

GFO-26-503 Pre-Application Workshop

DEBA Program - Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) for Grid Reliability

November 5, 2026

Agenda

GFO-26-503 Pre-Application Workshop

- Welcome and Logistics
- DEBA Program and Proposition 4 Overview
- Solicitation Overview (will pause for Q&A throughout)
  - Competitive Awards
  - DOE GRIP Cost-Share Awards
  - Funding, Eligibility, and Project Requirements
  - Performance, M&V, Reporting, and Project Readiness
  - Application Organization and Submission
  - Evaluation and Award Process
- Final Q&A
- Adjourn

Housekeeping

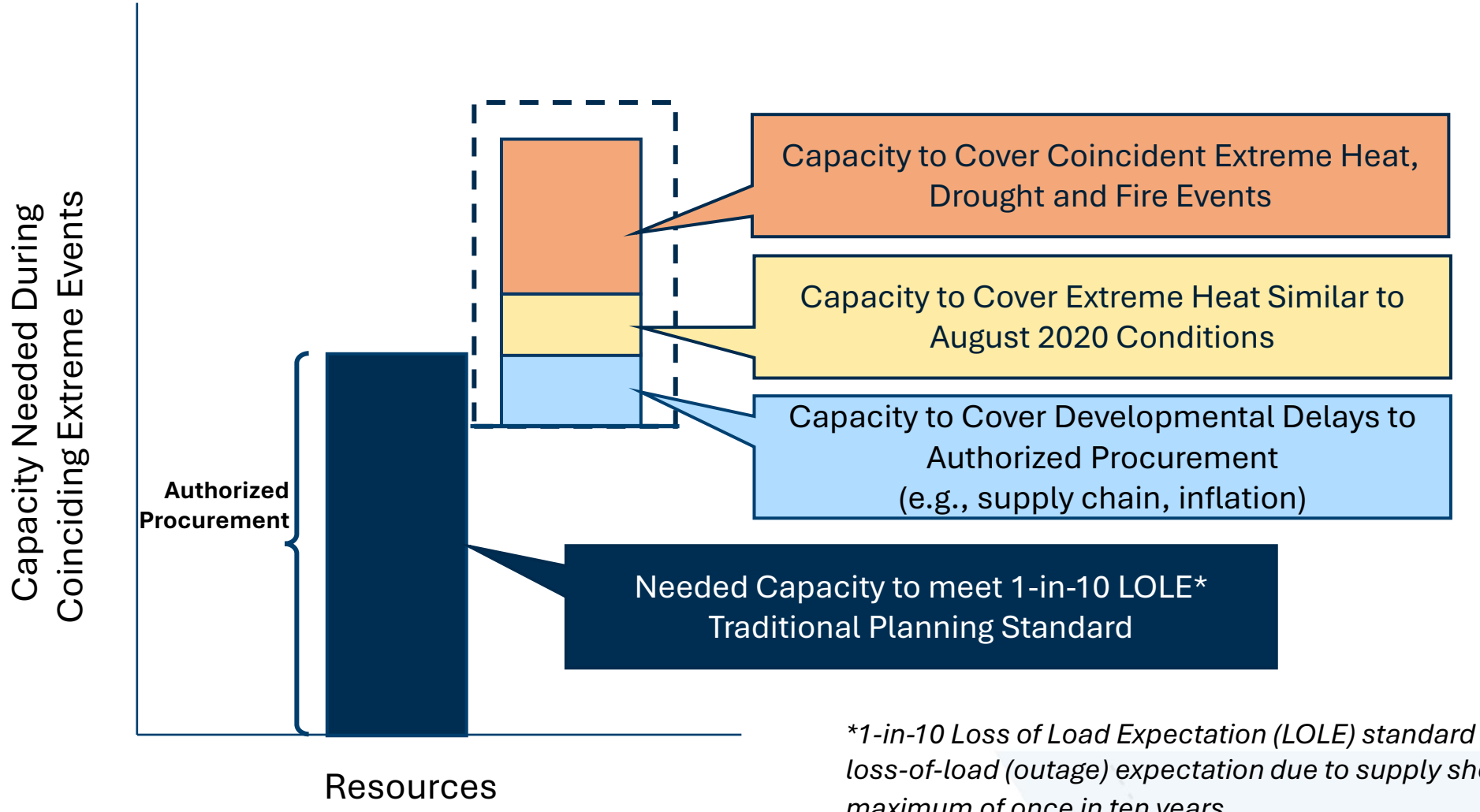
- Workshop is being recorded
- Workshop slides, transcript, recording, and a Q&A document will be posted to the website
- GFO-26-503 webpage: https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2026-10/gfo-26-503-distributed-electricity-backup-assets-program-distributed-energy
- Three Ways to Ask Questions:
  1. Zoom Q&A Box
  2. Q&A sessions throughout the workshop
  3. Email to the Commission Agreement Officer

Enrico Palo
Commission Agreement Officer
enrico.palo@energy.ca.gov
Subject: GFO-26-503

Last day to submit questions: November 13, 2026

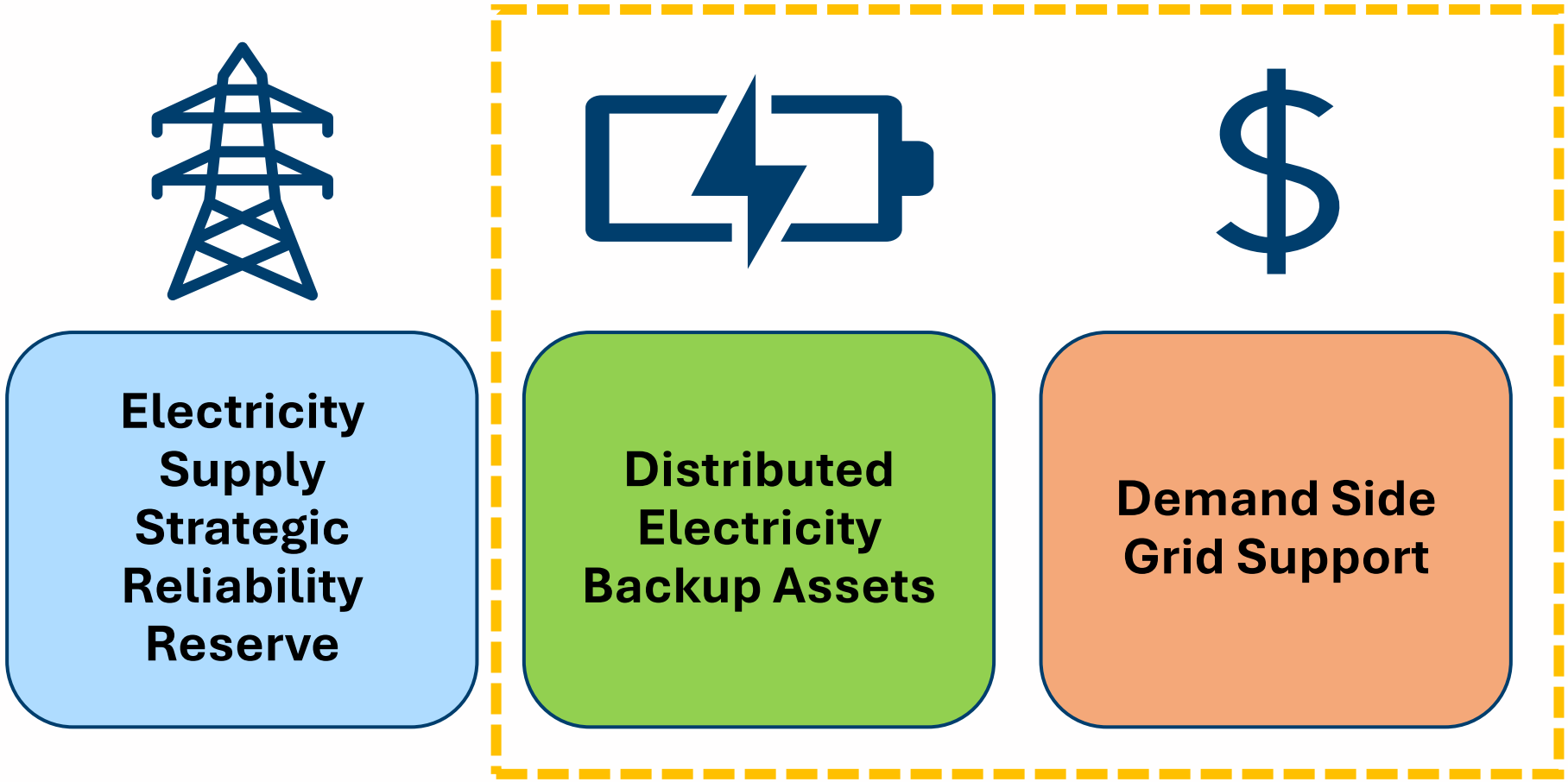
Distributed Electricity Backup Assets (DEBA) Program Overview

Why a Strategic Reliability Reserve?



**1-in-10 Loss of Load Expectation (LOLE) standard is a loss-of-load (outage) expectation due to supply shortfall maximum of once in ten years.*

Strategic Reliability Reserve Portfolio



DEBA Program Overview

Category	Description
Authorizing Statute	• Assembly Bill 205 (Ting, Chapter 61, Statutes of 2022) • Public Resources Code sections 25791 and 25791.5
Program Objective	Purchase of cleaner, more efficient distributed energy assets to serve as emergency supply or load reduction during extreme events
Project Funding Categories	1. Bulk Grid Assets – not accepting new applications 2. **Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) – solicitation released**

Funding recipients must participate as on-call emergency resources during extreme events.

Current Status of DEBA Solicitations

1. **Bulk Grid Asset Enhancement:** Efficiency upgrades and capacity additions to existing bulk grid power generators
   - Released $150M solicitation in Dec 2023
   - Notice of Proposed Awards released April 2024
   - 7 executed agreements (efficiency upgrades, energy storage)

2. **Distributed Energy Resources:** Zero-emission technologies at existing or new facilities
   - Draft concept for $250M GFO released (and paused) - Feb 2024
   - ~$46M appropriated in 2025-26 and 2026-27 Budgets pursuant to Prop 4
   - Final solicitation released – October 2026

Proposition 4 Overview

The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024

Prop 4 Overview

Category	Requirement
Total Appropriated Funding:	$46,144,000 for grant awards • SB 105 - no less than $12,500,000 for GRIP cost-share awards
Encumbrance Deadline:	June 30, 2028
Liquidation Deadline:	June 30, 2030
Eligible Applicants:	Public entities, 501(c)(3) nonprofits, tribes, public utilities, and others (except private entities).
Eligible Technologies:	• Prop 4: Zero-emissions distributed energy backup assets • SB 105: New clean microgrids; new non-residential or aggregated residential distributed clean energy and storage

Prop 4 Directed Priorities

Preferences	Equity Allocations

• Projects leveraging other funding sources to produce the greatest public benefit.
• Applications using the CCC or certified community conservation corps.
• Projects receiving federal funding that supports critical infrastructure, such as water utilities, if federal funding is secure and in place (SB 105)
	• At least 40% of funds allocated for projects providing meaningful and direct benefits to:
	  ○ Vulnerable Populations (Tribes included)
	  ○ Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)
	  ○ Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs)
	• Mapping tools are available

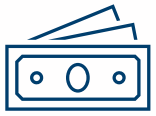
Prop 4 Funding Restrictions

Per Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 94510, the proportion of any asset funded [via Prop 4]…shall:

- be funded without return on equity for the lifetime of the proportion of that asset that would have otherwise been borne by ratepayers.
- be excluded from the rate base, and no costs may be collected from ratepayers.
- not be used for shareholder incentives or profits for shareholders of private corporations.

Solicitation Overview
GFO-26-503

Solicitation Highlights







- Competitive solicitation focused on:
  - Deployment of new, commercially available, zero-emission DERs that **increase supply** or **reduce (or shift) load**
  - Provide **new capacity** that is **incremental** to the State's Resource Adequacy supplies and existing Strategic Reliability Reserves and improves grid reliability
- Proposed projects **must be located in California**
- Development and operations must also occur in California, with the finished asset connected to the **distribution grid**
- Successful projects are expected to begin deploying DER resources quickly to meet statutory deadlines
- Parallel **GRIP cost-share award process**, per SB 105

Section I.A. "Purpose of Solicitation"

Parallel Funding Processes for DEBA Awards

SB 105: No less than $12.5M of appropriated DEBA Prop 4 funds shall provide state cost sharing for water utility projects receiving awards from DOE GRIP…only if that federal funding is secure and in place. CEC may award these funds expeditiously and non-competitively.

Total Available Funding for DEBA projects = $46.1M

Cost-Share Award Process	Competitive Solicitation Process
Available Funding	Available Funding
$12.5M - $23.0M	**TBD** ***$23.1M - $46.1M***

Final available amount for the competitive awards depends on the outcome of the cost-share award process

GRIP Cost-Share Awards

Requirements for Cost-Share Application

In June 2026, CEC released a notice seeking **Letters of Interest** for cost-share funding from DOE GRIP awardees. This process led to the identification of up to 7 prospective awardees.

Cost-Share Application Requirements:

- Complete and submit all attachments accompanying the competitive solicitation
- DOE GRIP application
- Fully executed DOE GRIP award
- Correspondence with DOE about environmental review of the project
- Additional requirements may be established and communicated at a later time
- **DUE DATE: January 26, 2027**
- **Submit via ECAMS**

Eligibility for Competitive Award:

- Cost-Share applicants are eligible to apply for a competitive award.
- May submit single application for consideration for cost-share and competitive processes.
- In the Application Form (Att. 01) indicate whether the application is for “Cost-Share”, “Competitive GFO”, or “Cost-Share AND Competitive GFO”.
- If the application is only for Cost-Share, min/max funding request limits do not apply, and match funding may be left blank.

GRIP Cost-Share Awards

Process for Determination of Cost-Share Awards

Application Evaluation:

- CEC will first review applications on a pass/fail basis, including:
  - Administrative and technical screening criteria (excluding min/max funding)
  - DOE GRIP application and executed award documents, and supporting environmental review correspondence
  - Meeting minimum Base Points passing score requirements, excluding cost-effectiveness
- Total requested funding will be considered as part of cost-effectiveness if application is also being considered for the competitive solicitation

CEC staff are prohibited from communicating with cost-share applicants until NOPAs are released.
All questions must be submitted to the Commission Agreement Officer (CAO):

Enrico Palo
Commission Agreement Officer
enrico.palo@energy.ca.gov
Subject: GFO-26-503

Key Activities and Dates

Activity	Anticipated Date
Solicitation Release	October 23, 2026
Pre-Application Workshop	November 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.
Deadline for Written Questions	**November 13, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**
Anticipated Distribution of Questions and Answers	Week of December 14, 2026
Support for Application Submission in ECAMS	January 26, 2027 at 5:00 p.m.
Deadline to Submit Applications (competitive and cost-share)	**January 26, 2027 at 11:59 p.m.**
Anticipated Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA) posting	Week of April 19, 2027
Anticipated CEC Business Meeting award approval	August 2027
Anticipated Agreement Start Date	September 2027
Prop 4 Encumbrance Deadline (grant funds must be awarded)	**June 30, 2028**
Project Online Deadline and Deadline to Submit CEC-Reimbursable Invoices	**March 31, 2030**
Prop 4 Liquidation Deadline (grant funds must be spent)	**June 30, 2030**

Funding, Eligibility, and Project Requirements GFO-26-503

Available Funding

Total grant funding of $23.1M to $46.1M is anticipated for competitive awards

Available CEC Funding	Minimum Award	Maximum Award	Minimum Match Funding (% of CEC funds requested)
$23.1-46.1 million	$2,000,000	$8,000,000	25% (or 10%)*

*For applications proposing to demonstrate meaningful and direct benefits to vulnerable populations and (severely) disadvantaged communities, minimum match funding is 10%.

- Minimum match funding example (25%): A project requesting $8,000,000 in CEC funding must contribute an additional minimum of $2,000,000 in match funds.
- Match funding may be cash or in-kind
- Must submit commitment letters **at the time of application**
- Up to 5 preference points are available for exceeding minimum match funding

Section I.E. “Funding”

Eligible Applicants

Prop 4 limits eligible applicants to:

- public agency
- local agency
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
- special district
- joint powers authority
- tribe
- public utility (includes investor-owned utility)
- local publicly owned utility
- mutual water company

An Eligible Applicant may submit **multiple applications** if each application is for:

- a different combination of eligible technologies; or
- different project sites with distinct locations

Applicable recipients, subrecipients, and vendors must be registered and in good standing with the **California Secretary of State** to enter into an agreement with the CEC: http://www.sos.ca.gov

Section II.A "Applicant Requirements"

Tribal Requirements

Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity

This solicitation requires a limited waiver of sovereign immunity due to:

- Potentially large award amounts, and;
- Long timelines for performance requirements

For questions, please contact:
Sierra Graves
CEC Director of Tribal Affairs
Sierra.Graves@energy.ca.gov

Find Project Partners on Empower Innovation

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	**RESOURCES & TOOLS**
Announce your interest in this funding opportunity and message other interested parties to find potential partners.	Browse the collection of resources for clean tech innovators including Resource Libraries, Funding Sources, Tools, and Databases.

Empower Innovation Link for GFO-26-503:

https://www.empowerinnovation.net/en/custom/funding/view/53978

Section II.A.1. “Eligibility”

Project Team Roles

May not claim profit

Recipient

A person or entity receiving a grant award under this solicitation. May be used interchangeably with "grant recipient".

Up to 10% profit

Subrecipient

A person or entity that receives grant funds directly from a grant Recipient and is entrusted to make decisions about how to conduct some of the grant's activities. A Subrecipient's role involves discretion over grant activities and is not merely just selling goods or services.

Fair & reasonable pricing

Vendor

A person or entity that sells goods or services to the grant Recipient, Subrecipient, or any lower-tiered level of Sub-Subrecipient, in exchange for some of the grant funds, and does not make decisions about how to perform the grant's activities. The Vendor's role is ministerial and does not involve discretion over grant activities.

Project Partner

A person or entity that contributes financially or otherwise to the project (e.g., match funding, provision of a deployment site) and does not receive CEC funds.

Section I.C. "Definitions of Keywords", Section III.D.6 "Budget", and CEC T&Cs

Location and Site

- Both behind-the-meter (BTM) and front-of-the-meter (FTM) DERs are eligible at existing or new facilities
- Must be connected to the distribution grid of a California utility
- Non-residential and aggregated residential sites are eligible
- Single site or multiple distinct sites allowed
- Verified site control documentation is required for each site,* including, but not limited to:
  - Executed lease agreement or host site agreement
  - Recorded easement
  - Proof of property
  - Letter of Commitment from project partner, if applicable

** Applications for aggregated residential sites are not subject to this criterion at the time of application submission.*

Eligible Technologies

Must be new, zero-emission (no GHGs or criteria pollutants)

1. **Energy Storage**
   - Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), thermal energy storage (TES)
   - Other mechanical or gravitational storage equipment, such as pumped hydro
   - Stationary storage as part of VGI infrastructure, excluding vehicle equipment

2. **Load Flexibility Enabling Technologies.** Controllers added to equipment to enable load flexibility.
   - Smart thermostats and other HVAC controllers
   - Water heater controllers
   - Advanced motor controls like variable frequency drives
   - VGI infrastructure used for bidirectional charging, excluding vehicle equipment

3. **Zero-Emission Distributed Generation (DG) Technologies**
   - Waste heat-to-power
   - Fuel cell and linear generators using green hydrogen fuel in a non-combustion process to generate electricity

4. **Microgrids.** Equipment necessary to manage and coordinate BTM loads and generation resources in grid-tied or island mode.
   - Microgrid controller

Ineligible Technologies

1. Projects relying on occupant behavioral changes
2. Diesel generators
3. Variable renewable resources, such as solar PV (including community solar) and wind turbines
4. Load-only appliances, such as electric water heaters, pool pumps, HVAC, EVs, EV batteries, unidirectional EVSE
5. Distributed generation technologies that generate electricity by combustion of chemical fuel at or near the point of use or are not zero-emissions at the installed site

Allowable Costs

Eligible for CEC reimbursement or as part of the Applicant's match share

1. Project pre-engineering and design.
2. Engineering plans and specifications.
3. Project installation, construction, modifications, and/or commissioning.
4. Equipment acquisition.
5. Warranty and/or maintenance contract costs associated with eligible project cost equipment (up to 10% of the total claimed project costs).

Unallowable Costs

Examples include:

1. Discounted or refunded equipment costs
2. Solar PV and wind turbines
3. Software-only costs
4. Permitting costs
5. Environmental mitigation requirements or compliance obligations imposed by law (Prop 4)
6. Building code compliance

Project Capacity and Duration

Nominated Capacity: Proposed project's incremental capacity to be committed to improving grid reliability in accordance with a proposed performance pathway.

- Should not include capacity for on-site backup reserves

Full Duration: the maximum duration (hours) the nominated capacity can be sustained.

Projects will be assessed based on a **4-hour** or **"Rated" Capacity**.

- Rated Capacity**:** the average power output or load shift/reduction level that can be sustained over a 4-hour period.
- If nominated capacity level can be maintained for 4 or more hours, the nominated and rated capacity will be considered equal.

Example:

- Aggregate nominated capacity: 20 MW
- Aggregate storage capacity: 40 MWh
- Full duration: 2 hours

➔ Rated capacity: 10 MW

Project Capacity and Duration (cont.)

Applications that propose **upgrading or replacing** an existing DER (including microgrids) must include:

- Metered baseline data showing the capacity capability of the existing DER(s) to measure and verify the incremental capacity added by the proposed project
- Explanation of the project budget and accounting methodology to ensure that CEC reimbursements are only for the costs associated with the added incremental capacity



Project Life

The application must indicate the project's expected lifespan (in number of years) and explain whether the project's committed capacity will:

1. Be sustained for the full duration over the lifespan
   - Describe any applicable measures or design features

   or

2. Decline over time
   - Provide expected average annual degradation rate

Q & A

Note: official responses will be provided in writing and posted on the GFO webpage

- Zoom
  - Enter question using Q&A box
  - Use the “raise hand” feature to ask questions
- Telephone
  - Dial *9 to raise your hand
  - *6 to mute/unmute your phone line. You may also use the mute feature on your phone
- When called upon
  - Your microphone will be opened
  - Unmute your line
  - State your name and identify your organization, then start your question

Performance, M&V, Reporting, and Project Readiness GFO-26-503

Performance Requirements

The project must meet the following performance requirements for three program seasons (May 1 – October 31):

1. Operate the project in accordance with selected performance pathway.
2. Strive to maximize benefits to the host site via bill savings/credits and/or earning compensation for providing grid services.
3. Meet the minimum dispatch requirements.

Performance Pathways

Available Performance Pathways

1. **Market-Integrated:** Dispatch in response to the applicable California BA market instructions.
2. **Market-Aware:** Dispatch in response to the applicable BA's "market" event.
3. **Hourly Dynamic Rate:** Dispatch in response to an hourly dynamic retail rate tariff.
4. **Daily Dispatch:** Dispatch daily in designated hours.

	FTM	BTM Storage	BTM Distributed Generation	BTM Load Flex
Pathway 1: Market-Integrated Dispatch	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pathway 2: Market-Aware Dispatch	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes
Pathway 3: Hourly Dynamic Pricing Dispatch	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pathway 4: Daily Dispatch	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes

N/A = Not Available

Dispatch Requirements

Applicable to <u>all</u> performance pathways

- The project operator is expected to make the project's nominated capacity available for its full duration dispatch every day during **Program Hours** (4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)
- The project must be dispatched in response to all **Program Events**, as defined below.

Program Event	Description

1. Day-Ahead Events	• Day-Ahead Market Event Trigger:
	  ○ CAISO day-ahead market price ≥$200/MWh, or
	  ○ Load (or net load) exceeds a specified threshold set by the host BA
	OR
	• Day-Ahead Emergency Trigger

2. Day-of Events (EEA)	• If an EEA Watch or above issued for the same day by the host BA
3. Test Events	• In the absence of a full duration day-ahead event in any month during the program season, a full duration dispatch must be conducted as a test event

Section II.B.5.a "Dispatch Requirements" and Section II.B.5.b "Program Events"

Measurement Hours

Applicable to <u>all</u> performance pathways

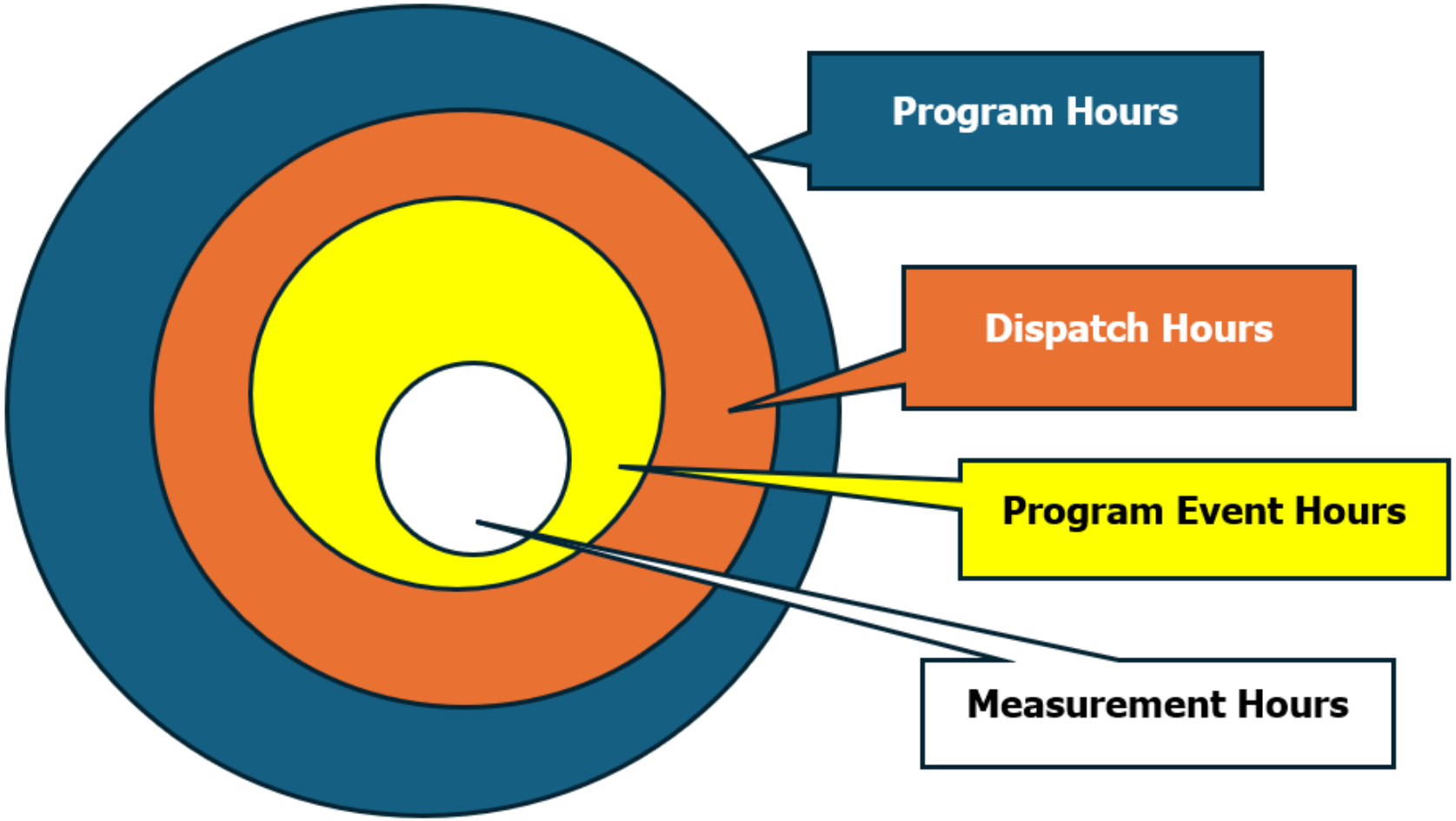
A project's performance will be determined by measuring "demonstrated capacity" during the below applicable Measurement Hours:

1. Any required test events; plus
2. Hours in which a day-ahead EEA Watch is called; plus
3. All day-ahead market events up to a maximum of the top 48 hours with the:
   - highest *day-ahead* locational marginal prices (LMPs) (CAISO)

   or

   - highest load (net load) (non-CAISO balancing authority area)

Relationship Between Types of Hours



- Dispatch Hours are the total number of hours a project is dispatched and depend on the selected performance pathway.
- All other hours are the same across all pathways.

Measurement & Verification

1. **Dispatch Performance**
   - Measured generation, discharge, or load impact
     - Applications must include proposed measurement methodology details, such as baseline approach, as applicable
2. **Determination of Demonstrated Capacity Performance in CAISO BA**
   - Weighted average of hourly dispatch across Measurement Hours
   - **Non-weather-sensitive projects**: LMP-weighted average of measured hourly dispatch performance
   - **Weather-sensitive projects**: hourly performance will be adjusted to reflect the project's weather-normalized capability expected at an appropriately selected planning temperature reasonably applicable during program hours.
     - Applicants must submit additional details to support temperature-dependent demonstrated capacity values.
3. **Outside of CAISO BA, work with the host BA for alternative to LMP weighting factor**

Section II.B.6. "Measurement and Verification"

Reporting Requirements

Recipients must develop and submit the following:

1. **Monthly Status Updates** with applicable performance data
2. **Quarterly Progress Reports** on site construction, operations, and performance, and any benefits to Disadvantaged Communities or Vulnerable Populations
3. **Annual Measurement & Verification Reports** at the end of each calendar year
   - Must report on 3 program seasons of performance after the **project online date** (no later than **March 31, 2030,** and defined as the date the project is considered active and operational consistent with the selected performance pathway)
4. **Evaluation of Project Benefits**
   - Project Benefits Questionnaire
   - Annual Evaluation of Project Performance Report for each program season
5. **Final Report** at the conclusion of the agreement term

- Note: CEC funds cannot be used after the liquidation deadline (June 30, 2030). Match funds may be used for grant activities.

Project Readiness Requirements

Requirement	Description
CEQA and Land Use Permitting:	Documentation of completed or pending approval of the project by the local land use authority. As applicable, documentation of a local agency's determination of CEQA exemption.
Fire Safety Permitting:	As applicable, documentation from the local fire marshal specifying permitting status and safety measures.
Utility Interconnection:	As applicable, documentation of the status of any interconnection studies.

Relevant Application Attachments to Demonstrate Project Readiness:

- Project Narrative (Att. 02)
- Project Schedule (Att. 04)
- CEQA Compliance Form (Att. 07)
- Project Readiness Checklist (Att. 12)

Section II.B.9. "Project Readiness"

Environmental Requirements

CEC must make independent environmental findings, relying on CEQA documentation from the Lead Agency, when considering a proposed award at a business meeting:

- Documentation must demonstrate that the Lead Agency completed and adopted a negative declaration, a mitigated negative declaration, or an environmental impact report, together with specific mitigation measures to avoid or minimize significant environmental impacts.
- CEC will rely on that documentation to analyze the impacts of proposed grant funding, and make findings concerning those impacts prior to considering awarding funds at a business meeting

CEC will prioritize projects where there is:

- A local or other state agency serving as the Lead Agency under CEQA;
- Existing environmental documentation that the CEC can rely upon under CEQA to make its own independent findings as a Responsible Agency

Q & A

Note: official responses will be provided in writing and posted on the GFO webpage

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  - Enter question using Q&A box
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- When called upon
  - Your microphone will be opened
  - Unmute your line
  - State your name and identify your organization, then start your question

Evaluation and Award Process
GFO-26-503

Application Evaluation

Phase One:

- Administrative Screening (Pass/Fail)
- Technical Screening (Pass/Fail)
- Past Performance Screening (Pass/Fail)

Phase Two:

- Technical Evaluation (Scoring Criteria)

To be completed by Contracts Grants & Loans Office

To be completed by Evaluation Committee

Scoring Criteria

Base Points

Applications passing all screening criteria will be submitted to the Evaluation Committee.

- Evaluation Committee applies the "scoring scale" to the scoring criteria.
- Minimum scores required for application to be eligible for funding
  - 70% for Criterion 1,
  - 70% for Criterion 2,
  - 70% for Criterion 3,
  - 70% for Criteria 1-5

	Scoring Criteria	Max Points
1	**Contribution to Reliability and Other Benefits**	**25**
2	**Project Timeline and Management**	**25**
3	**Project Readiness**	**20**
4	Funding and Reasonable Budget	15
5	Cost-Effectiveness	15
	Total Possible Points	**100**

Section IV.E.2. "Scoring Criteria"

Scoring Criteria

Preference Points

- Applications must meet all minimum passing Base Points scores to be eligible for additional Preference Points.
- An Application can earn a maximum of 25 Preference Points.

	Preference Points	Max Points
6	Direct and Meaningful Benefits to Vulnerable Populations or (Severely) Disadvantaged Communities	10
7	Exceeding Minimum Match Funding Requirement	5
8	Received Federal Funding that Supports Critical Infrastructure	5
9	Application Uses Services of Community Conservation Corps	5
	Total Maximum Preference Points	**25**

Scoring Scale

- For each criterion/sub-criterion, an application will be scored on a scale from 0% - 100% based on scale table =>
- For example, if a particular criterion of the application is worth 10 points, the table on this slide will inform how many points are awarded.
- When preparing the application, please carefully review the description of the quality level required in the application's response to achieve a particular scoring scale.

% of Possible Points	Interpretation	Description
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.

Section IV.E.1. "Scoring Scale"

#1 Contribution to Reliability & Other Benefits

Base Points

Maximum Points: 25 (Minimum 70% required)

Key sub-criteria to be described in application:

- Nominated capacity and duration
- Expected lifespan
- Need for project
- Performance pathway
- Measurement & verification data requirements
- Non-reliability benefits

#2 Project Timeline and Management

Base Points

Maximum Points: 25 (Minimum 70% required)

Key sub-criteria to be described in application:

- Success and risk factors
- Project team qualifications, experience, financial stability, capabilities
- Team structure, including organization chart
- Facilities, infrastructure, resources
- Project schedule

#3 Project Readiness

Base Points

Maximum Points: 20 (Minimum 70% required)

Key sub-criteria to be described in application:

- Completed or pending approval by the local land use authority, including CEQA compliance
- Fire safety permitting, as applicable
- Interconnection status, as applicable
- Verified site control
- Details of work to be performed in scope of work

#4 Funding and Reasonable Budget

Base Points

Maximum Points: 15

Key sub-criteria to be described in application:

- Need for DEBA funding and how funds will be spent
- If applicable, description of any complementary compensation as an offset to allowable costs
- Reasonableness of the requested funds
- Budget risks and contingencies, including any interdependencies between DEBA-funded activities and non-DEBA funded activities (e.g. co-located solar PV serving DEBA funded asset)
- Adherence to Prop 4 statutory funding restrictions (e.g. exclusion from the rate base, no shareholder profit)
- Complete budget forms, including match funding
- Price quotes from vendors to justify cost estimates

#5 Cost-Effectiveness

Base Points

Maximum Points: 15

Projects with a lower **Cost Metric (CEC $ / MW)** will receive more points

Projects will be assessed and scored as follows:

The difference between the lowest and highest CM projects of the submitted applications will be divided into 10 equal bands.

- Projects in Band 1 (lowest) will receive 100% of available points
- Projects in Band 10 (highest) will receive 10% of available points
- Projects in intermediate Band N will receive a score of {100% - [N-1) x 10%]} of the available points

#6 Direct and Meaningful Benefits to Vulnerable Populations and (S)DACs

Preference Points

Maximum Points: 10

Preference points available for projects proposing meaningful and direct benefits to Vulnerable Populations and (Severely) Disadvantaged Communities.

The Applicant must address:

a. What benefit(s) will the project provide?
b. Who is receiving the benefits?
c. Are the anticipated project benefits "meaningful and direct"?

See CNRA "Meaningful and Direct Benefits Assessment" at https://bondaccountability.resources.ca.gov/Home/Prop4Documents

Community Category	% Subprojects	Score
Vulnerable Population and/or SDAC	**≥50%**	**10**
Vulnerable Population and/or SDAC	<50%	5
Disadvantaged Community	**≥50%**	**5**
Disadvantaged Community	<50%	2.5

- Preference points based on highest scoring category only
- Categories will not be added or averaged
- Applications proposing multiple locations where some, but not all, subprojects benefit qualifying communities, either 1) full points if ≥ 50% of subprojects demonstrate benefits; 2) half points if <50% of subprojects demonstrate benefits

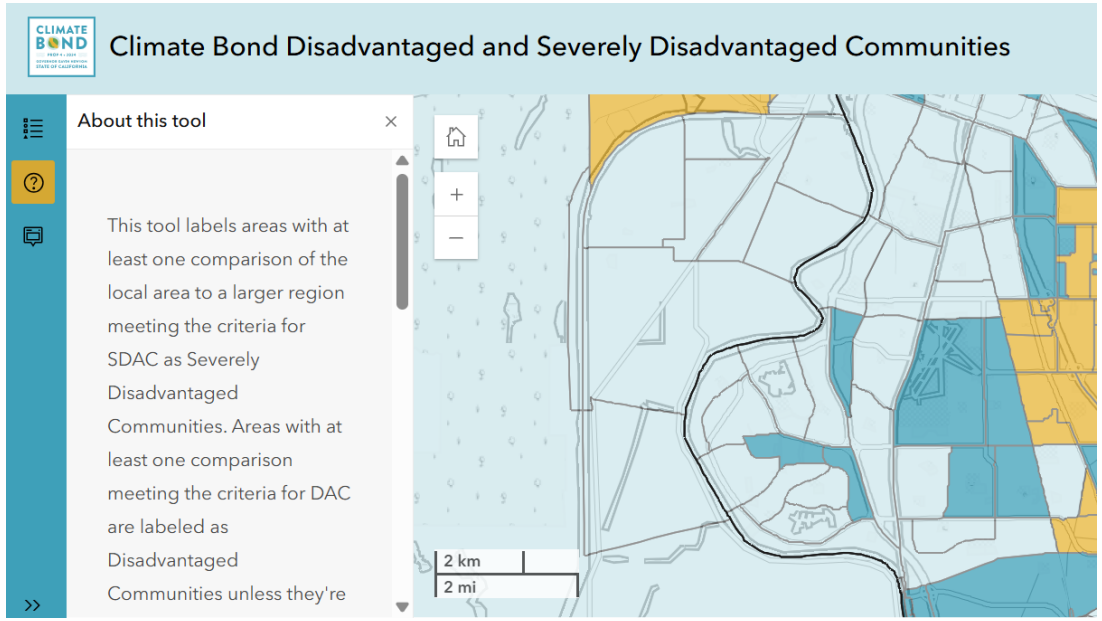
Section IV.E.2. "Scoring Criteria"

Mapping Tools

Vulnerable Populations and (S)DACs

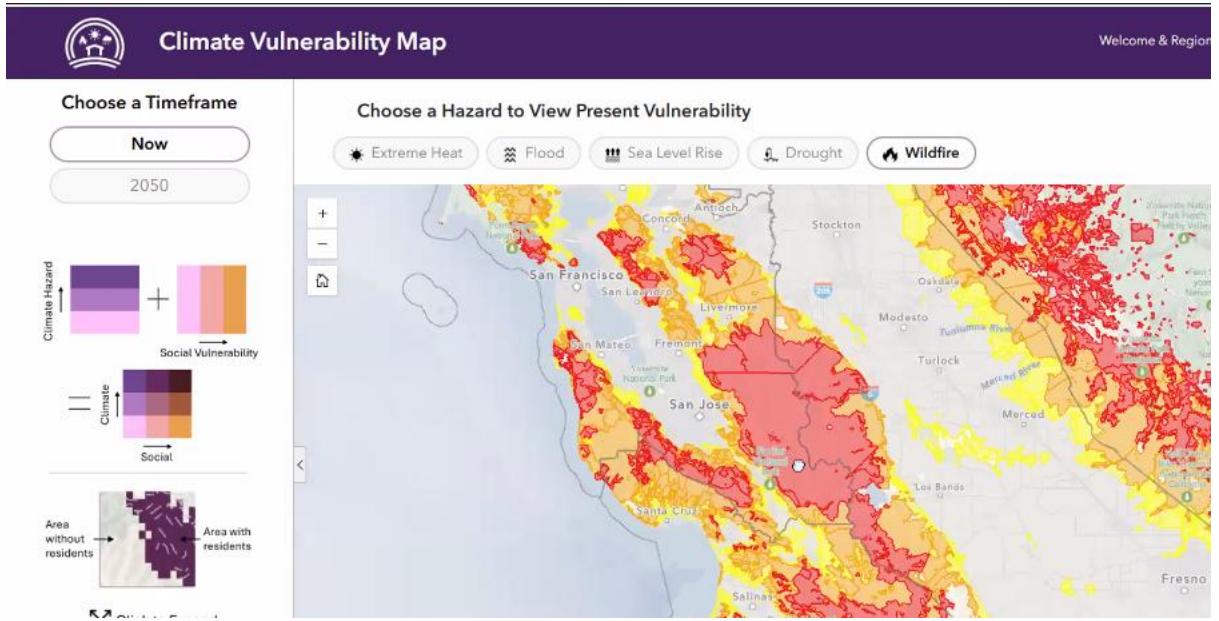
Climate Bond DAC Map:

https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/aa723fdf521a44c9a428f1a46cd38a09



Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP):

https://vcp.lci.ca.gov/



If seeking points for benefits to vulnerable populations (except tribes), application must include a report (using the VCP Report Generator) demonstrating qualifying communities meet the VCP requirements.

#7 Exceeding Minimum Match Funding Requirement

Preference Points

Maximum Points: 5

Preference points available on a sliding scale:

Match Percentage (cash and in-kind)	Score
15-19*	0.5
20-29*	1.0
30-39	1.5
40-49	2.0
50-59	2.5
60-69	3.0
70-79	3.5
80-89	4.0
90-99	4.5
100 or more	5.0

*Available only for applications proposing projects demonstrating meaningful and direct benefits to Vulnerable Populations and (S)DACs where 10% minimum match funding is required

Section IV.E.2. “Scoring Criteria”

#8 Received Federal Funding for Critical Infrastructure

Preference Points

Maximum Points: 5

Preference points available to projects receiving federal funding that supports critical infrastructure*, such as a water utility project, only if federal funding is secure and in place:

- Signed letter from the federal awarding agency
- Copy of the project description receiving the federal award that demonstrates eligibility for Prop 4 DEBA funding
- Description of any applicable executive orders or litigation that may terminate, postpone, or interfere with the federal funding

*As defined by the applicable federal Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

#9 Application Uses Community Conservation Corps

Preference Points

Maximum Points: 5

- Preference points available to projects including the use of CCC services
- To be eligible for these preference points, a signed Letter of Commitment from the conservation corps must be included with application

Ranking and Notice of Proposed Awards



Applicants passing administrative, technical, and past performance screening will **compete based on evaluation criteria** and will be scored and ranked based on those criteria.



Applications with a minimum passing score will be recommended for funding in **ranked order** until all funds available are exhausted.



If the funds available are insufficient to fully fund a grant proposal, CEC reserves the right to recommend **partially funding** that proposal.



Projects recommended for funding will be included in a Notice of Proposed Awards (NOPA).

Next Steps After Notice of Proposed Award

- **Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA):** Shows total proposed funding amounts, rank order of applicants, and the amount of each proposed award
- **Applicant Debriefings:** Applicants may request a debrief of their application evaluation within 15 days of the NOPA posting
- **Agreement Development:** Proposal documents will be incorporated 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)

Section IV.B.1. "Ranking and Notice of Proposed Award"

Q & A

Note: official responses will be provided in writing and posted on the GFO webpage

- Zoom
  - Enter question using Q&A box
  - Use the “raise hand” feature to ask questions
- Telephone
  - Dial *9 to raise your hand
  - *6 to mute/unmute your phone line. You may also use the mute feature on your phone
- When called upon
  - Your microphone will be opened
  - Unmute your line
  - State your name and identify your organization, then start your question

Application Organization
GFO-26-503

Application Content

Each applicant must complete and include the following:

Attachments for Completion	
1. Application Form	8. Current and Past Projects Information
2. Project Narrative Form	9. Commitment and Support Letters Form
3. Project Team Form	10. Measurement & Verification Plan
4. Scope of Work Template	11. Applicant Declaration
5. Project Schedule	12. Project Readiness Checklist
6. Budget	13. Confidential Recipient Information and Pre-Existing Intellectual Property
7. CEQA Compliance Form - *required for each geographically distinct location*	

Section III.D. “Required Application Attachments”

Application Content (cont.)

Each applicant must review the following:

Attachments for Review Only
14. Terms and Conditions
15. Special Terms and Conditions
15a. Insolvency, Bankruptcy or Receivership
15b. DEBA Program
15c. Data Sharing Agreement
15d. California Native American Tribes and Tribal Organizations with Sovereign Immunity

Application Format

Format

Category	Requirement
Font	11-point Arial
Margins	≥1” on all sides
Spacing	Single-spaced; blank line between paragraphs
Page Numbers	Bottom of each page
File Format	Microsoft Word 2007 or later (.doc or .docx)

Maximum Number of Pages

Document	Requirement
Narrative	30 pages
Resumes	2 pages per team member
Scope of Work	30 pages
Past Projects Information	2 pages per past project
Letters of Commitment/Support	2 pages per letter

Section III.A “Application Format, Page Limits”

Application Form

Attachment 01

- Provide basic information about the applicant and the project, including requested funding and subrecipients
- Agree to all required authorizations and certifications
- Must be completed and signed as a .pdf

Attachment 01
Application Form

See the formatting recommendations in the solicitation manual, Part III, Section A.

This form provides the California Energy Commission (CEC) with basic information about the applicant and the project. Each applicant must complete and sign this form as a .pdf. If an applicant submits multiple applications, each application must be for either a different combination of eligible technology equipment to be installed or different identifiable project sites. If an Applicant proposes multiple, geographically distinct sites within a single application, each site will be classified as a "subproject" for the purposes of completing environmental review and demonstrating site control.

Instructions and examples for completing this Attachment appear in blue. Read the instructions before completing each section. Delete the instructions and examples after completing each section.

Applicant Information	
Applicant's Legal Name:	
Is the Applicant submitting more than one application?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Federal Tax ID #:	XX-XXXXXXX
Project Manager: (serves as the point of contact for all communications)	Name: Title: Street Address: City, State, and Zip Code: Phone Number: ( ) – E-Mail Address:

Project Title
Insert project title

Project Description, Benefits, Goals, and Objectives
Include minimum project capacity and availability. 1-2 paragraphs. This language will be used in documents required by internal CEC documents and public descriptions of the project if awarded.

Project Narrative

Attachment 02

Respond to the subcriterion in Section IV.E.2 “Scoring Criteria,” including:

- Why the project is needed and the benefits that will result
- The amount of nominated capacity and duration that will be committed to improve grid reliability
- Explain success and risk factors, including a risk mitigation plan
- Demonstrate the project team has the appropriate experience and resources
- Describe project readiness, including CEQA compliance
- Demonstrate a need for funding and justify the reasonableness of the requested funds (CEC and match)
- Provide justification if seeking preference points

Project Team Form

Attachment 03

- Identify all key personnel assigned to the project including the project manager and individuals employed by any major subrecipient
- “Key personnel” are individuals that are critical to the project due to their experience, knowledge, and/or capabilities
- Clearly describe individual areas of responsibilities for each “key personnel”
- Attach a resume for each individual (2 pages maximum)



Scope of Work

Attachment 04

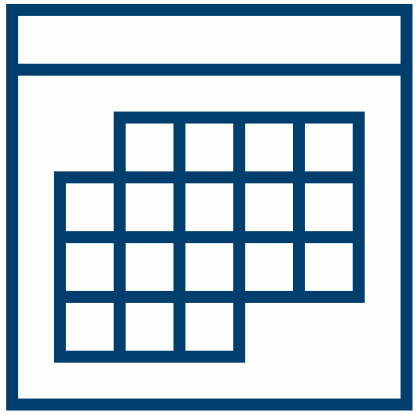
Identifies all the tasks necessary to complete the entire project:

- Applicant must describe the agreement purpose and goals & objectives
- Mandatory tasks (*applicant cannot change*):
  - General Project Tasks: Kickoff Meeting, CPRs, Monthly Status Updates, Final Report, Final Meeting
  - Annual M&V Reporting, Evaluation of Project Benefits, Project Fact Sheet
- Technical tasks (*applicant must propose*):
  - At least one product deliverable per task
  - Address project requirements in Section II.B of the solicitation manual

Project Schedule

Attachment 05

- Propose completion dates for each product in the Scope of Work
- Must include the anticipated project online date (prior to March 31, 2030)
- Ensure work aligns with the solicitation's Key Activities and Dates (Section I.D)

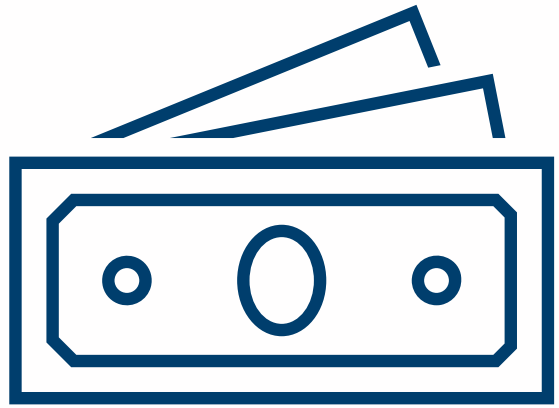


Budget

Attachment 06

The Budget must identify how CEC and Match funds will be spent to complete the project

- Subrecipients receiving ≥$100,000 of CEC funds must submit a separate budget form



Recommended resources:

- Section III.D.6 “Budget (Attachment 06)” of the solicitation manual
- The “Instructions” tab of the Budget worksheet
- ECAMS Resources, “Budget Category Guidance” at: https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources/ecams-resources

CEQA Compliance Form

Attachment 07

- Facilitates the CEC's evaluation of proposed activities as a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Helps applicants identify which proposed activities may be exempt from CEQA and which may require additional environmental review by a local Lead Agency
- Must be completed regardless of whether the proposed activities are considered a “project” under CEQA
- Applications proposing multiple, geographically distinct sites must ensure that the CEQA Compliance Form addresses each site.

Mark off relevant submitted CEQA documentation in the Project Readiness Checklist (Attachment 12)

Current and Past Projects Information Form

Attachment 08

- Asks for information about the applicant and major subrecipients' current and past agreements with the CEC and other entities (e.g., other public agencies, California utilities, the U.S. Department of Energy)
- Any experience of either the prime applicant or its subrecipients working with the CEC or other entities, as a prime or sub, within the past 5 years
- Describe up to 3 past projects and include copies of recent publications, as applicable



Commitment and Support Letters

Attachment 09

- Commitment letters are <u>required</u>:
  - for entities or individuals that are committing **match funding**, including the Applicant (prime)
  - if a project partner is **providing a site**
- All applicants must submit <u>at least one</u> support letter
- Up to 2 pages per letter

- **Commitment Letter:** commits an entity or individual to providing the service or funding described
- **Support Letter:** details an entity or individual's support for the project

Measurement & Verification Plan

Attachment 10

Describe the types of data, data analyses, and methodology for data collection for reporting on project performance and benefits.

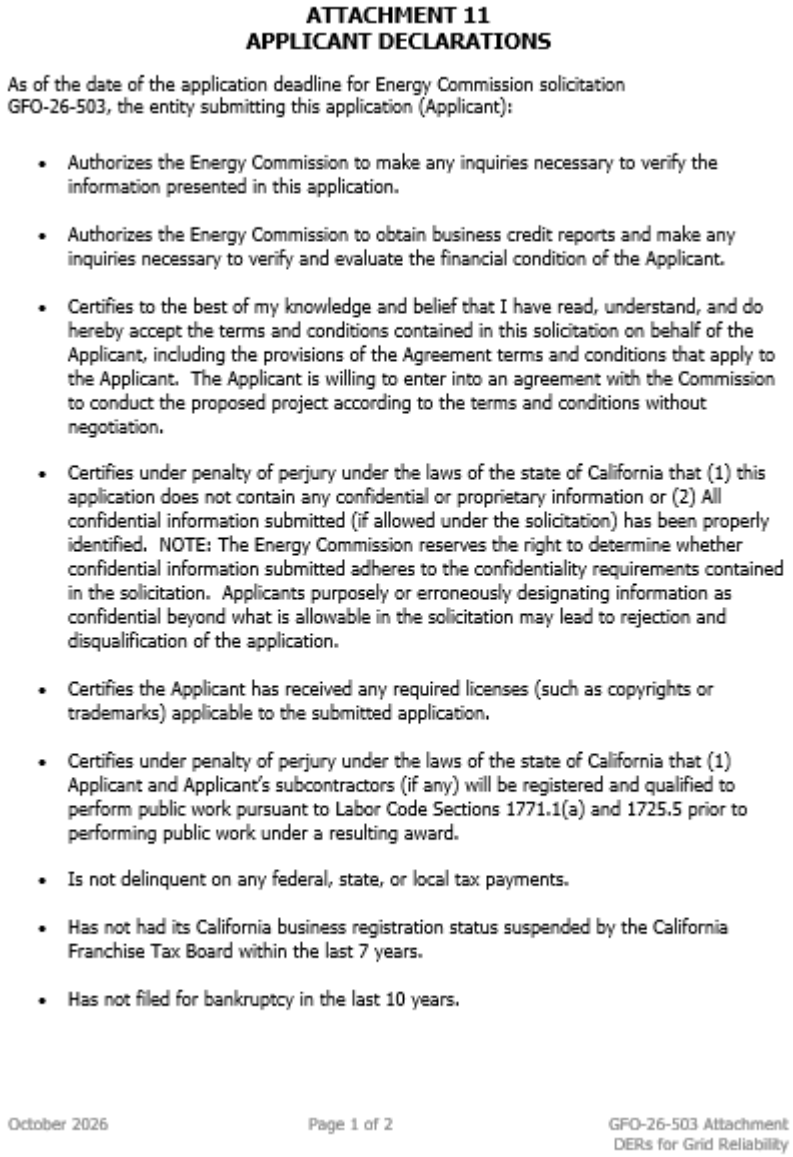
- Select one performance pathway
- Describe project capacity, duration, and lifespan
- How will the project demonstrate compliance with dispatch requirements applicable to the chosen pathway?
- What is the proposed plan for quality control of data streams (e.g., submetered charge and discharge data or device-level load data) to meet pathway requirements and measure incremental generation or load reduction?



Applicant Declarations

Attachment 11

- Requests the Applicant make certain declarations under penalty of perjury
- Must be signed by an Authorized Representative of the Applicant's organization



ATTACHMENT 11
APPLICANT DECLARATIONS

As of the date of the application deadline for Energy Commission solicitation GFO-26-503, the entity submitting this application (Applicant):

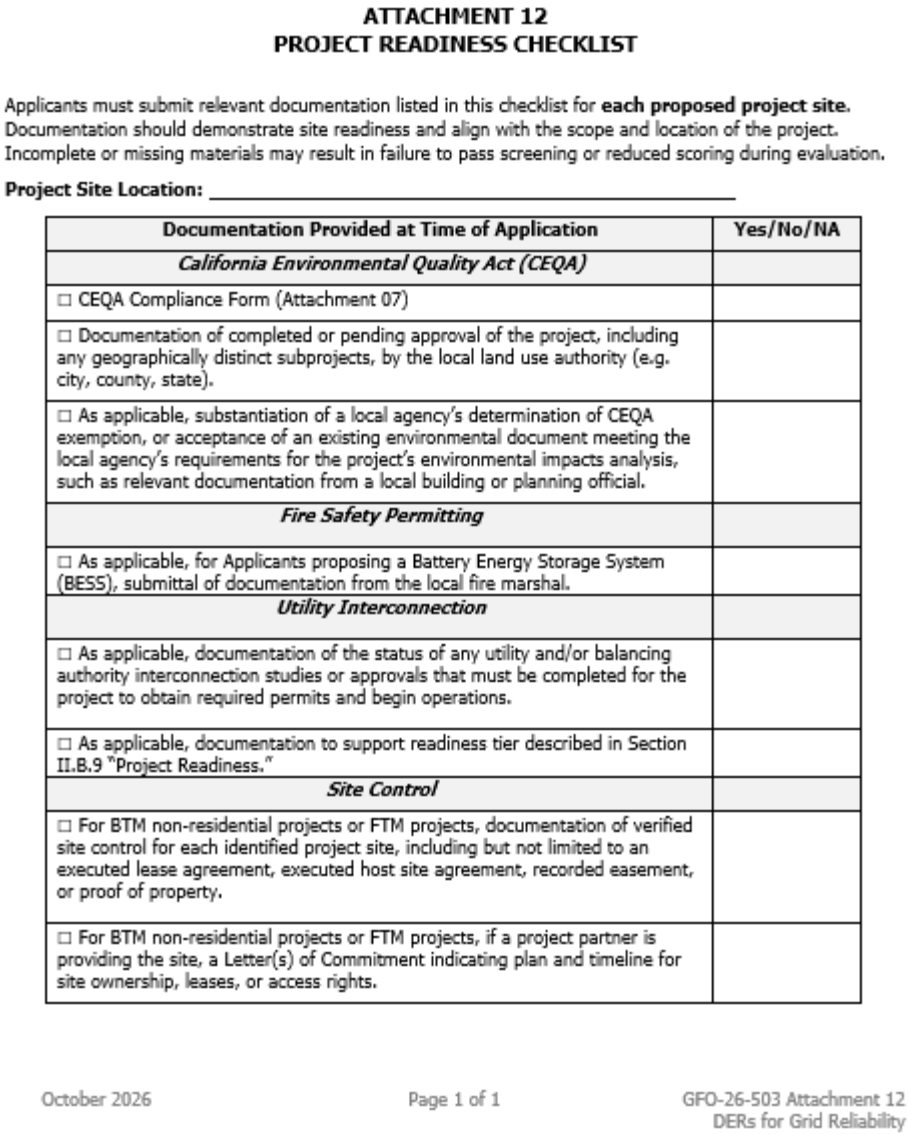
- Authorizes the Energy Commission to make any inquiries necessary to verify the information presented in this application.
- Authorizes the Energy Commission to obtain business credit reports and make any inquiries necessary to verify and evaluate the financial condition of the Applicant.
- Certifies to the best of my knowledge and belief that I have read, understand, and do hereby accept the terms and conditions contained in this solicitation on behalf of the Applicant, including the provisions of the Agreement terms and conditions that apply to the Applicant. The Applicant is willing to enter into an agreement with the Commission to conduct the proposed project according to the terms and conditions without negotiation.
- Certifies under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of California that (1) this application does not contain any confidential or proprietary information or (2) All confidential information submitted (if allowed under the solicitation) has been properly identified. NOTE: The Energy Commission reserves the right to determine whether confidential information submitted adheres to the confidentiality requirements contained in the solicitation. Applicants purposely or erroneously designating information as confidential beyond what is allowable in the solicitation may lead to rejection and disqualification of the application.
- Certifies the Applicant has received any required licenses (such as copyrights or trademarks) applicable to the submitted application.
- Certifies under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of California that (1) Applicant and Applicant's subcontractors (if any) will be registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to Labor Code Sections 1771.1(a) and 1725.5 prior to performing public work under a resulting award.
- Is not delinquent on any federal, state, or local tax payments.
- Has not had its California business registration status suspended by the California Franchise Tax Board within the last 7 years.
- Has not filed for bankruptcy in the last 10 years.

Section III.D. "Required Application Attachments"

Project Readiness Checklist

Attachment 12

- Applicants must complete and submit a Project Readiness Checklist for each proposed project site.
- The documentation should demonstrate site readiness as it pertains to CEQA, fire safety permitting, interconnection status, and site control.
- The documentation should align with the scope and location of the project.
- Incomplete or missing materials may result in reduced scoring during evaluation.



ATTACHMENT 12
PROJECT READINESS CHECKLIST

Applicants must submit relevant documentation listed in this checklist for **each proposed project site.** Documentation should demonstrate site readiness and align with the scope and location of the project. Incomplete or missing materials may result in failure to pass screening or reduced scoring during evaluation.

Project Site Location: _____

Documentation Provided at Time of Application	Yes/No/NA
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)	
☐ CEQA Compliance Form (Attachment 07)	
☐ Documentation of completed or pending approval of the project, including any geographically distinct subprojects, by the local land use authority (e.g. city, county, state).	
☐ As applicable, substantiation of a local agency's determination of CEQA exemption, or acceptance of an existing environmental document meeting the local agency's requirements for the project's environmental impacts analysis, such as relevant documentation from a local building or planning official.	
Fire Safety Permitting	
☐ As applicable, for Applicants proposing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), submittal of documentation from the local fire marshal.	
Utility Interconnection	
☐ As applicable, documentation of the status of any utility and/or balancing authority interconnection studies or approvals that must be completed for the project to obtain required permits and begin operations.	
☐ As applicable, documentation to support readiness tier described in Section II.B.9 "Project Readiness."	
Site Control	
☐ For BTM non-residential projects or FTM projects, documentation of verified site control for each identified project site, including but not limited to an executed lease agreement, executed host site agreement, recorded easement, or proof of property.	
☐ For BTM non-residential projects or FTM projects, if a project partner is providing the site, a Letter(s) of Commitment indicating plan and timeline for site ownership, leases, or access rights.	

October 2026 Page 1 of 1 GFO-26-503 Attachment 12 DERs for Grid Reliability

Section III.D. "Required Application Attachments"

Confidential Recipient Information and Pre-Existing Intellectual Property

Attachment 13

This form lists:

- products the CEC designates as confidential and;
- asks for information about the Applicant's pre-existing intellectual property

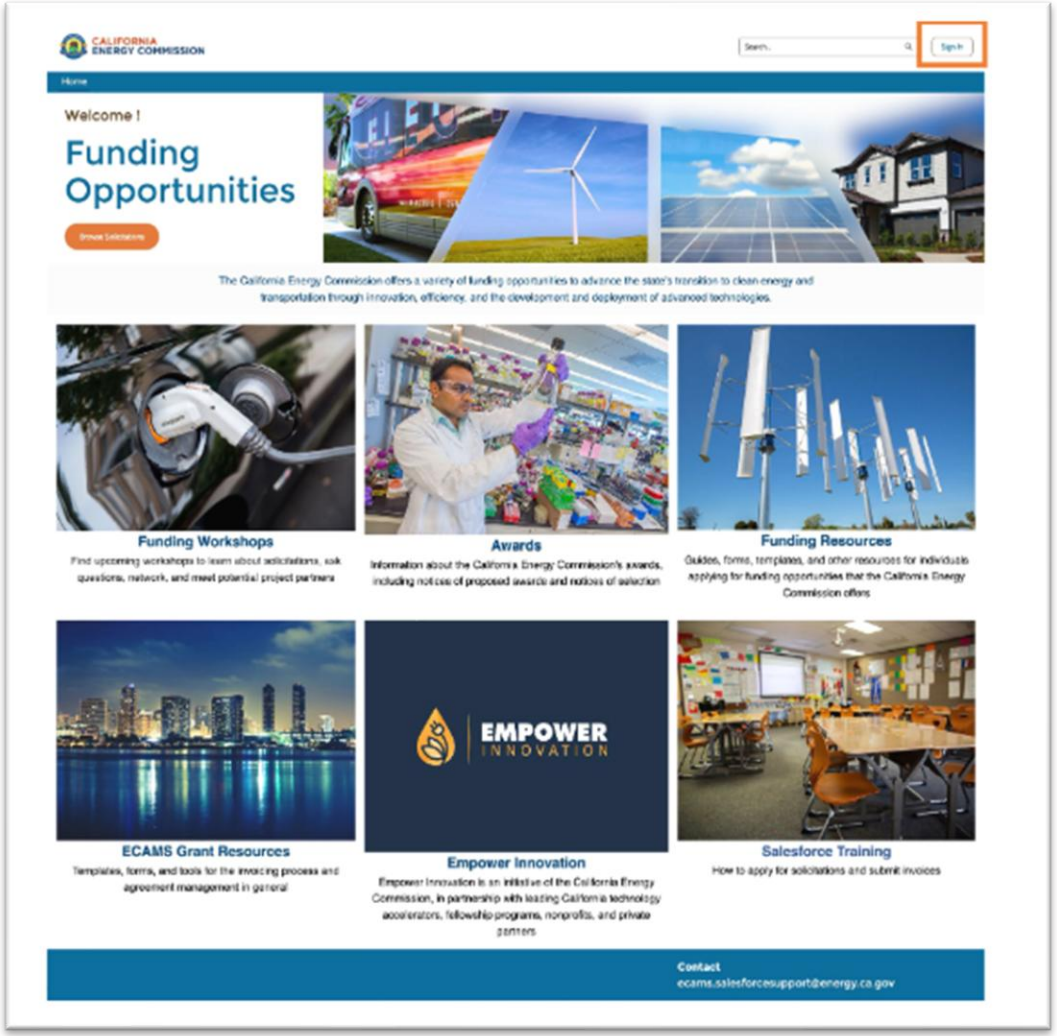


Application Submission
GFO-26-503

Application Submission Requirements

ECAMS is the only method for submitting applications

- **Applications must be submitted through the Energy Commission Agreement Management System (ECAMS) at: https://ecams.energy.ca.gov/**
- Applicants must have or must create a user account to submit a solicitation application
- **To create an account, please see User Registration Instructions at: https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/7893**
- Note: one account manager per organization, but users can be added by the account manager



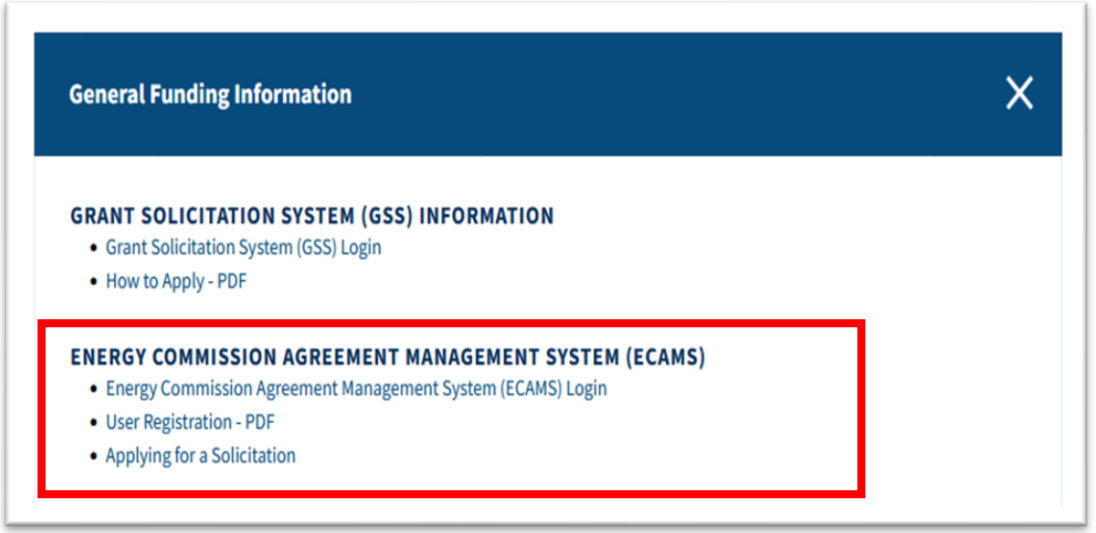
Application Submission Requirements (cont.)

Informational Resources

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

- Questions regarding the ECAMS system should be directed to: ECAMS.SalesforceSupport@energy.ca.gov

- ECAMS support is ONLY available from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday-Friday



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

Application Submission Requirements (cont.)

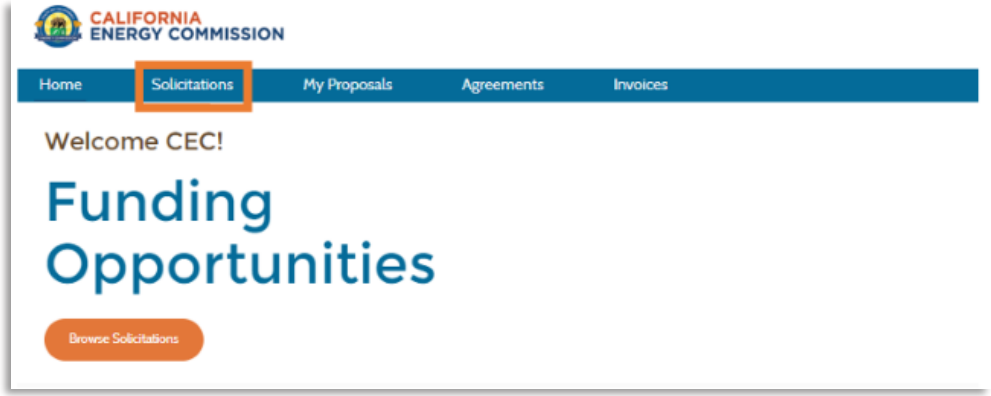
Submission Warnings

START THE PROCESS EARLY!

- Applications must be fully submitted BEFORE the deadline listed in Section I.D "Key Activities Schedule" of 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
- CEC strongly encourages applicants to upload and submit all applications by 5:00 p.m. on a weekday because staff are not available after hours or on weekends to assist

Application Submission Steps

- 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 the ECAMS system that submission was successful



All steps must be complete BEFORE the submission deadline

Application Reminders

Applicants should carefully review applications before submission

- ❑ Verify that all necessary documents have been uploaded
- ❑ Verify that all documents uploaded are the accurate version intended to be submitted as final
- ❑ Verify that documents are not marked “confidential” (CEC will not accept, evaluate, or retain applications that identify any portion as confidential)
- ❑ Verify that match commitment letters accurately reflect the match amounts included in the budget, including match provided by the prime applicant
- ❑ Verify that support and commitment letters are included
- ❑ Verify that amounts entered in the system’s budget concur with information included on uploaded budget worksheets

Final Q&A
GFO-26-503

Q & A

Note: official responses will be provided in writing and posted on the GFO webpage

- Zoom
  - Enter question using Q&A box
  - Use the “raise hand” feature to ask questions
- Telephone
  - Dial *9 to raise your hand
  - *6 to mute/unmute your phone line. You may also use the mute feature on your phone
- When called upon
  - Your microphone will be opened
  - Unmute your line
  - State your name and identify your organization, then start your question

Additional Questions

Please send all questions related to GFO-26-503 to:

Enrico Palo

Commission Agreement Officer

715 P Street, MS-18

Sacramento, CA 95814

enrico.palo@energy.ca.gov

Deadline to submit questions:

November 13, 2026

Adjourn