and deployment of advanced technologies.'

The page is divided into six content blocks:

- Funding Workshops:** Find upcoming workshops to learn about solicitations, ask questions, network, and meet potential project partners.
- Awards:** Information about the California Energy Commission's awards, including notices of proposed awards and notices of selection.
- Funding Resources:** Guides, forms, templates, and other resources for individuals applying for funding opportunities that the California Energy Commission offers.
- ECAMS Grant Resources:** Templates, forms, and tools for the invoicing process and agreement management in general.
- Empower Innovation:** Empower Innovation is an initiative of the California Energy Commission, in partnership with leading California technology accelerators, fellowship programs, nonprofits, and private partners.
- Salesforce Training:** How to apply for solicitations and submit invoices.

At the bottom right, there is a 'Contact' section with the email address: ecams.salesforcesupport@energy.ca.gov



GFO Submission Requirements (cont.)

- For detailed instructions on application submittal, please see the *Applying for a Solicitation* at: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/7956>

- Both referenced guidance documents are available at: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources> under General Funding Information.

A screenshot of a web page titled "General Funding Information" with a dark blue header and a close button (X) in the top right corner. The page content is organized into two main sections. The first section is "GRANT SOLICITATION SYSTEM (GSS) INFORMATION" and contains two bullet points: "Grant Solicitation System (GSS) Login" and "How to Apply - PDF". The second section is "ENERGY COMMISSION AGREEMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ECAMS)" and contains three bullet points: "Energy Commission Agreement Management System (ECAMS) Login", "User Registration - PDF", and "Applying for a Solicitation". This second section is highlighted with a red rectangular border.

- Questions with the ECAMS system should be directed to: ECAMS.SalesforceSupport@Energy.ca.gov



GFO Submission Requirements (cont.)



Electronic files, other than those requiring signatures, must be consistent with the specific file format provided in the solicitation.



Application documents should meet formatting requirements, and page recommendations as specified in the solicitation manual.



Attachments requiring signatures (Application Form and Support/Commitment Letters) may be signed, scanned, and submitted in PDF format.



Submission Warning

START THE PROCESS EARLY!

- Applications must be fully submitted BEFORE the deadline listed in the solicitation manual.
- The ECAMS system will reject applications submitted after the deadline.
- Applications in the process of being submitted prior to the deadline will NOT be accepted after the deadline.
- ECAMS support is ONLY available from 8am – 5pm Monday-Friday.



Application Submission

- Register as a New User (if applicable)
- Log In
- 4-Step Application Submittal Process:
 1. Select Solicitation
 2. Enter Application Information
 3. Upload Files
 - Select documents for upload
 - Tag files with document type
 4. Review and Submit
 - Confirmation from ECAMS system that submission was successful

All steps must be complete BEFORE the submission deadline



Application Reminders

We recommend you carefully review your application before submission.

- ✓ Verify that all necessary documents have been uploaded.
- ✓ Verify that all documents uploaded are the accurate version you intend to submit as your final.
- ✓ Verify that your documents are not marked "confidential". This GFO does not allow submission of confidential information.
- ✓ Verify that your match commitment letters accurately reflect the match amounts stated in your budgets, including the match provided by the prime applicant.
- ✓ Verify that amounts entered within the system's budget (if any) concur with information included on uploaded budget worksheets.
- ✓ Verify that support and commitment letters are included, if required.



How will my Application be Evaluated?

STAGE ONE: APPLICATION SCREENING

Admin Screening Process

- Energy Commission staff screens applications per the criteria in Section IV.E.
- Criteria are evaluated on a pass/fail basis.
- Applicants must pass all screening criteria, or the application will be disqualified.

- Some Reasons for Disqualification

- Application is not submitted by the specified due date and time.
- Application does not include one or more support letters.
- Application contains confidential material



How will my Application be Evaluated? Stage 2

STAGE TWO: APPLICATION SCORING

- Evaluation Committee applies the scoring scale to the scoring criteria.
- Applications must obtain a minimum passing score of 52.5 points for Criteria 1-4 in order to continue evaluation.
- Applications must obtain a minimum passing score of 80.50 points for Criteria 1-7 in order to be considered for funding.
- Review Section IV of the solicitation manual and ensure the application provides a clear and complete response to each scoring criterion.

Scoring Criteria	Maximum Points
1. Technical Merit	15
2. Technical Approach	25
3. Impacts and Benefits for CA IOU Ratepayers	20
4. Team Qualifications, Capabilities, and Resources	15
5. Budget and Cost-Effectiveness	10
6. CEC Funds Spent in California	20
7. Ratio of Direct Labor Costs to Indirect Costs	10
Total	115
Minimum Points to Pass	80.50

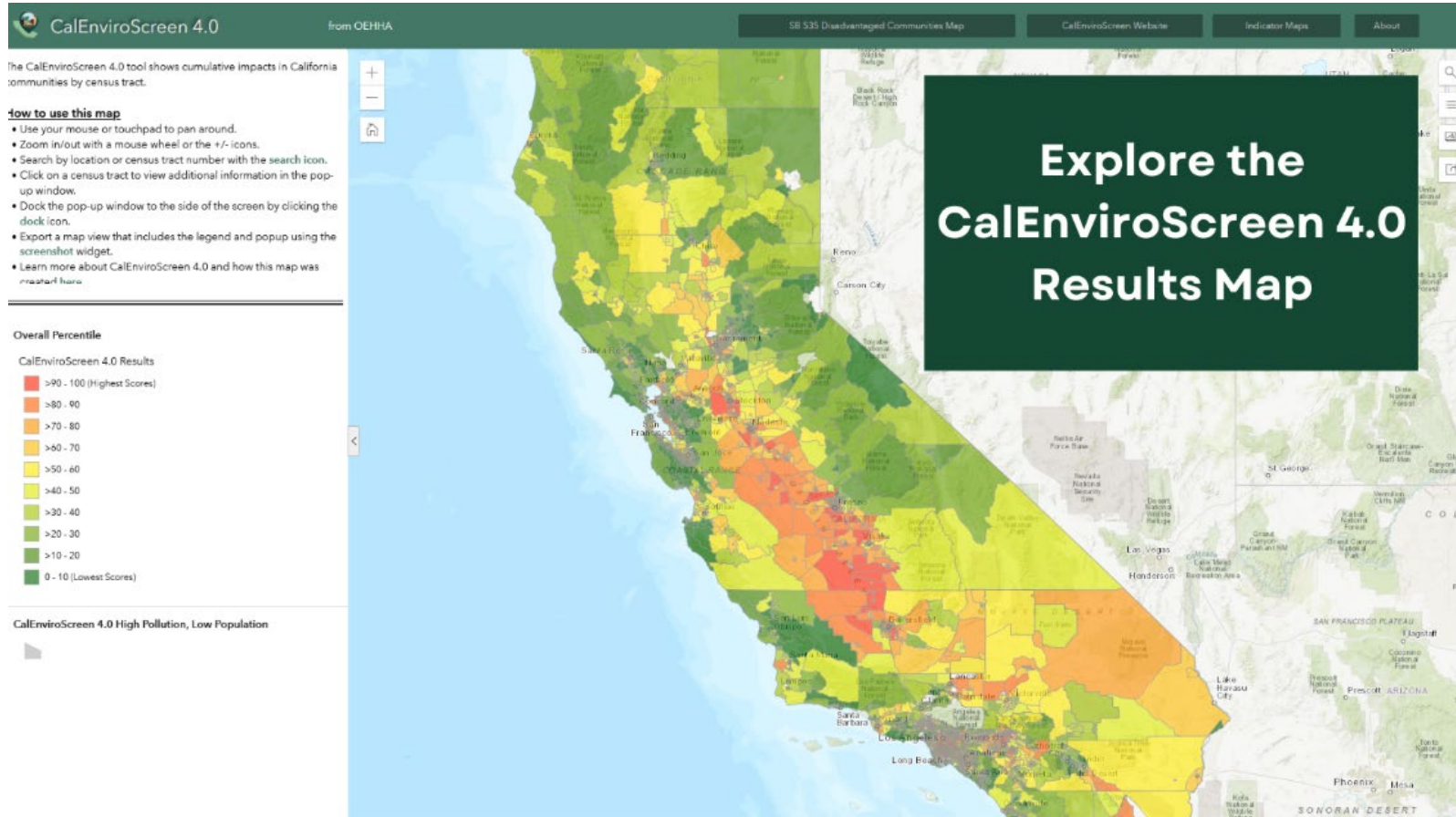


Evaluating Projects – Preference Points

Proposed Scoring Criteria	Maximum Points
8. Benefits to Disadvantaged/Low-Income Communities	5
9. Clean Energy Procurement Plan	5
Total Possible Points for Application	125



Identifying Disadvantaged Communities



These areas represent the **25% highest scoring census tracts in CalEnviroScreen 4.0**, along with other areas with high amounts of pollution and low populations.

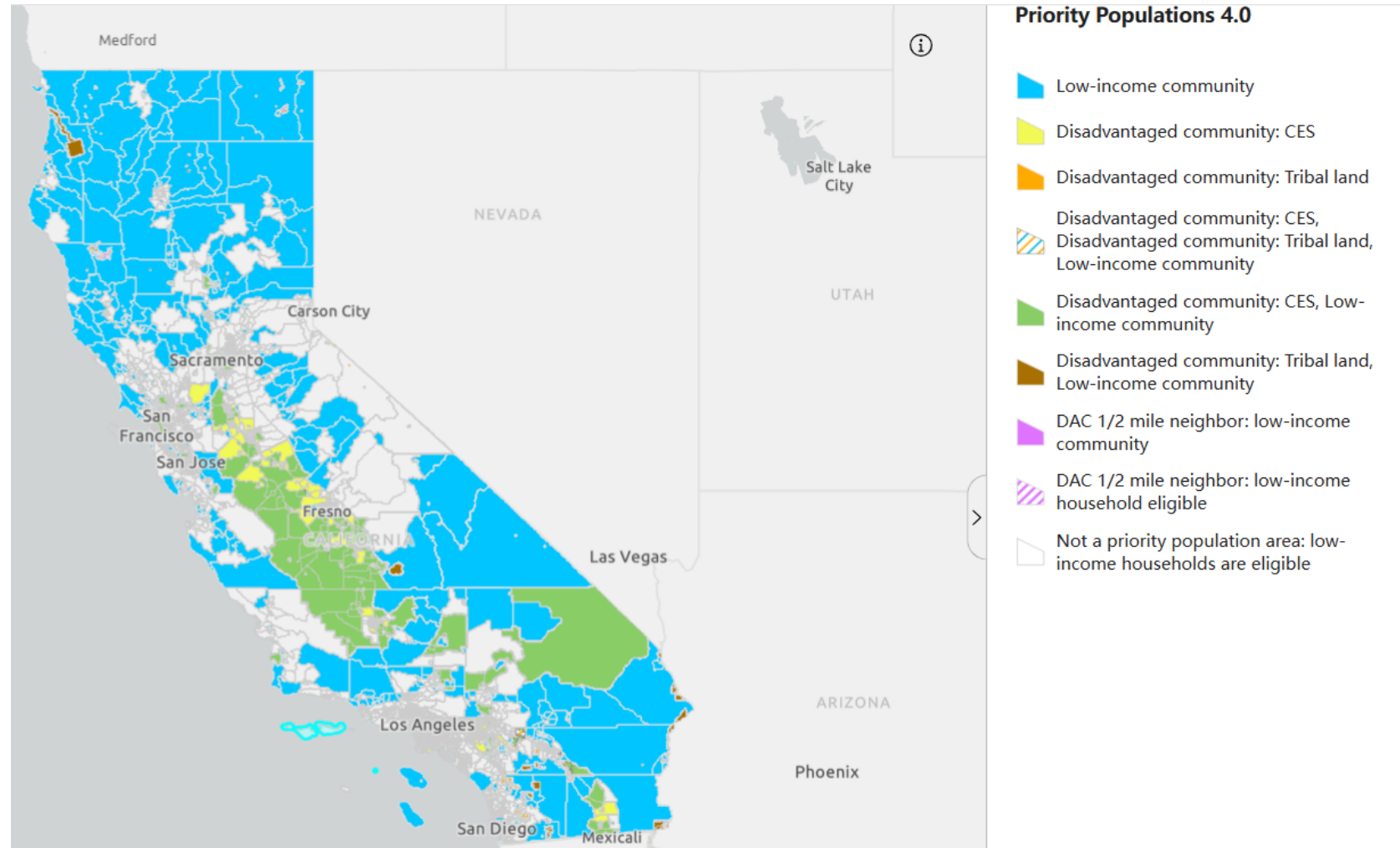
<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40>



Identifying Low-Income Communities

Energy Commission staff proposes to use the existing low-income mapping tool developed by ARB to determine low-income communities

[CARB's latest Priority Populations map](#)





Next Steps After Grant Award

Notice of Proposed Award: Shows total proposed funding amounts, rank order of applicants by project group, and the amount of each proposed award.

Applicant Debriefings: Applicants may request a debrief of their application evaluation within 30 days of the NOPA posting.

Agreement Development: Application documents will be processed into a legal agreement.

Failure to Execute: The Energy Commission reserves the right to cancel the pending award if an agreement cannot be successfully executed with an applicant.

Project Start: Recipients may begin work on the project **only** after the agreement is fully executed (approved at an Energy Commission business meeting and signed by the Recipient and the Energy Commission).



Key Dates

Activity	Date
Solicitation Release	05/01/2026
Pre-Application Workshop	05/21/2026 at 10 am, PST
Deadline for Written Questions	05/29/2026 at 5:00 pm
Anticipated Distribution of Questions and Answers	Week of 06/29/2026
Deadline for ECAMS Submission Support	Ongoing until 07/29/2026 at 5:00 pm
Deadline to Submit Applications	07/31/2026 at 11:59 pm
Anticipated Notice of Proposed Award Posting	Week of 08/31/2026
Anticipated Energy Commission Business Meeting	November 2026
Anticipated Agreement Start Date	12/01/2026
Anticipated Agreement End Date	March 31, 2030



Questions and Answers



Please chat your question into the Q & A window or raise your hand and you will be called on to unmute yourself. Please remember to introduce.



Keep questions under 2 minutes to allow time for others.



Note that our official response will be given in writing and posted on the GFO webpage.



Additional Questions

Please send all questions related to GFO-25-307 to:

Crystal Willis

Commission Agreement Officer

1516 Ninth Street, MS-18

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 529-1108

crystal.willis@energy.ca.gov

Deadline to submit questions:

Friday, 05/29/2026, 5:00 PM



Thank You!