

# The Council's Policy Call

February 19, 2021



*Advancing Our Clean Economy*

# → Today's Agenda

## Council News

- Welcome New Members
- Member Working Group Update
- What's Coming Up
- Capitol Update

## Issues/Topics

- Final Resolution E-5115 (Serj)
- CPUC DER Procurement Pilot PD (Greg)
- CPUC Ruling on Requirements for Program Changes (Serj)
- EE Solicitations Stakeholder Forum Survey (Greg)

## → Welcome New Members

- Greencat Inc. is a SoCal-based home performance energy efficiency contractor.
- They specialize in customized HVAC and insulation retrofits combined with extensive knowledge of building science.

**GREENCAT**

**ENERSPONSE**

- Enersponse Inc. is a DR load aggregator based on Southern California.
- They specialize in DR aggregation for multi-site organizations, partnering with OpenADR technology providers to enable reliable and automated curtailment.

## → Welcome New Members (cont.)

- Verdant Associates LLC is a California-based woman owned and operated business providing objective data-driven analysis and advisory services to utilities, government agencies, and private businesses.
- Their mission is to facilitate the transition to a resilient and equitable low carbon future through robust, transparent, actionable, and unbiased analysis.



# ➤ Member Working Group Update

| Working Group         | Meeting Frequency | Staff Lead |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Solicitations         | Monthly           | Greg       |
| Custom Review         | Monthly           | Greg       |
| Capitol               | Bi-monthly        | Serj       |
| Federal Legislation   | Bi-monthly        | Greg       |
| NMEC                  | Monthly           | Greg       |
| Market Transformation | Monthly           | Serj       |
| DR Regulatory         | As Needed         | Greg       |
| DR Action Plan        | Monthly           | Greg       |
| Cost-Effectiveness    | Monthly           | Serj       |

- All Working Group meeting notes are available on the Members-only section of [www.cedmc.org](http://www.cedmc.org).
- All members are welcome to join any working group; contact Greg, Serj or Mary to get signed up.

# ➤ What's Coming Up?

- **LBNL Webinar: Trends in System Impacts, Reliability, Market Value of Solar in the United States**
  - February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 am
  - Webinar will summarize key findings from Berkeley Lab's new [Solar-to-Grid report](#)
  - Register [here](#)
- **CPUC Electric and Gas Rates and Costs En Banc**
  - February 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 4 pm
  - CPUC-hosted En Banc will center around themes and concepts raised by a CPUC-authored whitepaper scheduled to be released in early February on California electric and gas cost and rate trends over the next decade
  - Webcast: [www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc](http://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc) (meeting will be recorded and posted to the website)
  - Phone: 800-857-1917, passcode: 5180519
- **LBNL Webinar: Expanding the Scope of Commercial Opportunities for Electric IOUs**
  - February 24<sup>th</sup>, noon – 1 pm
  - [Registration](#)
  - Report: [Expanding the Scope of Commercial Opportunities for Investor-Owned Electric Utilities](#)
- **CEC Workshop: Research to Support a Climate Resilient Transition to a Clean Energy System**
  - March 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – noon
  - Telephone: (669) 219-4599 / Meeting ID: 917 1446 7355
  - [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 917 1446 7355 / Passcode: resilience
  - Telephone: (213) 297-0156 / Meeting ID: 613720697#
- **California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee**
  - March 17<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – noon
  - Registration:  
<https://raabassociates.webex.com/raabassociates/onstage/g.php?MTID=e5f9a3f6e419bb4e6d97a4208c0abbbfe>
  - Event number: 182 120 1334; Event password: GWfScDY8A73
  - [Agenda](#)

# ➤ What's Coming Up?

## SOLICITATION NOTIFICATION

- Energy efficiency program third-party solicitation information and links found on the CAEECC [Website](#).
- **SCG Local Residential Behavioral RFP**
  - RFP Release Date – January 15, 2021
  - Bidders Proposal Due – February 19, 2021
  - Selected Bidder(s) notified – April 2021
  - Access to RFP materials through PowerAdvocate
  - Point of contact: Brian Johnston ([bjohnston@socalgas.com](mailto:bjohnston@socalgas.com))
- **Market Transformation Administrator (MTA) RFP – DELAYED**
  - CPUC has indicated this RFP is delayed, at least until March 1<sup>st</sup>

More details on additional events are available from the [Most Recent Council Newsletter](#)

→ **Capitol Update from Our Lobbyists  
(Erin and Tiffany will be on at 11:20 for  
today's report)**



Erin Niemela

Tiffany Phan



# ➤ IDER Decision: DER Test Pilots to Avoid/Defer Capital Investments

- On February 12 the CPUC issued its Final [Decision](#) (R.14-10-003) adopting pilots to test two frameworks for DER procurement.
- The Decision adopts pilots (set to launch later this year) to test two frameworks for procuring distributed energy resources to avoid/defer utility distribution investments:
  1. A 5-year DER distribution deferral tariff pilot named the Partnership Pilot because of its reliance on several partnerships
  2. A 3-year standard offer contract pilot for procuring DERs to defer distribution investments
- The Commission formalized the guiding principles for the design of DER tariffs
- The Council submitted comments on 10/30/20 and again on 1/25/21
  - They acknowledged our support for the two pilots but were silent on our various suggestions about EM&V and valuation.
  - They supported our positions on technology neutrality and leveraging of private investment guiding principles.
  - They are pushing forward on the rules regarding incrementality, and did not address our concerns about the arbitrary and overly punitive approach for addressing incrementality.
- Next steps will be for the 3 IOUs to move forward on implementing the pilots according to the PD timeline.

# ➤ CPUC Resolution E-5115

- **Final Resolution**: custom project preponderance of evidence requirements
- **Adopts recommendations from the Track 2 Working Group Final Report**
  - Requires a “preponderance of evidence” without providing a clear definition
  - Requires project developers to “Demonstrate that the project is not part of the customer’s scheduled maintenance or equipment upgrade”
  - Renames customer incentive tiered levels to Full Rigor ( $\geq$ \$100k), Medium Rigor (\$25k – \$100k), and Low Rigor tiers (\$7.5k – \$25k)
  - Adopts a Tier 0 for projects with incentives less than \$7,500
- **Some CEDMC comments (filed 12/15) incorporated**
  - Tightened documentation requirements – especially for low rigor project
  - Eliminated use of “harvesting customers” terminology
- **Many issues noted in our comments remain**
  - Explicitly states PoE does not increase costs, in direct opposition to our comments
  - Resolution creates uncertainty and further confusion for custom project approval
  - Does not fully address issue of providing specific criteria that eliminate subjectivity
  - Confusion around approval criteria/burdensome PoE increases cost of delivery by resulting in rejection of legitimate projects/measures
  - Resolution Discards Track 2 Working Group Consensus questionnaire

# CPUC Ruling on Requirements for Program Changes

- **Ruling explores value of requiring an Advice Letter instead of an Implementation Plan addendum under certain criteria**
  - Issued in response to the Order to Show Cause, requiring SoCalGas to demonstrate they did not seek use ratepayer funds to undermine Codes & Standards efforts
  - “Given potential changes to the rolling portfolio framework, there is value in considering more clearly defining those criteria (for example, specific criteria for what constitutes a new program)”
- **Ruling seeks comments on whether, and what, criteria the Commission should adopt for delineating between:**
  - (1) program changes that require staff approval via advice letter submission
  - (2) program changes that only require an Implementation Plan addendum.
  - Parties’ comments shall also address the need, if any, to specify what constitutes a new program, and identify and describe their recommended criteria
- **Opening comments due March 3<sup>rd</sup>; Reply Comments due March 17<sup>th</sup>**
  - Should The Council submit comments on this Ruling?
  - Please reach out to Serj ([sberelson@cedmc.org](mailto:sberelson@cedmc.org)) if your organization is interested in commenting

## ➤ EE Stakeholder Forum Survey

- Over the past year CPUC has made a concerted effort to improve the EE solicitation process and require the IOUs to be more timely and transparent.
- There have also been quarterly stakeholder meetings where CPUC, IOUs and IEs report on progress made toward improving the solicitation process.
  - The Council has been a key stakeholder in this process.
- On January 29, the CPUC and IOUs hosted a quarterly stakeholder forum
  - The Council requested an additional Forum to discuss various issues/challenges that third parties continue to have with the process.
- On February 17 the CPUC sent a request to the EE proceeding (R.13-11-005) service list asking for feedback on topics of interest for the next quarterly stakeholder meeting.
- The CPUC is asking for stakeholder feedback on three topics:
  - EE Solicitations current/ongoing topics
  - EE Solicitations upcoming/future topics
  - What topics for training or informational sessions would be useful in future meetings?
  - Please provide your thoughts on how IOU feedback has been going and what can be improved.
- Please send your responses to the prompts and any other feedback to [Brandon.Sanders@sce.com](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@sce.com)

## → Discussion and Q&A

# Thank you!

*Please contact us if you have any questions.*

*Greg Wikler - [gwikler@cedmc.org](mailto:gwikler@cedmc.org)*

*Serj Berelson - [sberelson@cedmc.org](mailto:sberelson@cedmc.org)*

*Mary Dockter - [mdockter@cedmc.org](mailto:mdockter@cedmc.org)*