



# Experiences Implementing a State Level Equity Advisory Committee

December 9, 2021

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Public Advisor, California Energy Commission



# Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG)

- Mandated by Senate Bill 350
- Established in 2018
- Review CEC and CPUC clean energy programs and policies
- 11 members from or represent disadvantaged communities



**Angela Islas\*\***  
DACAG Chair  
Community Representative  
April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2022



**Román Partida-López \*\*\***  
DACAG Vice Chair  
The Greenlining Institute  
April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2022



**Stephanie Chen \*\***  
DACAG Secretary  
Marin Clean Energy  
April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021



**Jana Ganion \*\*\*\***  
DACAG Tribal Representative  
Blue Lake Rancheria  
April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021



**Adrian Martínez \*\***  
DACAG Member  
Earthjustice  
April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2022



**Andres Ramirez \*\***  
DACAG Member  
Pacifica Beautiful  
April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2022



**Fred L. Beihn \*\*\*\*\***  
DACAG Member  
Arrowhead Solutions  
April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2022



**Roger Lin \*\***  
DACAG Member  
California Environmental Justice Alliance  
April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2022



**José Hernandez**  
Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI)  
April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2023

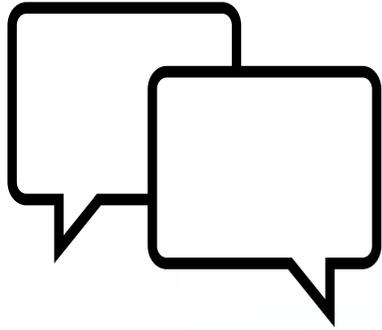




# Benefits

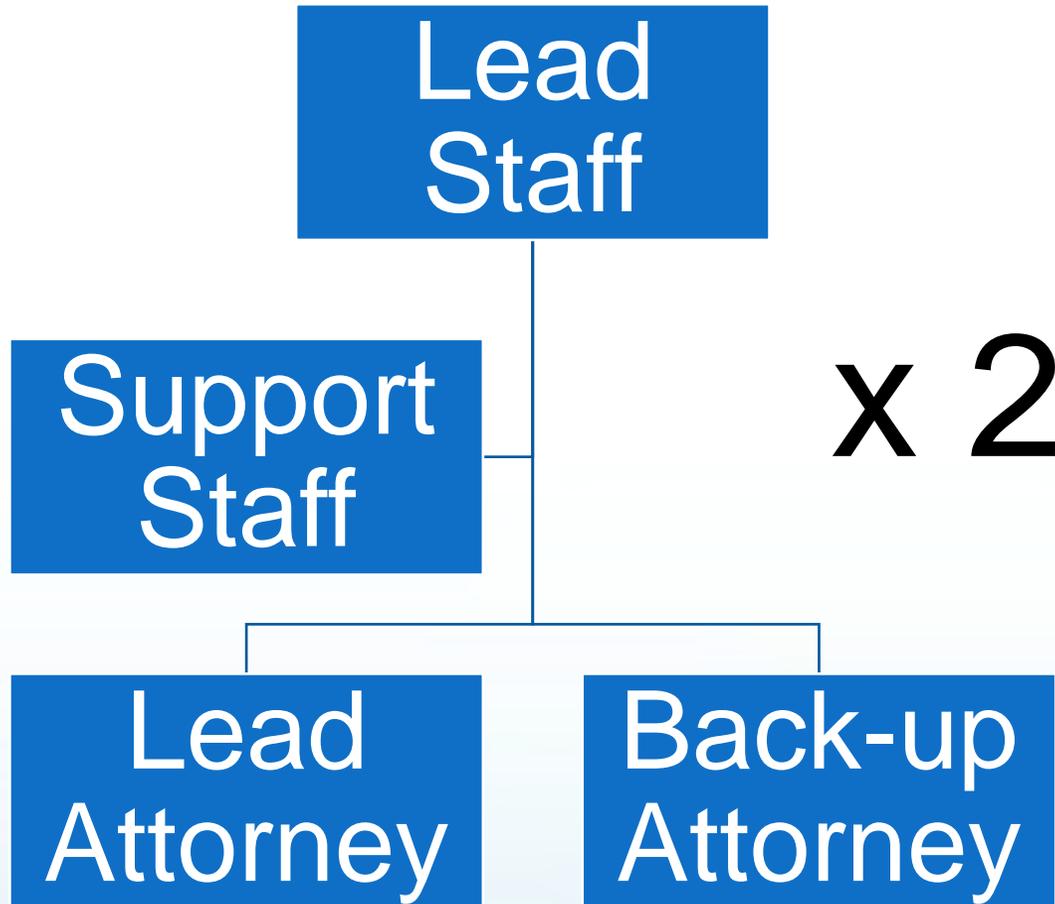
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- Improved policies and programs
- Consistent feedback loop
- Improved relationships
- Educated ambassadors
- Additional communication channels





# Agency Staffing & Support



CEC	CPUC
Zoom	Stipends
Agendas	Applications
Run of show	
Newsletter	
Noticing/Posting	
Webpages	
Member Onboarding	
Annual Report Review	
Priority Recommendations	
Charter Updates	



# Role of Commissioners

- Oversee DACAG and support staff
- Lead and engage in major decisions
- Attend DACAG meetings
- Promote interaction with DACAG



**Siva Gunda**  
VICE CHAIR



**Karen Douglas**  
COMMISSIONER



**Martha  
Guzman  
Aceves**  
Commissioner



**Cliff  
Rechtschaffen**  
Commissioner



# Charter

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- Purpose and guiding principles
- Membership
  - Number (10 by agencies and 1 by Governor's Tribal Advisor)
  - Selection process
  - Qualifications
  - Terms
  - Removal and Resignation
  - Per Diem
- Duties
- Conflict of Interest
- Officers



# DACAG Governance & Terms



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# Monthly Meetings & Agendas

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- Meetings
  - DACAG chose monthly meetings (except December)
  - Bagley-Keene meetings
  - Hybrid with quarterly in-person at 1 site until pandemic
  - Hybrid with Zoom planned moving forward
- Facilitation
  - Staff draft run of show
  - Staff hosts, manages public comment
  - Chair runs meeting
  - Secretary takes minutes
- Agendas
  - Staff and officers meet week after monthly DACAG meeting
  - Chair asks for DACAG suggestions during monthly meetings
  - Staff provides agency requests with DACAG
- Minutes
  - Use run of show
  - Attorneys review



# Priority Areas & Subject Matter Experts

- 1) Storage
- 2) Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC)
- 3) Solar Access
- 4) Transportation Electrification
- 5) Biomethane
- 6) Building Electrification
- 7) Workforce Development
- 8) Assembly Bill 617
- 9) Senate Bill 100
- 10) Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)
- 11) Telecommunications / Broadband / Digital Divide
- 12) COVID-19 response
- 13) Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan
- 14) Community Engagement

## **Per Priority:**

- 1-2 Leads
- Up to 5 SMEs
- Agencies contact the SMEs for input in between monthly meetings



# Decision-making & Recommendations Processes

- Collaboration
  - Staff and DACAG officers communicate regularly
  - Attorneys provide guidance and options
  - Commissioners are active
- Transparency
  - Staff makes presentations to inform and obtain input
  - Staff clarifies how and when input will be used
- Receptivity
  - Commissioners want and take advice seriously
  - Staff appreciate input
- Process
  - DACAG provides advice through letters
  - Submits verbal or written comments



# Equity Framework

## DEFINITION OF DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

As defined in the Energy Equity Indicators tool, the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DAC AG) will adopt as the definition and advocate for equitable programming to reach all of the following communities (including community residents, workers, and businesses):

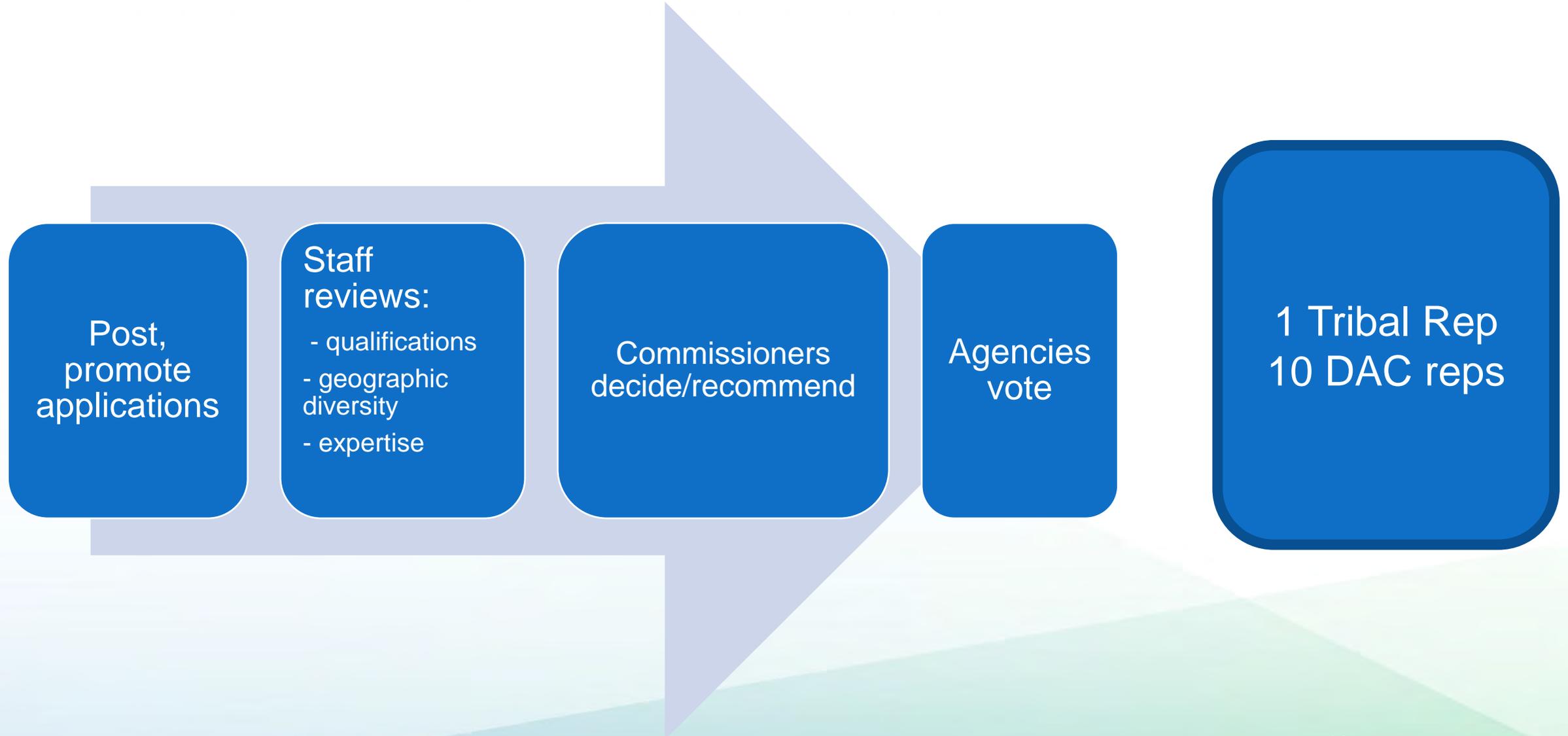
- ◆ CalEnviroScreen, as defined by Cal EPA,
- ◆ Tribal Lands,
- ◆ Census tracts with area median household income/state median income, less than 80%, and
- ◆ Households with median household income less than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI).

## FRAMEWORK

1. Health & Safety
2. Access & Education
3. Financial Benefits
4. Economic Development
5. Consumer Protection



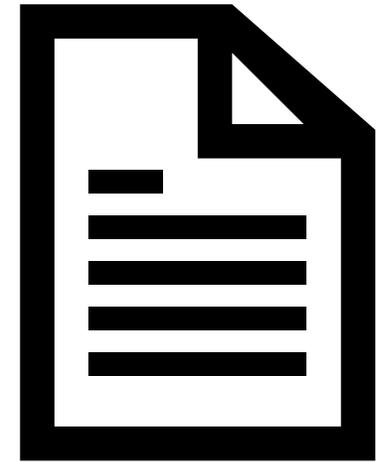
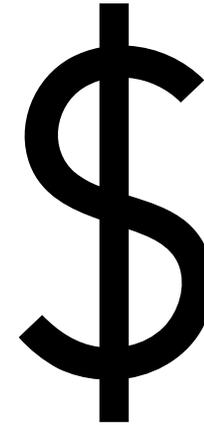
# Application & Selection Process





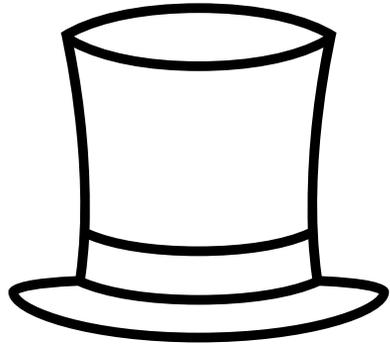
# Stipends

- Reasonable expenses and per diem covered for attending publicly-noticed meetings
- Reasonable expenses include:
  - transportation
  - lodging
  - meals
  - Incidentals
- No per diem for preparation work
- No intervenor compensation
- Abide by Standard Form 262
- Must use state's Travel Expense Claim (TEC) process and submit to CPUC





# Conflict of Interest Considerations



- Upon entry, check business interests (Form 700)
- Advocacy by organizations of DACAG members
- Comments made during meetings
- Applying for grants administered by agencies
- Representing or speaking on behalf of the DACAG



# Contact Info

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  - (916) 661-8130
- DACAG's webpage:
  - <https://www.energy.ca.gov/about/campaigns/equity-and-diversity/disadvantaged-communities-advisory-group>