

# Statements from Evolving CAEECC Working Group Members to CAEECC

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## What are these statements?

The Facilitation Team invited statements from the Evolving CAEECC Working Group members since the agenda does not allow for public comment on the Working Group update at the Full CAEECC Quarterly Meeting on 11/29. We encourage CAEECC members to review.

## Statements

### Spencer Lipp, Independent

I was honored to be chosen to be part of the Evolving CAEECC working group. The facilitators did an exceptionally good job under difficult circumstances. The pivot of the Evolving CAEECC working group to a Statement and Reflection was not due to their commitment or facilitation of the group. I was hopeful that we would be able to establish a purpose, structure, and authority level for CAEECC that allows for more equitable services under EE programs. As our energy grid transforms to a decarbonized state, it is critical that those traditionally underserved are not left behind as they have been in the past. Although we were not able to provide recommendations as a working group, I hope that the process through Reflections provided through CPUC Staff will result in real change. We desperately need changes at the Commission policy level and at the CPUC Staff policy interpretation level for equity within the EE and DER portfolios. I ask that the Full CAEECC continue to support this effort in whatever capacity they can.

### Aislyn Colgan, Independent

I am bewildered and disappointed by the shutting down of the ECWG process. I attended every meeting in full, read all of the comments and responses thoroughly, and did not see any language that was harmful or aggressive or broke the community agreements. Accommodating a broad range of needs in meetings is an essential part to opening up CAEECC and the CPUC to community engagement. Shutting the meeting down instead of finding another alternative to perceived group incoherence signals internal (CAEECC/CPUC) resistance to or incompetence to sincerely facilitate

community engagement. Concerns of meeting processes inaccessible to people with disabilities, too tight agendas to allow open discussion, facilitator synthesis of Homeworks not reflective of discussion, and lack of time to grasp what the ECWG was asked to do, triggered mistrust and some members requested a different approach. Common Spark responded to these needs by shifting the meeting structures and creating unfacilitated meeting space, resulting in significantly more participation from those who had not previously spoken. As part of the Leadership Team of the ECWG I worked hard to help pull together a coherent strategy based on the variety of areas people had brought up to take into consideration. We had a solid plan to move forward that built on the trust gained. The decision to shut down the process was destructive to all that we have worked for and undermines future efforts to engage the community.

### **Tanisha-Jean Martin, San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition**

I appreciate the opportunity that was given for the working group to come together to assist CAEECC with increasing equity. It is unfortunate that right when the momentum seemed to pick up in the working group we were told it was being put on hold. I highly recommend to let the working group continue, with some specific guidance on what exactly the CAEECC would like accomplished. I believe the initial start was very broad and perhaps it would be more effective to narrow down asks as tiers to growth of an overall agenda. There are many different personalities and perspectives in the WG, but that allows for more diversity, which is a good thing when working on true equity. So please keep in mind true equity takes a truly longer amount of time, but I believe the group can be successful in reaching goals given. Thank you

### **Kate Woodford, Center for Accessible Technology**

Thoughts on the silencing of the community voices in the ECWG. Equity is hard to hear sometimes. Long ago, before I knew the mechanisms & language of Equity, the needs expressed by those who were abused by the absence of equity seemed threatening & divisive. Those voices sounded scary, like they wanted to take away my voice & realities. Once I learned about the process, I understood that the words were there to build group trust. That understanding changed my life fundamentally for the good. Now I can hear what people need, so I can respect & improve the process. I believe that the references to “loud voices,” & concerns about “community rules” may be a response to new voices asking to be heard. Understanding & integration of new voices is foundational to improving equity. While our process has seen challenges, the effort to build trust & create a basis for ongoing improvement has been lively & positive. This is reflected in the survey responses which seem overwhelmingly positive. Participants note that hard work has taken place & have identified positive progress & a desire to move forward, not concerns about disrespect. Conversations have been spirited, but goal oriented. The goal of increased equity requires serious review of existing norms, which may sometimes seem “disrespectful” of existing processes, but which must occur to build new norms that are more inclusive and open. Our 5 suggestions are proof of our good work. Let us actively continue. Don’t silence us.

## **Alice Sung, Independent**

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in the ECWG with its Compensation Pilot. The unilateral disbanding of the ECWG has disrupted all work-in-progress as well as any emerging trust/relationship building. “We” did not “shift” ourselves from group collaboration; instead, we were summarily denied space/resources to collaborate. Why this ECWG process, as: structured, composed, constrained by inadequate funding, unrealistic timeframe, processes/expectations, was halted, we may never understand. But I do not believe it was the fault/deficit of the independent community members or Compensation Pilotees. I have not contributed to any presentations/reports from Facilitators; they do not reflect my thoughts/truth, or direct experience. What is accomplished towards equity/social justice by dismissing/dividing us? Again, while I applaud the intent of this ECWG integral with the Compensation Pilot, and fully support its continuation moving forward, this 1500 character limit in a 3-day turnaround is another exhibit of the inadequate, oppressive, extractive, inequitable, and unjust system we must liberate ourselves from. Further, excluding ECWG members from public comment; once again people are silenced and marginalized. Yet, I remain hopeful for JEDI in any future evolution of CAEECC.