

Evolving CAEECC Working Group Huddle #2

Date: October 23, 2023

Time: 12:00pm - 2:30pm PT

Huddle #1 Notes: [Evolving CAEECC Huddle #1](#)

Evolving CAEECC Webpage: <https://www.caeec.org/evolving-caeccc-working-group>

Disclaimer: This meeting will be facilitated and therefore a different format than Huddle #1.

Agenda

1. Settle In
2. Announcement
3. Agenda Review
4. Brief Recap Huddle #1
5. Co-create Discussion Questions
6. Break (10min) → Aiming for 1pm!
7. Discuss the co-created questions from Agenda Item 5: start with an anonymous zoom poll and move to plenary
8. Identify any proposals / next steps

Would anyone (or multiple people) like to take notes? Feel free to tag in/out as needed

Attendance

- Add your name 😊
- Nicole
- Kate
- Aislyn
- Jan
- Mr. Charles
- Alice
- Tom
- Lou
- Kristina
- Fabi

- Lara came on around 1:15

Notes

Announcement: It's important you know about the pressures at play and the need to create a plan for the Evolving CAEECC Working Group coming out of November 15 Meeting #4. Without a plan co-created by this working group, a defaulted plan will be put in place, and that's not the wish of the Facilitation Team. *Can elaborate more after we dig into some of the agenda as I don't want to take up too much time/space at the beginning.*

- Concerns raised about this
- Perhaps we start at principles, pose them at Nov 15 Meeting and come out with a proposal
- Aislyn: we've done a lot of work already, maybe we can build off that.
- Alice: this "urgency" of time limit to Nov. 15th and what seems like an ultimatum intended to control the structure and process. (/)

Agenda Review

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Recap of Huddle #1

- *Any volunteer from Huddle #1 want to briefly recap?*
- Alice: A large question seemed to be stepping back and looking at the whole framework of CAEECC. The space has been dominated by IOUs and Portfolio Administrators. We might want to question if we want to limit CAEECC to a process that is incrementally changing. We need to define a true shared purpose and outcome. Is achieving equity possible in tinkering on the edges. Is one of the recommendations totally a new model—rather than putting bandaids on CAEECC—to guide use of public use charge.
- Mr. Charles: A question was whether to “blow it up” and consent from some to do that. Wanted to make sure the recommendations ECWG gives are well thought out and agreed upon by a majority of ECWG. Thought about how to make this a more inclusive process as it exists. Want to come up with unifying principles and then make a decision later on. Agreed upon that ECWG as a group should be an example of what CAEECC should be. CAEECC composition needs to change. Not enough community members are a part of it. Perhaps some WG members are in those positions because of the work of ECWG.
- Tanisha-Jean: Can only move so far out of respect for not everyone there. If we are coming up with a proposal, then let's start. We're just proposing something,

we're not moving forward without agreement. Want to make sure there's action next.

- Mr. Charles: Can we agree today that our mission today is a unifying principle?
- Nicole: Is this for ECWG or CAEECC?
- Mr. Charles: Maybe a joint mission?
- Nicole: Assumption is that after ECWG scope is done, ECWG goes away. If we drop the "evolving" part, then this is what CAEECC's mission should be.
- Aislyn: We're creating guiding principles for Evolving CAEECC and translating that to the full CAEECC. Part of process is that we are moving towards ECWG group dynamics that would turn to CAEECC
- Alice: Asked if there were principles created—Suggest #1 [Jemez Principles](#) and #2 Prioritization and Focus on Implementation of Justice and Equity overall of our Public Purpose charge funds (not just the "Portion" of it that comes down to being "allocated" to the "Equity " support program funding) and proposal for a (1) a new model for a "new body" to respond to needs of communities of concern as opposed to the "Market."
- Mr. Charles: Perhaps to build off Homework C for principles
- Lou: we are overthinking this. Feeling more pressure to say more resolve. We have a few key recommendations → bullet points
 - CAEECC to be reorganized to focus on equity
 - CAEECC membership to reflect diversity in CA
 - CAEECC to be able to influence policy/regulation
 - Create a vision of what CAEECC could be to make progress. Want to show results quickly because it's a diverse group
- Nicole: Right now CAEECC is focused on market-rate programs. Propose that new CAEECC work in conjunction with Low-income Oversight Board (LIOB). A lot of things get taken from market-rate and instituted in income-qualified programs. Would like to see CAEECC require that programs provide more demographic info on populations being served.
- Mr. Charles: All of the things we need from the next meeting, I just heard it! WE want to develop unifying principles + some suggestions of what CAEECC can look like. WE already did most of that work in the past few minutes. Now how do we want to "propose" it? We have this ready, let's "agree" on how to send this forward.

- Alice: But not the only outcome of this meeting: 1. Shared Principles to operate by, 2. RE-Create ? IF ECWG is to model we need to ask who is on both and holds power?
- Kate: Change CAEECC's title to: California Equitable Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee. Include coordination with Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Groups (DACAG), LIOB, and RENs. Find a clearing spot and central space for discussion and interplay.
- Alice: Are we saying that we are also looking at composition in ECWG? Are we able to talk about the composition now? For example, Group didn't vote on leadership and this structure. Don't know who applied/didn't apply. Not exactly a leadership but more a liaison and sounding board/ear. What needs to be changed isn't who else needs to be here but the structure of the table and who has traditional power and/or self-interest either for profit or power or other benefit that is not for the benefit of the communities of concern.
- Lou: Recommendation to expand scope. One of the things is writing recommendations in the broadest sense possible. Should consider empowering the new CAEECC to engage in rulemaking/proceeding of the communities we are targeting. In support of nimbleness and brevity to allow CAEECC to be flexible in future years
- Nicole: +1 Lou. Think that ECWG, where we are, what we went through conversations are done. That's all in history for us to move on going forward and those can be recommendations and lessons learned moving forward. Let's keep moving forward. Feels like we take 1 step forward and 5 steps back. Know all point of views are important and perspective and values are real. Earlier was discussing whether it's ECWG and CAEECC. Propose focusing on principles of CAEECC, not ECWG because of trauma already experienced. Use experience in the trauma we've experienced to build forward.
 - Fabi: +1 on what Nicole is saying about moving forward.

Co-create discussion questions

- *Any ideas?*
- Kate: Take Lou's comments and figure those out. Then we can figure out how to rearrange things. Nothing is set in stone.
- Fabi: Frame discussion questions to get us to a proposal.
- Tanisha-Jean: My thought was we were going to be developing questions that would be a part of the proposal we put together.

10 min Bio BREAK -----

Discussion #1: Focused discussion on recommendations for a new “CAEECC” moving forward

- Ideas already elevated:
 - a) CAEECC to be reorganized to focus on equity
 - b) CAEECC membership to reflect diversity in CA
 - c) CAEECC to be able to influence policy/regulation
 - d) CAEECC shall work in conjunction with Low-income Oversight Board (LIOB)/Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) and other oversight/advisory groups.
 - e) Propose CAEECC have a wide purview to allow for future flexibility
- There was clarification on what the focus on “equity” was.
- I see it more as energy efficiency and interconnected topics, with energy efficiency being the focal/unifying point.
- We did discuss last session that equity be recognized as workforce development hiring our people from the community to do the outreach. I would like to see that added to the conversation
 - Resource provided on a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between CPUC and CA Workforce Board

The Huddle then was sent 2 anonymous zoom polls to begin discussion. The following are the poll responses and the discussion that followed.

- **Poll Result #1: What do you think about the 5 ideas already elevated?** *Huddle Participants categorized these responses. See [Categorization of Poll Responses](#) section below.*
 1. For a), we'll need to be very specific as to what we mean by focusing on equity. I think it should be to elevate equity in the market rate segment because more equity focus is needed in this space. I agree with b) and c). For c), we'll need to think through as to what we mean by influencing, is it through very formal means like being a party to a proceeding, which I don't think should be the case because neither the DACAG nor the LIOB are parties, but they definitely influence policy in other ways. For d), I don't think we should say "shall" but change it to "CAEECC will aim to coordinate with..." The LIOB and DACAG already have a lot on their plate. The DACAG has talked about coordinating with the LIOB for two years, and some of the DACAG members have only been able to talk to LIOB members a few

times offline, not during any of their respective meetings. I support e) because it helps "future proof" what CAEECC can do.

2. - a) focus on equity and energy efficiency--emphasis on equity. d) broaden and soften,shall attempt to coordinate in conjunction with other key oversight committees....
 3. - yes to all of that AND with energy efficiency as focal point. broader than that will be very unwieldy but we could expand as we show successes. I agree w/ Kate's proposal to add an E for equity so it's CAEECC.
 4. - a) i need more clarity on what this means... it seems like a generality that can be interpreted too broadly b) i think a piece of the membership diversity has to include CAEECC training new membership to be able to speak EE-language, and training the existing caeec body to operate outside of office culture and meet participants where they are at I think re wide-purview we should give as much specifics so that interpretation is clear
 5. - Good, I like the idea of having coordination with LIOB and DACAG. Need additional thought on how to realistically make this happen.
 6. - I'm supportive of these ideas and vote to prioritize the first three (a, b, and c)
 7. - I like these as general ideas
 8. - f) CAEECC add Equity to the name so it is in the fabric g) CAEECC collect demographic information from programs h) CAEECC help provide recommendations of programs to be created that are missed by income-qualified and market-rate programs
 9. - I like those as the broad ideas to be further developed
 10. - A. to add Energy efficiency in that action of A.
- **Poll #2: What else do you propose? Other ideas?** *Huddle Participants categorized these responses. See [Categorization of Poll Responses](#) section below.*
 1. Continue to have CAEECC tasked with key working group activities...for example had CAEECC not done the underserved working group, hard-to-reach may not have been formally defined for local government operating in rural and DACs (regulatory definition).
 2. - Have CAEECC be a much more accessible venue to influence policy and decisions at the commission vs. the formal process. Perhaps CAEECC could have two tracks, an inclusive public participation track and a more technical policy/program influence track.

3. - look to the facilitator synthesis of homework c to get some more complete recommendations to dig into discussing. also the cdei recommendations on page 50 already fleshed out much of the caeccc composition questions and that work should not be lost.
4. - Can CAEECC have a role in ensuring energy affordability in some way? (wish list item)
5. - None that I can think of now.
6. - I would add CAEECC be transparent with the demographics of who is involved and populations working with.
7. - Add contractors and public members to the CAEECC group (diversity of membership (lj?))
8. - none at this time. if we can move further with these 5, we will have accomplished a lot
9. - That the membership have an even balance of power. That means. No one interest group, IOU's, REN's, not-for-profits, etc., have an equal vote/voice in actions the CAEECC does

- **Discussion**

- Mr. Charles: We did discuss last session that equity be recognized as workforce development hiring our people from the community to do the outreach. I would like to see that added to the conversation. Equity is empowering people and a major way to do that is through economics. ____ System and process and how it works. Folks should be paid to learn this and employ community members to do the training and outreach. Economics have been missing in the conversation. Need to take advantage of the programs at the same time
- Nicole: Think that it would be awesome if CAEECC could be a _____. Many of these programs are reimbursement programs. The implementor has to pay upfront and then get reimbursed for the program. This causes disparity in the program. The people who implement the programs have to have money already to be able to do the work. Perhaps CAEECC could help facilitate getting new folks interested in program implementation by "getting their foot in the door". I.e. SDG&E wants to partner with ?DD?. But a first barrier is having money and financials to show to be a part of it. In low-income programs need a line of credit established. How do smaller companies get their foot in the door.
 - Also customer has to pay upfront

- Lara: Agree with Nicole. Point of clarification is that the “equity segment” exists. For the customer side, equity segment programs don’t pay first. But on the implementation side (the people who make / implement programs for energy efficiency), there have been a few attempts for this. Some community groups don’t want to be the main contractor on the implementation side because of all the backend. I.e. not everyone has the same access to participate in the bidding process.
- Lara: CAEECC gets to propose policy-specific recommendations for the energy efficiency proceeding to change. Policy influence can be: a) affordability; and b) workforce hiring
- Kate: Proceeding at commission called [Supplier Diversity](#) (R.21-03-010). This has arcane rules. The Commission has to spell out the bidding process (i.e. women-owned; minority-owned, disabled-owned, lgbtq+-owned). Where we can leverage is that they can hire and sub-hire with some diversity content. Would allow for more community access.
- Nicole: utilities have tried to facilitator “meet and greets”. Perhaps CAEECC can help support / facilitate these avenues. Maybe also to support the RFI/RFQ/RFP process (request for information/qualifications/proposals)
- Nicole: Membership, are there public members?
- Mr. Charles:

Categorization of Poll Responses

A few Huddle Participants categorized the initial poll responses to determine where there was agreement and where there was slight agreement. This categorization is listed in the bullets below.

- **Items from Polls *With Agreement***

- Poll #1: What do you think about the 5 ideas already elevated?
 - Response #1:
 - "CAEECC will aim to coordinate with..."
 - I support e) because it helps "future proof" what CAEECC can do.
 - Response #2: soften,shall attempt to coordinate in
 - Response #3: yes to all
 - Response #5: idea of having coordination with LIOB and DACAG

- Response #6: - I'm supportive of these ideas and vote to prioritize the first three (a, b, and c)
- Response #7: I like these as general ideas
- Response #8: f) CAEECC add Equity to the name so it is in the fabric
- Response #9: I like those as the broad ideas to be further developed
- Poll #2: What else do you propose? Other ideas?
 - Response #2: Have CAEECC be a much more accessible venue to influence policy
 - Response #7: Add contractors and public members to the CAEECC group (diversity of membership (lj?))
 - Response #8: none at this time. if we can move further with these 5, we will have accomplished a lot
 - Response #9: That the membership have an even balance of power
- **Items from Polls With *Some Agreement / Slightly In Agreement***
 - Poll #1: What do you think about the 5 ideas already elevated?
 - Response #1: For c), we'll need to think through as to what we mean by influencing, is it through very formal means like being a party to a proceeding, which I don't think should be the case
 - Response #3: add an E for equity so it's CAEECC
 - Poll #2: What else do you propose? Other ideas?
 - Response #2: Perhaps CAEECC could have two tracks, an inclusive public participation track and a more technical policy/program influence track.

DRAFT BASIS FOR HOMEWORK

(which will be a survey to gather anonymous responses)

Things we have agreement on AS A FIRST DRAFT:

- **Ask ECWG what they think about these ideas:**
 - **a) CAEECC to be reorganized to focus on equity** (*WITH THE CAVEAT: that we need to define equity; we also need to agree on WHERE/WHEN [for*

equity], such as energy efficiency? Energy efficiency + decarbonization + financing + implementation+ etc., what does it include in terms of proceedings, priorities, etc.)

- Equity in program design/development
 - Equity in overall distribution of funds for programs
 - Equity in program implementation
 - Equity in [workforce/supplier diversity](#)
 - Equity in program participation
 - Equity in benefits/outcome of programs
 - Equity in evaluation, measurement, and verification
 - Equity in accountability of CAEECC (Actively evaluate, measure and hold accountability of CAEECC's equity practices)
- **b) CAEECC membership to reflect diversity in CA** (NOTE: see CDEI report p.50 for starting point)CDEI REPORT: 4-2-2022 Composition Diversity Equity & Inclusion Working Group Final Report (posted 6-13-2023) ([Download PDF Report](#))
 - Ensure compensation for eligible participants/members
 - Make sure we have compensation for individuals and/or non-profits that don't have sufficient funding to be actively engaged
 - See CDEI report for positions on membership re: balance of power (e.g., CAEECC membership composition should not have entities with conflicts-of interest (profit from the "market" or contracts or program administration... OR at least not have dominance in majority of membership)
 - Revisit Conflict of interest / disclosures
 - **c) CAEECC to be able to influence policy/regulation.** Need to define
 - Does this mean being a party vs. other ways?
 - **d) CAEECC shall work in conjunction with** Low-income Oversight Board (LIOB)/Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) and other oversight/advisory groups. (WITH THE CAVEAT: that we are striving to/working toward vs. making is a final statement given the capacity of the other groups)
 - **e) Propose CAEECC have a wide purview to allow for future flexibility.** Need to add more details
 - Purview - need to define, what does that mean for scope?
- **Ask ECWG What do you think about these "other" ideas (the parking lot):**
 - f) CAEECC collect demographic information from programs

- g) CAEECC help provide recommendations of programs to be created that are missed by income-qualified and market-rate programs
- h) CAEECC be a forum for community engagement in CPUC processes re: energy & equity
- **Ask ECWG Any other ideas to elevate?**
- **Mention to ECWG some discussed Previous documents to work from to add in details**
 - Membership: refer to [CDEI Final Report](#) (p.50)
 - Refer to [Facilitator Synthesis of Homework C](#) for more ideas

Discussion #2: Focused discussion on unifying principles for a new “CAEECC” moving forward

[the Huddle did not get to this discussion question]

Potential discussion questions:

A starting point:

- *What do you think of this Evolving CAEECC scope?*
 - *Evolving CAEECC is a reflection of what we want Full CAEECC to be. Evolving CAEECC has to be emblematic of what we’re talking about. If we stuck to our Homework C viewpoints, then this is who ECWG is, how ECWG wants to move forward, and this is what ECWG wants to work on in the next two months.*
- *How would you like to do the work?*
- *What topics would you like to prioritize?*

Pieces of the [Homework C Facilitator](#) synthesis related to this upcoming discussion

[added by Huddle Participants]

(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 Concern¹, and others.

- a. Serve as a liaison 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.
- 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 decision makers, 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 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

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.