

# 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<sup>1</sup>.*

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](#)

Time	Topic & Description	Presenter
1:00	<b>Welcome &amp; Context Setting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Workshop purpose, agenda, and housekeeping</li> <li>B. CAEECC past involvement on workforce standards</li> <li>C. Background on Workforce Standards legislation (SB 350), regulation (CPUC D.18-10-008), implementation and evaluation</li> </ul>	A. and B. Amber Zirnhelt, Facilitator  C. Ellen Steiner, Opinion Dynamics
1:30	<b>Panel Discussion on Workforce Standards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. From Code to Practice: Aligning Energy Standards, CPUC Programs and Workforce Training and Compliance</li> <li>B. Risks to Meeting Energy Goals with Improper Product Installation</li> <li>C. PA Experiences Implementing Workforce Standards and Contractor Training with Code Updates</li> <li>D. NALMCO-CLCP's Experiences in Certifying Lighting Technicians and the Impact of Workforce Standards</li> </ul>	A. Gina Rodda, Gabel Energy  B. Chris Ruch, SMW Local 104  C. Audrey Bragg, SoCalREN; Benjamin Druyon, I-REN  D. Erik Ennen, President NALMCO
2:30	<b>Break</b>	
2:40	<b>Breakout Room Discussions</b> Participants will pre-register for two discussion topics from the following list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. <b>Top Challenges in Meeting Workforce Standards for HVAC/Lighting Contractors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ High-level discussion on key challenges and solutions for workforce standards.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> Note: this workshop will focus on standards within market-rate energy efficiency programs under the auspices of the CPUC

	<p><b>B. Incentive Threshold Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Are the incentive amount thresholds for non-residential HVAC and ALC projects adopted in 2018 still appropriate now?</li> </ul> <p><b>C. Contractor Credentialing Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Challenges, inconsistencies and solutions for contractors in meeting credential requirements</li> <li>■ Contractor certification requirement relevancy and costs</li> </ul> <p><b>D. Contractor Verification, the Importance of Quality Assurance and Consumer Protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Roles and challenges for PAs in ensuring contractors meet required credentials</li> <li>■ Importance of quality assurance for on-site work, program administration, and training</li> <li>■ Consumer protection as a policy driver for workforce standards for contractors</li> </ul> <p><b>E. Market Participation, Equity and Access: Who Gets Left Out</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Workforce standards' effects on contractor participation and access to training</li> <li>■ Barriers and opportunities to support contractors in obtaining qualification and maintaining a robust contractor pool for HVAC and ALC</li> </ul> <p><b>F. Coordination on Contractor Requirements: Across PAs and at the State Level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Opportunities for PA collaboration with workforce, labor, and other stakeholders to address local gaps in available, qualified technicians</li> <li>■ Gaps and opportunities for state-level coordination across orgs and regions</li> <li>■ Priorities for workforce standard coordination</li> </ul>	
3:40	<b>Plenary Discussion: Highlights from Breakout Discussions</b>	Amber Zirnhelt, Facilitator and CAEECC Facilitators
3:55	<b>Wrap-up and Next Steps</b>	Katie Abrams, Facilitator
4:00	<b>Workshop Adjourned</b>	

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