

# Facilitator Synthesis based on Homework C: Evolving CAEECC Homework Before Meeting #3

**Published: 9/11/23**

[Meeting #3](#) is September 27 from 9:30am PT - 1:30pm PT via Zoom.

## About Homework C:

In Homework (HW) C, Work between Meeting #2 and Meeting #3, Evolving CAEECC Working Group (ECWG) Members were asked to participate by answering several Meeting #2 Follow-up Questions and thinking generatively and creatively about the vision of CAEECC as an entity moving forward. The original responses from Homework C are available to view through the [Evolving CAEECC WG Meeting #3 Webpage](#) under *Materials Posted Before the Meeting*.

## What this Document Is

As Facilitators, Common Spark Consulting attempts to summarize Homework Responses ahead of the next meeting. In this instance, the summary is organized in a couple ways:

- A. By offering synthesized drafts (built with responses from the homework) as an effort to support working group discussion and next steps..
- B. By offering responses to questions asked within the homework.

The document covers five key topics:

1. Facilitator Synthesis
  - a. [First Draft: Full CAEECC Purpose, Activities, and Powers](#)
  - b. [Evolving CAEECC Simplified Charge](#)
  - c. [Evolving CAEECC Values and Principles](#)
2. [Labor, Land, and Life Acknowledgment](#)
3. [Responses to questions in Homework C](#)

**In an effort to implement the suggestions from the homework on simplicity, the Facilitation Team makes every attempt in this document to respond plainly, clearly, and without technical jargon.**

In addition, the Facilitation Team aims to clarify an element of confusion seen within the Homework. Homework C asked about the **Full CAEECC** (what Full CAEECC could be and an evaluation of its current Purpose, Scope, and Objectives) as well as the **Evolving CAEECC** Working Group (what this working group is meant to do and by what values it wishes to act upon). In this document, the Facilitation Team will use “Full CAEECC”

when referring to elements that apply to the overarching stakeholder collaborative and “Evolving CAEECC” when referring to something specific to the working group.

## Facilitator Synthesis based on Homework C

### First Draft: Full CAEECC Purpose, Activities, and Powers

The Evolving CAEECC WG Members have raised questions about many important topics including, but not limited to, the authority/power of Full CAEECC and Full CAEECC’s advisory role, focus on market-rate energy efficiency programs, and its impacts and interaction with Communities of Concern. Some comments also suggest a departure from the structure of the current Scope, Purpose and Objectives.

**As such, the Facilitation Team put together a very straw, first draft to prompt conversations about revising the vision of Full CAEECC.** This synthesis attempts to blend all feedback by proposing a vision for Full CAEECC that is not bound by the same structure of Full CAEECC today. It highlights many direct recommendations from Homework C and also makes interpretations of some in an attempt to incorporate as much of the input as possible, and the spirit of all input.

#### (Full) CAEECC Purpose, Activities, and Powers

The (Full) California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee (CAEECC) will ensure *all* Californians have ability, access, and opportunities to enjoy the fullest benefits of energy efficiency. This means ensuring all have the ability, access, and opportunity to participate in effective ratepayer and non-ratepayer funded energy efficiency programs.

#### (Full) CAEECC will do this by:

1. Improve collaboration between representatives of Californians, Portfolio Administrators, agency staff, agency decision-makers, advocates, representatives of Communities of Concern<sup>1</sup>, and others.
  - a. Serve as a liaison<sup>2</sup> to Communities of Concern; consider engaging community engagement consultants.
  - b. Coordinate with Low-income Oversight Board (LIOB) and Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) for seamless service to Communities of Concern.

---

<sup>1</sup> A “[Community of Concern](#)” means a community that has been historically inundated with less than sufficient resources, that there is a concern about the overall quality of life for the residents of that community; and that acknowledges that a holistic approach to solutions should be implemented. A Community of Concern is normally geographically identified by data collection. *It includes communities defined as “Disadvantaged Communities” by the CPUC Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan.*

<sup>2</sup> Meant to be not a middle-person but rather an entity for open communication bidirectionally.

- c. Make and convey recommendations for non-ratepayer funded energy efficiency programs to the appropriate oversight groups
  - d. As appropriate, call upon California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), California Energy Commission (CEC), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and/or California Independent System Operator (CAISO) staff and decisionmakers, to build understanding, coordination, and provide context for cross-agency or cross-program recommendations.
- 2. Assess and provide oversight over the way benefits from energy efficiency programs<sup>3</sup> are planned and distributed on an ongoing basis.
  - a. Oversee the budget proposals, application process, and implementation of energy efficiency programs for consistency with the CPUC Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan.
    - i. Require Portfolio Administrators to present their budget proposals and any subsequent budget advice letter timely to CAEECC in non-technical formats for review, comments, and feedback.
    - ii. Require Portfolio Administrators to present their applications timely to CAEECC in non-technical formats during their application process for review, comments, and feedback.
    - iii. Require Portfolio Administrators to present mid-cycle implementation reports timely to CAEECC in non-technical formats for review, comments, and feedback.
- 3. Inform the evaluation of energy efficiency programs by advising around:
  - a. How to streamline benefits of energy efficiency to *all* Californians with a focus on Communities of Concern.
  - b. Best practices to reach traditionally underserved customer groups to maximize their inclusion and the impact of energy efficiency programs.
  - c. Working with community experts to research best practices, review implementation strategies, understand barriers, and help evaluate success.
  - d. Barriers to experience benefits of energy efficiency including intersectional barriers that affect one's ability to participate in energy efficiency programs.
- 4. Open gateways for engagements at the CPUC specifically for more and historically underrepresented voices to participate in energy efficiency regulation and programming.

---

<sup>3</sup> Energy efficiency programs in this context refers to programs offering energy efficiency whether funded through ratepayers or not. Although non-ratepayer funded programs are not under the current purview of R.13-11-005, the vision is that the CPUC would require/highly encourage these programs to be considered alongside ratepayer funded programs within CAEECC, and that those programs consider recommendations from CAEECC.

- a. Provide accessible training and resources to those wishing to engage in both energy efficiency and justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion discussions.
- b. Host trainings for Portfolio Administrators and Implementers on justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as engagement with Communities of Concern.
- c. Host accessible conversations and opportunities for engagement (such as Community Events, Town Halls, Educational Workshops, Social Media Campaign in various languages and geographic locations) without industry technical barriers
- d. Provide inclusive avenues to include stakeholders in the review, implementation, and evaluation process for energy efficiency programs without sacrificing accountability and other checks and balances, perhaps using CAEECC as the venue when appropriate

### **Advocacy**

(Full) CAEECC shall have the power and authority to fulfill its scope of activities above, and shall also have the power to:

1. File comments as an Intervening Party in the Energy Efficiency Regulatory and Application proceedings, or convey informal comments to Energy Division and the Commissioner presiding over the energy efficiency proceeding.
  - a. Comments will ideally reflect only consensus recommendations. This is to ensure member ability to participate and recommend without fear of retaliation or penalty.
  - b. Any non-consensus items may be outlined with identified alternative members may support.

### **Membership**

(Full) CAEECC's membership should represent the broad perspectives of Californians set to benefit from energy efficiency programs, with specific representation of historically underrepresented voices.

1. CAEECC will be a member-based entity for all decision-making purposes.
2. Members will be compensated for their time should financial barriers exist, either through Intervenor Compensation where possible or through other funds (such as the CPUC Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants).
3. Portfolio Administrators and Implementers will be non-voting members. They may help co-create and contribute to agenda development and administration of CAEECC, but would not vote on matters that impact them as to remove core conflicts of interest within CAEECC.

4. CAEECC members should reflect a diversity of ratepayer and community interests and experiences impacted by and set to benefit from energy efficiency in California. We recommended membership seats such as:
  - a. TBD in Phase II

### **Membership Responsibilities**

1. Member activities include
  - i. TBD in Phase II

## **Evolving CAEECC Working Group Simplified Charge v3**

Homework C had lots of generative conversation around the Prospectus and simplified charge for the Evolving CAEECC Working Group, the purpose of simplification, and its limitations.

The Evolving CAEECC Simplified Charge will not be officially included in the Evolving CAEECC Prospectus, but is meant to provide a shorthand of the ECWG's charge.

This version below is provided as a summary of the Prospectus. The Prospectus, otherwise, remains as-is for the Evolving CAEECC Working Group.

In summary, Evolving CAEECC Working Group will:

- Evaluate the current Full CAEECC Purpose, Objectives, Structure, and Processes considering
  - a) justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI) and
  - b) the state's climate and energy goals.
- Identify recommended updates to these elements in alignment with the above considerations.
- Develop a new proposed structure Purpose, Objectives, Structure, and Processes in alignment with the above considerations and submit recommendations for approval by Full CAEECC.
- Review and propose any updates to the current governance documents and submit recommendations for approval by Full CAEECC.

## **Evolving CAEECC Values and Principles v2**

For clarification, it is the Facilitator's understanding that the Values and Principles are meant to apply to **how Evolving CAEECC will go about creating recommendations to evolve Full CAEECC.**<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> The Facilitators note that these Values and Principles, can also for the Full CAEECC to adopt as their own principles and values.

Homework C also included discussions on key definitions/examples including “equitable outcomes”, “benefits”, and “harm”. We’ll offer a space for developing these for Full CAEECC (and ECWG’s benefit) in the next Homework.

### **Values and Principles for how Evolving CAEECC will create/propose recommendations**

1. Seek to better the quality of life for Communities of Concern by mitigating undue harm and burden on Communities of Concern and their representatives.
2. Seek equitable outcomes, not for the benefit of any individual representation, but for the collective and California as a whole.
3. Strive to adhere to the [Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing](#).
4. Question the distribution of benefits and harm (if applicable).

## **Land Labor Life Acknowledgement**

The Facilitation Team received few responses to the Homework Question regarding a Land, Labor, and Life Acknowledgement. As Evolving CAEECC WG Members continue to share their experiences, the Facilitation Team will continue to update the draft acknowledgement below.

### **Land, Labor, and Life Acknowledgement.**

The Evolving CAEECC Working Group acknowledges the life, land, contributions, and sacrifices made by innumerable Indigenous Peoples in our region. The Evolving CAEECC Working Group is made up of several identities spread throughout California who are occupying unceded lands. We give thanks and appreciation to the xučyun, Ohlone, Me-wuk, Uypi, Crow Creek Sioux, Yanktonai, and Blackfeet people and nations who speak Chochenyo, Coast Miwok, Awaswas, Dakota, and Siksiká.

We acknowledge the contributions of the African diaspora whose lives, knowledge, skills, and labor were stolen in the name of white supremacy culture in addition to the forced labor of Indigenous Peoples and others— all whose contributions were instrumental in creating and building modern-day California.

## Responses to Homework C

- Why are the Facilitators proposing anything? I thought any proposals or recommendations should be coming from us, the ECWG through agreed upon decision-making after discussion.
  - In our facilitation experience, it's really hard, time consuming, (and sometimes scary) for anyone to be the first to put pen to paper. That's why the Facilitation Team makes that first step; it's not our [Facilitation Team] proposal(s), it's proposal(s) based on the responses and discussions that have occurred. We explicitly ask for and invite ECWG Member drafts and proposed language in the HW, and it is our intention to provide concepts that compile and reflect the input from everyone who contributed (not our own ideas or positions). We certainly welcome your revisions, suggestions, and input on all these proposals over the next several meetings and homework and huddle opportunities. **For clarity, we are moving away from the term "proposal" in relation to the Facilitation Team and instead using Synthesis which we feel now is more accurate.**
- What are examples of energy efficiency programs? What are examples of ways CAEECC has supported the development and expansion of high-quality energy-efficiency programs? What are real life examples of CAEECC influenced programs/policy suggestions that previously brought relief or low cost efficiency to 'Communities of Concern'.
  - We need more time to answer this question fully! We will be addressing it at the Evolving CAEECC Meeting #3.
  - Examples of residential Energy Efficiency programs:
    - [PG&E's residential energy efficiency program](#)
    - [Southern CA Edison's residential energy efficiency programs](#)
    - [SDG&E's residential energy efficiency programs](#)
    - [SCE's residential energy efficiency programs](#), and
    - [MCE programs for residential, commercial, and workforce](#)
    - [SoCalREN's program offerings ranging from public agency to residential](#)
- What are examples of JEDI actions at CAEECC?
  - We will be addressing this at the Evolving CAEECC Meeting #3. In short, the following actions relate to justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion.
    - *Working Group recommendation for Community Engagement Indicators*
    - *Equity Metrics Working Group*
    - *Definition of Underserved*
    - *Compensation Pilot*
    - *DEI Training for CAEECC members*
    - *Members of CAEECC also advocated for CPUC to wait on some decisions about CAEECC until this WG is done with its work*
- What is Portfolio Oversight?

- A recent CPUC Decision ([D.23-06-55](#)) asks Evolving CAEECC WG to think about how CAEECC could take on a portfolio oversight role. What this means is a way to hold the PAs accountable for performance and results. Currently, the majority of portfolio oversight occurs by Commission staff monitoring key aspects of design, solicitation, implementation, and evaluation of portfolios, segments, and programs. The CPUC is interested to see if Evolving CAEECC WG proposes that any of these tasks be overseen by a stakeholder group instead or in conjunction with the CPUC.
- What Authority is CAEECC going to be afforded and can that be clearly defined for us in order to begin this work in an efficient and effective manner.
  - Evolving CAEECC Working Group can propose alternatives to authority structures for a Future CAEECC. The Facilitation Team incorporated this idea into the [First Draft: Full CAEECC Purpose, Activities, and Powers](#).
  - Evolving CAEECC, unfortunately, is tied to the existing structure and guidelines in terms of its deliverables. Evolving CAEECC must make recommendations to Full CAEECC and the CPUC.
- What are existing resources to lean on?
  - Clarification is needed on this question. Is this question asking about resources by community-based organizations on equitable energy efficiency? If so, a starting place is [We ACT's blog on Energy Efficiency](#) and the [Energy Efficiency for All coalition](#).
- How are disagreements currently brought up in CAEECC?
  - An important ground rule in CAEECC is that anyone disagreeing with a proposal is encouraged to explain why and propose an alternative. This relates to the consensus-seeking process for CAEECC. The goal of the process is to fully explore substantive issues by defining options, eliciting constructive feedback, clarifying and narrowing points of divergence, seeking consensus where feasible, and documenting points of convergence and any remaining divergence. During the substantive discussions, if a Member cannot agree to support a substantive option under consideration, that member should explain why and propose a specific alternative that they can support. Documentation of consensus and multiple options on any particular issue in the Working Group's Final Report would include a clear description of each option and supporting rationale, and include the Members supporting each option. The Working Group Members will review and approve the wording in the Final Report, and those supporting each option on a non-consensus issue will be responsible for drafting the final description and rationale for the option.
- Why is input to policy-making not part of the current CAEECC scope?
  - CAEECC has traditionally served as a forum for dialogue between advocates that formally provide input to the policymaking process.
  - Working Groups have been increasing their influence because their reports represent broad stakeholder consensus. Such reports are often included in the policymaking process because an advocate (usually one associated



with CAEECC leadership) files it as a Motion or for consideration in a proceeding on behalf of CAEECC and the Working Group.

- How often are business plans renewed? Does CAEECC review of the business plans, implementation plans, budgets, metrics, scope happen on a schedule?
  - Please see the [Information Hub Document](#) for more information.
- Did the Equity Metrics WG propose any definitions of “equitable outcomes”, “benefits” or “harm”?
  - No. You may reference their Final Report on the [working group webpage](#).
- [Voiced Concerns](#)
  - We will address this at the Evolving CAEECC Meeting #3