CAEECC-Hosted Workshop on Workforce Standards AGENDA

Purpose: to establish a common understanding of the opportunities, benefits, challenges, and perspectives of different interested parties re: applying workforce standards to energy efficiency/electrification programs. Note the purpose isn't to problem-solve although brainstorming solutions is encouraged[1].

Date: May 18, 2026
Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m. pacific
Location: Virtual
Register for Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ifK8YgqiQISUBMGWviyMvA#/registration

Supporting material can be found at: 5-18-2026-Workforce-Standards-Workshop | CAEECC

*Exact agenda times listed below are subject to change.

Time	Topic & Description	Presenter
1:00	**Welcome & Context Setting** A. Workshop purpose, agenda, and housekeeping B. CAEECC past involvement on workforce standards C. Background on Workforce Standards legislation (SB 350), regulation (CPUC D.18-10-008), implementation and evaluation	A. and B. Amber Zirnhelt, Facilitator C. Michael Sokol, California Energy Commission; Ellen Steiner, Opinion Dynamics (an E Source Company)
1:35	**Panel Discussion on Workforce Standards** A. From Code to Practice: Aligning Energy Standards, CPUC Programs and Workforce Training and Compliance B. Risks to Meeting Energy Goals with Improper Product Installation C. Contractor Perspectives on Workforce Standards D. PA Experiences Implementing Workforce Standards and Contractor Training with Code Updates E. NALMCO-CLCP's Experiences in Certifying Lighting Technicians and the Impact of Workforce Standards	A. Gina Rodda, Gabel Energy B. Chris Ruch, SMW Local 104 C.Charles Cormany, Efficiency First D. Audrey Bragg, SoCalREN; Benjamin Druyon, I-REN E. Erik Ennen, President NALMCO
2:35	**Break**	
2:45	**Breakout Room Discussions** Participants will pre-register for two discussion topics from the following list: **A. Top Challenges in Meeting Workforce Standards for**	

[1] *Note: this workshop will focus on standards within market-rate energy efficiency programs under the auspices of the CPUC*

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	HVAC/Lighting Contractors ■ High-level discussion on key challenges and solutions for workforce standards. **B. Incentive Threshold Requirements** ■ Are the incentive amount thresholds for non-residential HVAC and ALC projects adopted in 2018 still appropriate now? **C. Contractor Credentialing Requirements** ■ Challenges, inconsistencies and solutions for contractors in meeting credential requirements ■ Contractor certification requirement relevancy and costs **D. Contractor Verification, the Importance of Quality Assurance and Consumer Protection** ■ Roles and challenges for PAs in ensuring contractors meet required credentials ■ Importance of quality assurance for on-site work, program administration, and training ■ Consumer protection as a policy driver for workforce standards for contractors **E. Market Participation, Equity and Access: Who Gets Left Out** ■ Workforce standards' effects on contractor participation and access to training ■ Barriers and opportunities to support contractors in obtaining qualification and maintaining a robust contractor pool for HVAC and ALC **F. Coordination on Contractor Requirements: Across PAs and at the State Level** ■ Opportunities for PA collaboration with workforce, labor, and other stakeholders to address local gaps in available, qualified technicians ■ Gaps and opportunities for state-level coordination across orgs and regions ■ Priorities for workforce standard coordination	
3:45	**Breakout Headlines in Plenary**	Amber Zirnhelt, Facilitator and CAEECC Facilitators
3:55	**Wrap-up and Next Steps**	Katie Abrams, Facilitator
4:00	**Workshop Adjourned**	

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