Compilation and Synthesis of Equity Poll Responses Aug 12

Introduction: For this compilation, we have binned responses as to whether they are overall comments or Objective-specific. Then, under Objectives, we have binned comments as to whether they call for greater clarification or elaboration, comment on relative priority, suggest dropping text, or suggest combining objectives. Lastly, we have binned suggestions for wholly new objectives. Note that the response numbers correspond to the response numbers in the Excel version of the poll responses, also posted to the meeting page.

Quantitative Summary Table

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Objective 1: Directly support hard-to-reach, disadvantaged, and/or underserved individuals, households, businesses, and communities in realizing near and long-term energy savings and greenhouse gas reduction benefits. | Objective 2: Prioritize serving customers in each market segment with the greatest need. | Objective 3: Provide non-energy benefits, which include, for example, increased comfort and safety, improved air quality, and more affordable utility bills. | Objective 4: Prioritize grid reliability and climate resilience. |
| Rating (note 3.5 is median on scale) | *Highest (5.8/6.0)* | *3rd (3.4/6.0)* | *2nd (5.2/6.0)* | *Lowest (2.4/6.0)* |
| Ranking, relative to the other Objectives | 1st | *3rd* | 2nd | 4th |
| Recommendation to Retain Objective (including with modications) | *100% of poll respondents recommended keeping the Objective* | *80% of poll respondents recommended keeping the Objective* | *95% of poll respondents recommended keeping the Objective* | *55% of poll respondents recommended keeping the Objective.* |

Comments on Overall Structure of the Four Objectives/Cross-

Cutting Comments

* Response 2: Objectives should generally be singular in topic. For example, an objective that requires providing non-energy benefits and more affordable utility bills have competing goals and should be split. Non-energy benefits should be one, and more affordable utility bills should be another. Program Administrators need straight forward objectives. If they have to focus on energy savings, that would come at the detriment of measure that provide no energy savings.
* Response 2: Any prioritization of one category would also have to be at the detriment of other categories. If PAs are required to focus on greatest need, they could be missing opportunities to service families just outside the "greatest need" group leaving many willing families to wait until "greatest need" families are given the opportunity to participate. Just look at the ESA 2020 goal debacle to see prioritizing is expensive and not realistic at the program level.
* Response 10: We need to further clarify some of these terms through the working group, including hard to reach and climate resilience. As was mentioned at WG meeting #1, we also need to grapple with the question of how to measure non-energy benefits (qualitatively or quantitatively where possible). But once we achieve a bit more clarity on these points, these objectives should allow programs to be evaluated consistent with the Decision's definition of equity.
* Response 12: Add this to the CPUC definition of the equity segment: "Programs with a primary purpose of providing grid reliability and climate resilience," and "Programs with a primary purpose of serving customers in each market segment with the greatest need."
* Response 20: Assuming that "support hard-to-reach, disadvantaged, and/or underserved individuals, households, businesses, and communities" is assumed as part of each objective and not limited to the first objective listed. Also, how is the "greatest need" defined under the second objective?

Objective-Specific Comments

**Objective 1: [Directly support hard-to-reach, disadvantaged, and/or underserved individuals, households, businesses, and communities in realizing near and long-term energy savings and greenhouse gas reduction benefits.] *Note: This was rated as the most important Objective (5.8/6.0), and ranked 1st relative to the other Objectives. 100% of poll respondents recommended keeping the Objective (with modifications).***

Comments on Terms requiring clarification, greater definition or elaboration

* Response 2: Energy savings should be removed from the 1st and 3rd objective and moved into its own category.
* Response 4: Directly support HTR, disadvantaged and/or underserved individuals, households, businesses and communities in realizing near and long-term energy savings and that will result in energy and non-energy benefits for those served, as well as GHG benefits to the State. Near-term energy savings are program interventions that can be directly measured through energy savings, while longer-term energy savings will be measured through intermediate outputs that support long-term energy savings, such as capacity building or other investments to priority equity communities.
* Response 8: after "greenhouse reduction benefits" add "leveraging sustained capital investment".
* Response 18: Energy savings term in 1 should be refined to include a temporal dimension.
* Response 21: Modify to “Implement program elements that will enhance TSB/capita for hard to reach and disadvantaged communities to levels of communities that are not hard to reach or disadvantaged”
* Response 22: This Objective already addresses the "prioritize climate resilience" and is an appropriate alternative.

Comments on Relative priority of Objectives

Suggestions for Fewer Objectives or Deletions

* Response 2: Energy savings should be removed from the 1st and 3rd objective and moved into its own category.
* Response 6: The primary objective of the equity programs segment should simply be the first one "directly support...". The second objective "prioritizing serving customers..." can be absorbed by the primary objective. The third and fourth objectives "non-energy benefits..." and "grid reliability..." are ancillary benefits of the programs and not the primary objective. We recommend that there should be only one primary objective for the equity programs segment and that the metric should be GHG, kW, kWh, Therms, and TSB by sector (residential, commercial, agricultural, public) for equity eligible customers.

Suggestions to Add Text to Existing Core Objectives

* Response 8: after "greenhouse reduction benefits" add "leveraging sustained capital investment".
* Response 21: Modify to “Implement program elements that will enhance TSB/capita for hard to reach and disadvantaged communities to levels of communities that are not hard to reach or disadvantaged”

**Objective 2: [Prioritize serving customers in each market segment with the greatest need.] *Note: This was rated as the 3rd most important Objective (3.4/6.0 – below the median), and ranked 3rd relative to the other Objectives. 80% of poll respondents recommended keeping the Objective (with modifications).***

Comments on Terms requiring clarification, greater definition of elaboration

* Response 3: Prioritize advancing EE equity in each market segment for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.
* Response 6: Needs clarity on what it means. For example what is prioritize?, what is segment with the greatest need?
* Response 7: Prioritize serving customers in each market segment with the greatest need based on health disparity, economic hardships, pandemic impact, heat wave impact etc.
* Response 8: Needs greater specificity with regards to how "market segments" and "need" are defined.
* Response 15: add “by increasing EE savings for DAC/HTR customers” at the end
* Response 18: NEBs term should be refined to narrow to only a few high priority NEBs.
* Response 20: How is the "greatest need" defined under the second objective?
* Response 21: Modify to “Raise EE Program Awareness and participation in HTR and disadvantaged communities to levels that are not hard to reach or disadvantaged.”

Comments on Relative priority of Objectives

Suggestions for Fewer Objectives

Suggestions to Add Text to Existing Core Objectives

**Objective 3: [Provide non-energy benefits, which include, for example, increased comfort and safety, improved air quality, and more affordable utility bills.] *Note: This was rated as the 2nd most important Objective (5.2/6.0), and ranked 2nd relative to the other Objectives. 95% of poll respondents recommended keeping the Objective (with modifications).***

Comments on Terms requiring clarification of greater definition

* Response 4: Directly support HTR, disadvantaged and/or underserved individuals, households, businesses and communities in realizing non-energy benefits for those served, which include, for example, increased comfort and safety, improved air quality, and more affordable utility bills.
* Response 13: It's not clear what it's meant by "greatest need". This needs to be defined; it might be a metrics discussion.

Response 16: Add public health and local air quality improvement to the non-energy benefits objective, which is language from the ESJ Action Plan Objective #2 (per the focus in the decision language).

* Response 21: Modify to “Provide quantifiable and measurable non-energy benefits to HTR and disadvantaged communities that address underlying social determinants of health (e.g. enhanced programs for health care facilities, schools, public buildings, affordable housing, and grocery stores.)”
* Response 23: In the definition NEBs \*may\* result from EE, but putting NEBs as an objective may cause parties to pursue NEBs over or without direct link to EE. I don’t have an alternative, sorry!

Comments on Relative priority of Objectives

Suggestions for Fewer Objectives

* Response 2: Energy savings should be removed from the 1st and 3rd objective and moved into its own category.
* Response 8: Revise Objective #3 to fold in Objective #4 to read: Prioritize local and individual benefits for individuals, businesses, and communities including: comfort, safety, improved air quality, reduced utility bills, grid reliability, and climate resilience.

Suggestions to Add Text to Existing Core Objectives

**Objective 4: [Prioritize grid reliability and climate resilience.] *Note: This was rated as the least important Objective (2.4/6.0), and ranked last relative to the other Objectives. 55% of poll respondents recommended keeping the Objective (with modifications).***

Comments on Terms requiring clarification of greater definition

* Response 4: Support equity priority communities in their energy-related efforts to build sustainable and resilient communities.
* Response 15: add “by increasing EE savings for DAC/HTR customers” at the end Response 20: Suggest that the last objective be reworded to "Prioritize grid reliability and LOCAL climate and energy resilience". local is the key term to include. Assuming that "support hard-to-reach, disadvantaged, and/or underserved individuals, households, businesses, and communities" is assumed as part of each objective and not limited to the first objective listed. Also, how is the "greatest need" defined under the second objective?
* Response 21: Modify to “Implement program elements that provide HTR customers and disadvantaged communities with enhanced energy reliability and resiliency at levels similar to those communities that are not hard to reach or which have high resiliency.”

Comments on Relative priority of Objectives

Suggestions for Fewer Objectives or Deletion of Text

* Response 2: Grid reliability will happen at a different level and should not be an objective. Nothing these programs can do will help with grid reliability. There may be a single measure, such as a smart thermostat that would allow the IOUs to control the families usage during peak times and we could argue that helps grid reliability during those peak times but these are low-income families in disadvantaged communities. They suffer enough. Let them turn on their AC when needed. Any savings during peak time will not impact the grid.
* Response 8: Remove Objective 4 as a stand-alone objective.
* Response 16: Climate resiliency is one of the nine goals listed by the ESJ Action Plan (#4), but it is not part of the goals referenced in the definition of equity segment (i.e., not part of 1,2,5). Suggest this be a desired outcome as part of program design vs. a specific objective. For example, grid reliability with EE alone in the equity segment does not align as it would with the resource program segment. Plus, EE programs alone will not be as effective for grid reliability as would EE + Solar + battery. For climate resilience – programs should be designed to improve indoor air quality and help avoid wildfire smoke leaking into the building and/or to keep indoor temperatures low during heat waves would be important as program design.
* Response 18: We don't support inclusion of a grid reliability and climate resilience term.
* Response 22: Delete Objective because “Prioritize climate resilience” is part of the first Objective and “Prioritize grid reliability” is already a primary objective for resource acquisition programs.

Suggestions to Add Text to Existing Core Objectives

Proposed New Objectives:

* Response 21: “Target HTR and disadvantaged communities and customers which are currently experiencing energy poverty (10% of income spent on energy) with the goal of eliminating energy poverty”
* Response 21: “Lowering of Energy Use Intensity for HTR and disadvantaged customers and communities to levels approximating those in communities that are not HTR or disadvantaged”