



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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**2020 Disadvantaged Communities
Community Solar (“DAC-CSGT”)
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
 (“RFI”)**

Participant Instructions

February 27, 2020

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List of Attachments

ATTACHMENT A	Workforce Development Template for DAC-CSGT Projects
ATTACHMENT B	Non-Disclosure Agreement Pro Forma

Article One. General Information

RFI Objective

The objectives of this Request for Information (“RFI”) include:

1. Inspire communities, local governments or a group of communities and local non-profits within SCE service territory to design and propose community solar projects
2. Outline possible examples of qualifying project models, ideas, and designs
3. Invite informal proposals for community solar projects as described below
4. Partner with DAC communities to determine needed information and next steps required for the launch of a community solar solicitation

Courtesy

A. Company Overview

An Edison International (NYSE:EIX) company, Southern California Edison (SCE) is one of the nation’s largest electric utilities, serving a population of approximately 15 million via 5 million customer accounts in a 50,000-square-mile service area within Central, Coastal and Southern California. For more information about SCE, visit our website at: www.sce.com.

Southern California Edison is proud to be a long-standing partner with the state, customers and our communities on important climate change and air quality efforts. We look forward to continuing this broad-based partnership to pursue practical, cost-effective approaches to achieving a bold, clean energy future.

Community solar offers the opportunity for community members to receive potential savings, workforce development and clean energy benefits from a shared solar system and empowers those who do not, or cannot, install solar panels on their homes or buildings. Community solar addresses those affected by market barriers such as lack of decision-making power (due to renter status), lack of capital to build an expensive system on their homes, and cost-prohibitive roof upgrades to install panels (as in the case of older building stock).

B. Background and Objective

Assembly Bill ([AB](#)) [327](#) (Perea), Stats. 2013, ch. 611, directed the Commission to develop a successor to the then existing Net Energy Metering (NEM) tariff that included “promoting the installation of renewable generation among residential customers in disadvantaged communities (“DACs”).

To that end, on June 21, 2018, the Commission approved ([“D.”](#)) [18-06-027](#), Alternate Decision Adopting Alternatives to Promote Solar Distributed Generation in Disadvantaged Communities (“DAC”), ([“D.”](#)) [18-10-007](#), dated October 11, 2018, a decision making corrections and clarifications to ([“D.”](#)) [18-06-027](#), and [Resolution E-4999](#) (together, the “DAC Decisions”) which together implement three new programs to promote solar energy in Disadvantaged Communities – the DAC–Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (“DAC-SASH”) program, the DAC-Community Solar Green Tariff (“DAC-CSGT”) program, and the DAC-Green Tariff (“DAC-GT”) program.

These participant instructions provide additional information and the eligibility and bidding requirements for those seeking to submit DAC-CSGT offers and/or DAC-GT offers into SCE’s DAC-GT RFO and DAC-CSGT RFO.

The DAC-Green Tariff program will provide 100 percent renewable energy (purchased by SCE for subscribing customers). To receive the 20-percent discount, customers must be low-income customers enrolled in the residential California Alternate Rates for Energy (“CARE”) or Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) program and live within a designated DAC.

The CS-Green Tariff program, while similar to the DAC-Green Tariff program, includes local, community-sponsored solar, rather than utility-sponsored renewable energy and all customers that are eligible to participate in the program will receive a 20% bill discount. Sponsors in the CS-Green Tariff must demonstrate community involvement and interest to ensure customers in DACs have access to local solar power. Non-Residential customers who sponsor a community solar project play an essential role in the program.

As part of the CS-Green Tariff program as set forth in California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”) decisions (“D.”) 18-10-007 and D.18-06-027 (the “Decisions”) and as outlined in Southern California Edison (“SCE”) Advice Letters [3851-E](#) and [3851-E-A](#), SCE is issuing a RFI, the results of which are intended to allow communities to develop their offers in a possible future Request for Offer(s) (“RFO”). The RFI seeks to empower the DAC’s local government, Community Based Organizations (“CBOs”), and other eligible sponsors to take an active role in informing and tailoring the characteristics of the projects solicited in the RFO.

Disclaimer: This RFI shall not be construed in any manner to create an obligation on the part of SCE to enter into any contract or serve as a basis for any claim whatsoever for reimbursement of costs for efforts expended. Furthermore, responding to this RFI does NOT commit or obligate SCE in any way to pay or reimburse any costs incurred by any Respondent in the preparation of any response to this RFI, or to procure or contract for services, all of which will be at the Respondent’s sole expense.

Moreover, the scope of this RFI may be revised at the sole discretion of SCE at any time, or this RFI may be withdrawn or canceled by SCE at any time. SCE reserves the right to waive formalities and to add, modify, or delete items, requirements, and terms or conditions prior to the conclusion of this RFI whenever it is deemed to be in SCE’s best interest. SCE reserves the unilateral right to reject any or all responses submitted hereunder for any reason whatsoever. SCE shall be held free from any liability resulting from the use or implied use of the information submitted in any response to this RFI.

Note: None of the information in this RFI will be used for the RFO.

C. Description of RFI Phase: Information Gathering

Respondents to this RFI will offer a project to SCE for a community solar installation in an identified DAC. SCE hopes to reveal unique community resources such as but not limited to,

- Available project sites and information pertaining to site leases
- Requirements for project site(s) and/or sizing,
- Locational opportunities for workforce development or other community benefits

SCE would also like solicit information regarding:

- Community interest,
- Developing a preliminary plan for outreach and recruiting, as well as insight into other key items a community must consider when deciding to move forward with a project.

Community benefits that can result from community solar include, but not limited to:

- Lower electricity bills,
- Local clean energy jobs,
- Energy and environmental benefits,
- Local air quality improvement,
- Energy education and outreach,
- Clean energy education for youth,
- Climate change resiliency, and
- Community identity and sustainability.

D. RFI Deliverables:

Please submit a complete Response Sheet with responses addressing each item. Any additional documents which add to project description are encouraged to be submitted. A conference for interested respondents will be held on March 5, 2020.

1. Response Sheet
2. Non-Disclosure Agreement
3. Workforce Development Template
4. Any other relevant documents to the Project

E. RFI Process

The primary goal of this Term Sheet is to encourage as many community solar ideas through this solicitation process as possible. Upon submission of project ideas, SCE will review proposals based on key criteria (feasibility, costs, community engagement, et al).

Event	Date
CSGT RFI Launch Date	Thursday, 2/27/2020 at 4 PM Pacific Prevailing Time
CSGT RFI CBOs Webinar Conference hosted by SCE	Thursday, 3/5/2020 at 12 PM to 1 PM Pacific Prevailing Time
RFI Response Deadline via PowerAdvocate website ¹	Monday, 4/13/2020 at 12 PM Pacific Prevailing Time
Notification of RFI Submissions and Next Steps	Monday, 7/2/2020

¹ Please register using this link: <https://www.poweradvocate.com/pR.do?okey=94679&pubEvent=true>

Article Two. Requirements

Section 1: Eligibility

SCE Bundled Customer Eligibility

- a) Customers must receive domestic service at an address in a community considered in the top 25 percent of SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) census tracts, based on CalEnvironScreen 3.0, In addition, 22 census tracts in the highest 5 percent of the CalEnviroScreen's Pollution Burden, but that do not have an overall CalEnviroScreen score because of unreliable socioeconomic or health data are also designed as DACs that is, in whole or in part, within five miles of the location of the project.
- b) Customers in San Joaquin Valley pilot program identified in R.15-03-010 (California City, Ducor, & West Goshen) are also eligible even if their census tract is not considered a top 25% DAC and the census tract is within a forty-mile radius of the renewable energy project site.
- c) The customer base must be residential Bundled Service Customers who either are, or are eligible to be enrolled in the CARE or FERA program (Qualifying Customers) and subscribed to at least 50% of the projects output before it can be opened up to non-low-income-customers
- d) Is not served under a Net Energy Metering rate schedule
- e) Is not served under other Green Rate Programs (Schedules GTSR-GR, GTSR-CR, or DAC-Green Tariff)
- f) Is not a Direct Access Customer
- g) Is not a customer of a Community Choice Aggregator
- h) Is not a Community Aggregator
- j) Those on Master metered accounts that are on a residential rate may participate after the requirement of 50% of the project capacity is subscribed by non-master metered low-income customers is met (i.e., Schedules DM, DMS-1, DMS-2 or DMS-3)

Project Sponsor Eligibility and Responsibilities

- a) Community involvement must be demonstrated by a non-profit community-based organization (CBO) or a local government entity, can be a school, by "sponsoring" a project on behalf of the residents that are located in a DAC within SCE's service territory

- b) May take service on the Community Solar Green Tariff. The amount of capacity dedicated to the sponsor cannot exceed 25% of the resource's capacity (not to exceed the sponsor's energy needs)
 - a. To encourage diverse CBOs to serve as community sponsors, even those that may not be eligible to subscribe to a CSGT project may be a sponsor
- c) To receive a bill credit, sponsors must satisfy additional requirements, including that the sponsor must be based in same geographic area (top 25% DAC within 5 miles of project) and be an SCE customer, and have at least 50 percent of that project's capacity subscribed by low income customers in order to receive a bill credit. Multiple community sponsors, if eligible, can share the 20% credit for up to 25% of the projects output.
 - a. Sponsors from outside this range are not eligible for bill credits.
- f) Sponsors must provide a letter of commitment to developer(s) before the developer will be able to bid into the project. The letter should include:
 - a. Demonstration of substantial interest of community members in subscribing to project
 - b. Estimated numbers subscribers, with justification to ensure project is sized to likely demand;
 - c. A preliminary plan to conduct outreach and recruit subscribers (which may be conducted in conjunction with the developer and/or the utility); and
 - d. Siting preferences, including community-suggested host sites, and verification that the site chosen for the bid is consistent with community preference.

Community Solar Project Eligibility

- a. Projects must be located within SCE's service territory and be interconnected to SCE's electric distribution or transmission system.
- b. The Community Solar projects must be sited in a top 25% DAC census tract based on CalEnvironScreen 3.0, or one of the 22 census tracts in the highest 5 percent of CalEnviroScreen's pollution burden that do not have an overall CalEnviroScreen score
- c. The project must be within 5 miles of the qualifying DAC census tract in which their subscribers reside (not necessarily the same DAC), except for the San Joaquin Valley pilot program identified in R.15-03-010 (California City, Ducor,

West Goshen) the customers census tract is to be within a forty-mile radius of the renewable energy project site

- d. Projects must qualify as a CS-Green Tariff project, as applicable, pursuant to the Decisions
- e. CS-Green Tariff Projects must have a Contract Capacity less than or equal to 4.39 MW and be able to bid into the CAISO market.
- f. A single customer's subscription must be less than or equal to 2 MW
- g. CS-Green Tariff must meet a 25% subscription level before the rate discount to customers is available
- h. Must withhold scheduling of energy delivery until the 25% low-income threshold is met and/or verified
- i. Before a Community Solar Green Tariff project can operate, it must receive Permission to Operate (PTO)²
- j. Developer of a Community Solar (CS) facility must enter into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with SCE
- k. All projects must comply with the California Air Resources Board's Voluntary Renewable Electricity Program
- l. Projects must be Green-e certified

Project Preferences

- Located in a top 5% DAC or are located in a San Joaquin Valley community identified in R.15-03-010 (California City, Ducor, West Goshen)
- Can leverage other government funding such as a state Community Services Department grant, or that can provide evidence of support or endorsements from programs such as Transformative Climate Communities or other local climate initiatives
- Project qualifies for the SCE interconnection Fast Track¹

² As defined at <https://on.sce.com/gridinterconnections>

Section 2: Solicitation Scoping

Please find below the Response Sheet where answers will be collected in the form of an Excel spreadsheet.

A. General Contact Information	
1.	RFI Respondent Name or Representative
2.	Person of Contact, if different from 1.
3.	Respondent Type:
3a.	Email Address:
3b.	Telephone Number:
3c.	Mailing Address: Street, Unit City, State, Zip

B. Community Information	
4.	Name of Local Government
4a.	City, County
5.	Name of Community-based Organization or Intended Project Sponsor
5a.	List all communities that are a part of your Organization

C. Project Interest	
6.	Are you willing or interested in participating as any of the below roles: community or project sponsor?
6b.	If you have responded yes to Project Sponsor, are you willing to take ownership by contracting up to 25% of the energy during the term of the PPA?
6c.	If you have responded yes to Project Sponsor, are you within 5 miles of the DAC community where the project would be located?
6d.	If you have responded yes to Project Sponsor, are you a SCE customer?

D. Project Experience	
7.	Do you have experience with community solar, utility-scale solar, or rooftop solar development?
7a.	If yes, please include an explanation of past experience in a word document.
7b.	If yes, please include any links to websites or online supporting docs

E. Project Suggestion	
8.	Do you have a site in mind?
8a.	If yes, please include the address.
8b.	Do you have a preference in the DAC area to where the Community Solar project would be installed?
8c.	If yes, what is its CalEnviroScreen percentile (top 25%, top 5%)?
8d.	Neighborhood or Project Site category
8e.	Site owner/control
8g.	Nearby structures, especially those that would add shade
8h.	How large of a system would you like for the DAC? (MW)
8i.	Interconnection: Do you know the Point of Delivery (closest substation)?
8j.	Delivery start or commercial operation date (e.g., facility availability date after executing an applicable purchase agreement)

F. Funding
9. Please answer <i>either</i> (a) or (b).
9a. If you are a project sponsor, do you have the potential funds to help sponsor such a project?
9b. If you are not a project sponsor, are there existing or upcoming potential funding sources for this project?
9c. If yes, please list them and note if they are either public or private sources.

G. Technology Specifications
10. Project Vintage: Is this an expansion on an existing system or a new facility?
10a. If new, please include a potential online date.
10b. Solar Panel Specifications: new or used panels?
10c. Vendor or manufacturer name?
10d. Expected efficiency of the system (%)
10e. Expected Lifespan (Years)
10f. Tracking or Non-Tracking? If tracking, 1-Axis or 2-Axis?
10g. Annual average generation profile

H. Community Engagement
11a. Is there community interest in this project?
11b. Have you identified that interest through any measurable means?
11c. Are there any preliminary plans for community outreach and/or engagement to promote participation?
11d. If yes, please list them.
11e. How will you collect & respond to community input throughout the process? (e.g. existing group/coalition, or creating one)
11f. What lead partner(s) will engage with SCE and serve as lead point of contact with SCE?
11g. What lead partner(s) will engage with SCE to bring this project to the community?
11h. Which key community partners will you include in this process (government, nonprofit, local small businesses; cross-industry [energy, health, workforce], cross-community)
11i. Are there any locational opportunities for workforce development that you can identify? If so, where and what?
11j. Are there any other considerations that a community would have to address to advance this project? If so, please list them here.

I. Power Purchase Agreement
12. Please note that this project would be under contract for a 20-year term.
12a. Does the Project Sponsor have any experience or knowledge of SCE's proposed contract type: a long term structured purchased agreement ("PPA")?

J. Other Benefits
14. Please note any other benefits.
a. What are existing efforts that this project can support, or be supported by? (benefits secondary to energy bill savings)
b. Are there opportunities to build on existing or upcoming community projects or priorities?

Section 3: Customer Information

SCE Customer Service Marketing and Digital team will use direct mail and email marketing to inform customers about the programs, availability of incentives, and how to enroll.

SCE plans to use search engine marketing (SEM) ads and targeted digital ads on select websites to target key subsets of internet users. SCE will also share information about the programs, when appropriate, on its social media channels (e.g., Facebook and Twitter).

SCE will have a dedicated webpage on SCE.com. All marketing materials and display advertising will direct customers to the page on SCE.com for enrollment options and other information. SCE's webpage will provide information about the Programs' structure, participation levels and availability, procurement summaries, illustrative billing impacts, links to CARE/FERA-specific information, and online enrollment forms. Consistent with SCE's current practices, the webpage will be available in multiple languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean. SCE will also print its low-income and minority-focused marketing materials in multiple languages.

SCE will deliver presentations to civic and community groups. SCE will also provide additional outreach through partnerships with stakeholders including chambers of commerce, ethnic business organizations, environmental groups, non-profits, and faith-based organizations.