**California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee-Hosted Meeting for**

**Equity Metrics Working Group (EMWG)**

**2nd Meeting of the WG**

**August 18, 2021 9:00-1:00**

*See Supporting Documents on* [*Meeting Page*](https://www.caeecc.org/8-18-21-equity-metrics-wg-mtg)

Facilitators: Dr. Scott McCreary & Katie Abrams, CONCUR

On August 18, 2021, the CAEECC hosted its second meeting of the Equity Metrics Working Group (EMWG) via WebEx. Thirty-six representatives from twenty-seven WG Member organizations (including Leads, Alternates and Ex Officio) and fourteen members of the public participated. A full list of meeting attendees is provided in Appendix A.

For each sub-section below, key discussion points and agreements are summarized. The “Next Steps and Wrap Up” section below, captures next steps discussed throughout the meeting. Note that the organization listed next to the speakers’ name is the organization the speaker is representing, not necessarily the organization the speaker directly works for.

The presentation used throughout the meeting is available on the CAEECC meeting page (see link above to Meeting Materials, *Slides – 8.18.21 Equity Metrics WG meeting,* under “Documents Posted Before the Meeting”). The matrix used throughout the meeting is also available on the CAEECC meeting page (see link above to Meeting Materials, *EMWG Matrix – 8.18.21,* under “Documents Posted Before the Meeting”). During and after the meeting, changes to the matrix were made and are available on the CAEECC website (see link above to Meeting Materials, *EMWG Matrix – updated 8.23.21,* under “Documents Posted After the Meeting”).

**Meeting Goals**

At the beginning of the meeting, CAEECC facilitator Scott McCreary welcomed WG participants to the second meeting. He opened the meeting by reviewing the agenda and WebEx “housekeeping” protocols. The primary focus of the meeting is for Members to refine Objectives and brainstorm and discuss associated key Metrics.

**Meeting Orientation and Essential Background**

***Groundwork for Discussion on Structure***

Scott McCreary posed two questions to WG members: “Is there value in framing overarching principles to inform Objectives?” and “Are there other considerations to guide the development of Objectives and Metrics?” WG Members responded as follows:

* Social determinants of health (SDOH) could potentially be either framed as a principle or metric.
* It will be important to ensure that Objectives can translate into Metrics that are measurable
* We need to consider how Principles considering how they might (or might not) be tracked and implemented by PAs; an important consideration in framing principles is how to measure progress toward their achievement
* Consider introducing Energy Poverty as an Objective or Principle. Energy Poverty is designed as household energy expenditures > 10% of overall income. While the ESA program addresses Energy Poverty, in part, it does not fully address address the Issue and there remain some people who may not qualify for ESA but experience Energy Poverty.

***Discuss Key Definitions (i.e., Underserved, Hard-to-Reach (HTR), Disadvantaged Communities (DAC))***

Scott McCreary, presented a series of slides on definitions of HTR and DAC, a slide with two proposals for how to define Underserved. The definitions for HTR and DAC, and the two Underserved proposal options are available on the CAEECC meeting page (see link above to Meeting Materials, *Revised Final* *Background on Definitions and Eligibility (8.18.21)* under “Documents Posted Before the Meeting”).

An ex-officio representative from Energy Division noted that a key question is how to address low income considering ESAP’s definition focuses on customers at or below 200% of the poverty line. Marketing collateral for Equity programs need to focus on the importance of first sending ESAP-eligible customers through the ESAP pathway.

A WG member noted that for background, it is worth noting that an update for DAC communities (4.0) is expected by September 2021. It is likely to broaden the number of census tracts that are DAC’s.

Work group members expressed strongly mixed views on the options. Some work group members noted that arriving at a unified approach helps ensure consistency and consistent geographic coverage of programs. Some WG members noted that according them discretion is consistent with encouraging innovation and presents the opportunity to target communities within their respective customer bases. This topics merits additional discussion, based on the range of views expressed, this may well be a non-consensus item in the WG final report.

***Key Findings from Underserved Working Group (UWG)***

Scott McCreary presented a series of slides summarizing key findings from the UWG. More details can be found on the CAEECC meeting page (see link above to Meeting Materials, *Underserved Working Group Summary Memo,* under “Documents Posted Before the Meeting”).

***ACEEE Presentation on Dimensions of Equity***

Ariel Drehobl presented a series of slides on energy equity and ACEEE’s “Leading with Equity” initiative. Her presentation is available on the CAEECC meeting page (see link above to Meeting Materials, *Slides – 8.18.21 Equity Metrics WG meeting,* under “Documents Posted Before the Meeting”).

**Refine Objectives**

***Summarize Overall Poll Outcomes – and Discuss Cross-Cutting Themes, Areas of Convergence and Divergence, Implications for Refinement***

Scott McCreary presented a slide summarizing the outcomes of the post-meeting poll distributed to CAEECC members, cross-cutting themes, areas of convergence and divergence. More details can be found on the CAEECC meeting page (see link above to Meeting Materials, *Synthesis—Qualitative Equity Poll Responses* and *Anonymized Responses to Equity Metrics WG Preliminary Poll on Objectives,* under “Documents Posted Before the Meeting”).

***Equity topics to discuss (e.g.,*** [***Social Determinants of Health***](https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/about.html) ***(SDOH), CPUC*** [***Environmental & Social Justice (ESJ) Action Plan***](https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/news-and-updates/newsroom/environmental-and-social-justice-action-plan) ***Goals, Overarching Principles vs. Objectives)***

Scott McCreary welcomed Christine Gerbode, ACEEE, to present a few slides on SDOH.

Scott requested that WG members email Katie (katie@concurinc.net) and Scott (scott@concurinc.net) with any followup questions, and they will pass along to the two ACEEE speakers Ariel and Christine. The speakers’ contact information is also provided in the slides posted to the meeting page.

Katie Abrams then presented a slide on the nine ESJ Action Plan Goals (highlighting the three called out in the recent CPUC Decision authorizing the new Equity segment).

***Discussion of Emerging Consensus Objectives***

Scott McCreary shared a matrix showing an updated set of Objectives integrated by the Facilitation Team, based on a synthesis of poll responses.

Cross Cutting Themes and High-Level Summary of Discussion:

* Include overarching principles, refine their articulation, and elaborate on discussion as to how they will shape and inform the overall suite of Objectives and Metrics
* Organize objectives by energy and non-energy benefits; two main buckets are sufficient to create the core structure; strong support for this approach by many WG members. Some members suggested paying close attention to benefits that accrue at the customer level vis a vis those that accrue at the systems level.
* Address SHOH an overarching principle
* Strong support that Grid Reliability should be removed as a standalone objective and potentially could be placed as an overarching principle
* In structuring the overarching principles, objectives, and metrics, there is value in applying a parallel approach to that articulated by the Market Support Group.
* Consider a structural change to show program outcomes, i.e., shifting the prioritization, climate resiliency, and grid reliability objectives from objectives to program outcomes
* Refine the active verb in the text for each objective text. “Improve access” seems to strike a good balance. The verb “deliver” could be confining. The term “support” is fairly general.
* Focus equity benefits on Equity-eligible customers
	1. Non-energy benefits need to be expressed *for those served*  (i.e., SOx measures air quality at state, not customer level)
* Consider and finalize the word choice between of GHG reduction or Total System Benefit (TSB) (the latter are generally not expressed at the customer level).
* Include indoor and outdoor air quality
* Discussion and acknowledgement (including in discussions at the PUC Commissioner level) of the likely overlap with resource acquisition and with market support segments. As noted in the Decision, overlap is anticipated and the Decision provides guidance on how to address this issue. Resource vs non-resource is critical to distinguish due to the cost-effectiveness and Total Resource Cost issue, and less consequential for any overlap in Equity and Market Support. The Decision states that the Equity and Marketing Support programs are intended to be predominantly non-resource programs, and will not be included in the Portfolio Cost Effectiveness calculations.
* Some WG members expressed a preference for distinguishing near vs long term savings
* Encourage joint proposals and discussions (opportunities to be teed up explicitly by the Facilitation Team)

***Next Steps to Revise and Finalize Objectives***

Scott McCreary summarized that the Facilitation Team will distill the outcomes of Objectives into a straw-person proposal, circulate early next week to incorporate refinements and move towards testing for concurrence.

**Initiate discussion of Priority Metrics**

Scott McCreary presented a new tab in the matrix that outlined the changes proposed and generally supported in the Objectives portion of the meeting, showing two buckets of objectives based on “energy benefits” and “non energy benefits”. The discussion focused on language on Objectives and the distinction between Equity and Market Support and resource vs non-resource programs.

Scott McCreary noted that more work is needed to refine the Objectives and initiate discussion of Metrics before the next meeting. WG members are encouraged to work amongst themselves and in groups to present options to the WG. CPUC is available to participate, where appropriate.

***Agenda Strategy for 8/31 Equity Metrics Workshop***

Scott McCreary shared a slide showing the proposed agendafor the 8/31 Equity Metrics workshop.

Scott suggested that WG members forward the save-the-date that was sent to all CAEECC members on August 10th to relevant groups and individuals, primarily community representatives. In particular, he requested that PAs forward it to community representatives with whom they share networks.

**Wrap-Up and Next Steps**

**Facilitation Team**

* Meeting Summary—draft, post, notice by 8/25
* Send revised matrix to EMWG Members
* Circulate a recommended approach for convening sub-WGs to work on Objectives, Metrics, and target-setting principles before the next meeting

**Equity Metrics Working Group Members**

* Review draft meeting summary, and provide redlines/comments - by 9/1
* Consider participating in sub-WGs to make significant progress on Objectives, Metrics, and target-setting principles

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| **Appendix A: Attendance** |
| **8.18.21 Equity Metrics WG Mtg #2** |
| **Name** | **Organization** |
| Alejandra Tellez | 3C-REN |
| Jenn Mitchell-Jackson | BayREN |
| Jenny Berg | BayREN |
| Daniel Buch | Cal Advocates |
| Serj Berelson | CEDMC |
| Stephen Gunther | Center for Sustainable Energy |
| Dan Suyeyasu | Code Cycle |
| Allan Rago | Energy Efficiency Council  |
| Pam Bold | High Sierra Energy Foundation |
| Stephanie Chen | MCE |
| Julia de Lamare | NRDC |
| Lara Ettenson | NRDC |
| Lucy Morris | PGE |
| Aisha Cissna | RCEA |
| Corey Grace | Resource Innovations |
| Alejandro Castelan | Rising Sun Opportunities |
| Ted Howard | SBUA |
| Christopher Malotte | SCE |
| James Dodenhoff | Silent Running |
| Courtney Kalashian | SJVCEO |
| Kevin Ehsani | SoCalGas |
| Halley Fitzpatrick | SoCalGas |
| Lujuana Medina | SoCalREN |
| Laurel Rothschild | The Energy Coalition |
| Sophia Hartkopf | TRC |
| Don Arambula | Viridis |
| **Ex-Officio** |
| Ariel Drehobl | ACEEE |
| Christine Gerbode | ACEEE |
| Roxana Ayala | ACEEE |
| Kristina Duloglo | CEC |
| Aparna Menon | CEC |
| Brian Samuelson | CEC |
| Augustus Clements | CPUC |
| Ely Jacobsohn | CPUC |
| Jason Symonds | CPUC |
| Nils Strindberg | CPUC |
| **Facilitators** |
| Katie Abrams | Concur |
| Scott McCreary | Concur |
| **Other Stakeholders** |
| Ron Garcia | Energy Efficiency Council  |
| Nancy Goddard | Pacific Corp |
| Lindsey Tillisch | PGE |
| Robert Marcial | PGE |
| Carol Edwards | SCE |
| Fabi Lao (she/her) | SCE |
| Patricia Neri | SCE |
| Arturo Montoya | SoCalGas |
| Fernanda Craig | SoCalREN |
| Melanie Peck | The Energy Coalition |
| Matthew Joyce | Tierra Resources |
| Pepper Hunziker | Tre'Laine Associates |
| Marisa Hanson-Lopez | UCSB |
| Carol Yin | Yinsight |