Geothermal Notice of Intent

The California Energy Commission (CEC) intends to release a competitive solicitation in the first quarter of 2027 to support geothermal exploration and appraisal drilling with the goal of advancing in-state mapping, characterization, and development of California's geothermal resources.

Geothermal energy provides clean, firm, around-the-clock power and is a key resource for meeting the state's Senate Bill 100 (2018) goal of 100 percent clean electricity by 2045. However, high upfront exploration costs and resource uncertainty remain major barriers to new geothermal development. This solicitation will help lower that early-stage risk. It will support activities that improve understanding of subsurface resources and move promising sites toward development. Projects targeting previously unexamined formations will be preferred as the state seeks to expand the geographic extent of geothermal development.

Program details

- **Anticipated Release:** January 2027
- **Total Funding Available:** Up to $18,000,000
- **Anticipated Awards:** 3 to 4 awards, ranging from $4.5 million to $6 million each; anticipate May or June 2027 business meeting approval.
- **Eligibility:** All projects must be located in California.
- **Match Funding:** Applicants must provide match funding equal to at least 100 percent of the CEC funds requested. For example, an applicant requesting $5 million must commit at least $5 million in match funding.
- **Authorizing Legislation:** Projects must meet the requirements of Senate Bill 111 and Assembly Bill 113 (Budget Act of 2026), Section 13, as well as all requirements of the solicitation.

All projects must include a drilling component. Other eligible activities may include:

- Geologic, geophysical, and geochemical surveys and resource mapping
- Exploration drilling, including temperature-gradient, slim-hole, and confirmation wells
- Reservoir characterization, testing, and data analysis
- Community and tribal engagement, including early outreach to local communities and California Native American tribes

Stay informed:
The CEC will announce the solicitation release and any pre-application workshop

through the Geothermal Energy email subscription list. To receive updates, subscribe at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/31719. Information will also be posted on the CEC's Funding Opportunities page at https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations.

Questions may be directed to Chuck Gentry, Mechanical Engineer, at chuck.gentry@energy.ca.gov.

This notice is for informational purposes only. Final requirements, funding amounts, and schedules will be set out in the solicitation and may differ from what is described here.

More Information:

- Senate Bill 111: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB111
- Assembly Bill 113: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB113