Program Innovation
Request for Information (RFI)

Launch: July 1, 2026 Close: July 2, 2027

RFI Protocol

1. Introduction

Clean Power Alliance of Southern California ("CPA"), the fourth largest energy provider in California, the largest Community Choice Aggregator in California and recipient of an investment grade credit rating of A from S&P Global Rankings, is requesting the submission of ideas for new business models, customer programs, contract structures, financing approaches, or partnerships with CPA. Through this Request for Information (RFI), CPA seeks additional insights on market innovation to identify and inform future solicitations, program designs, and procurement strategies.

CPA may open an additional or supplemental competitive or specialty service procurement process to further explore promising concepts that enhance CPA's operations and benefit its customers. Submissions must be able to serve or provide a benefit to CPA and its customers and have a commercial readiness to offer products or services.

This protocol is for new customer programs or services with CPA, including business models, contracting structures, financing approaches, or partnerships. If you are interested in submitting a proposal for an emerging technology or resource, please refer to the Innovation Solicitation for Emerging Technologies which can be found on CPA's website.

General instructions for participating in CPA's Program Innovation RFI and program-specific requirements are described in the text of this document ("RFI Protocol").

Contents

2. Background

a. Description of CPA

Clean Power Alliance (CPA) is the nation's leading green power provider and California's largest community choice aggregator. Established in 2017, CPA is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of 38 local member agencies across Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. CPA is the fourth largest electricity provider in California and serves more than three million residents and businesses in the region. CPA was established to provide communities cost competitive electricity and a choice of clean energy options, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stimulate renewable energy development and the growth of green jobs, implement distributed energy resources, and offer energy efficiency, demand reduction, and cost saving customer programs. CPA has an investment grade credit rating of A with a Stable Outlook from S&P Global Ratings.

b. RFI Overview and Goals

The goal of this RFI is for CPA to solicit and review submission of ideas for new customer program business models, program designs, financing approaches, contract structures, or partnerships with CPA. CPA may open an additional or supplemental competitive or specialty service procurement process to further explore promising concepts that enhance CPA's operations and benefit its customers.

This issuance of this RFI does not represent a commitment of CPA to procure, pilot, or immediately implement any proposed concepts.

Responses to the RFI may be submitted at any time up to July 2, 2027. Submissions will be reviewed on a quarterly basis as outlined in the RFI Timeline.

c. Acknowledgement of Terms

By participating in this RFI, respondents ("Respondents") acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions set forth in this RFI Protocol. CPA reserves the right to reject any submission that does not comply with the requirements identified herein. Furthermore, CPA may, in its sole discretion and without notice, modify, suspend, or terminate the CPA Program Innovation RFI without liability to any organization or individual. The CPA Program Innovation RFI does not constitute an offer to buy or create an obligation for CPA to enter into an agreement with any party, and CPA shall not be bound by the terms of any submission until CPA has entered into a fully executed agreement.

3. Submission Details

a. RFI Website

All information regarding this RFI will be posted to the CPA's website at https://cleanpoweralliance.org/program-innovation-rfi/. Respondents will submit all submissions (including narrative, and all other materials) to the RFI. All Q&A questions from Respondents shall also be submitted to the same email address.ProgramInnovation@cleanpoweralliance.org. All Q&A questions from Respondents shall also be submitted to the same email address.

b. Timeline

Date	Item
July 1, 2026	RFI opens
August 28, 2026	Q&A period #1: Deadline to submit questions for review period #1 at 11:59pm Pacific Time. Submit questions via email at ProgramInnovation@cleanpoweralliance.org
September 11, 2026	Q&A period #1 responses: Review period #1 Q&A document for questions received between June 29, 2026 and August 28, 2026 posted to the CPA Programs Innovation RFI website
October 2, 2026	Review period #1 submissions: Deadline to submit Programs Innovation RFI submissions for review period #1. Submissions due at 5:00pm Pacific Time via email at ProgramInnovation@cleanpoweralliance.org
November 20, 2026	Q&A period #2: Deadline to submit questions for review period #2 at 11:59pm Pacific Time. Submit questions via email at ProgramInnovation@cleanpoweralliance.org
December 4, 2026	Q&A period #2 responses: Review period #2 Q&A document for questions received between October 3, 2026 and November 20, 2026 posted to the CPA Programs Innovation RFI website
December 23, 2026	Review period #2 submissions: Deadline to submit Programs Innovation RFI submissions for review period #2. Submissions due at 5:00pm Pacific Time via email at ProgramInnovation@cleanpoweralliance.org
February 26, 2027	Q&A period #3: Deadline to submit questions for review period #3 at 11:59pm Pacific Time. Submit questions via email at ProgramInnovation@cleanpoweralliance.org
March, 12, 2027	Q&A period #3 responses: Review period #3 Q&A document for questions received between December 24, 2026 and February 26, 2027 posted to the CPA Programs Innovation RFI website
April 2, 2027	Review period #3 submissions: Deadline to submit Programs Innovation RFI submissions for review period #3. Submissions due at 5:00pm Pacific Time via email at ProgramInnovation@cleanpoweralliance.org
May 28, 2027	Q&A period #4: Deadline to submit questions for review period #4 at 11:59pm Pacific Time. Submit questions via email at ProgramInnovation@cleanpoweralliance.org

June 11, 2027	Q&A period #4 responses: Review period #4 Q&A document for questions received between April 3, 2027 and May 28, 2027 posted to the CPA Programs Innovation RFI website
July 2, 2027	Review period #4 submissions: Deadline to submit Programs Innovation RFI submissions for review period #4. Submissions due at 5:00pm Pacific Time via email at ProgramInnovation@cleanpoweralliance.org

c. RFI Process

For submissions to this RFI, CPA will employ the following process:

- Submissions will be reviewed by the CPA team quarterly based on information provided in the narrative. Respondents should provide a narrative detailing the new business model, contracting structure, customer program, or partnership with CPA. Refer to "Submission Package" section below for more details on a compliant submission.
- CPA team may, at its discretion, contact Respondents to further discuss their submission. No response from CPA is required.

d. Compliant Submission Specifications

All submissions must meet the following specifications.

Attribute	Requirement
General	Must be capable of delivering a tangible benefit to CPA's operations or customer experience. Benefits may be realized through customer driven clean energy, electrification, resilience, or load flexibility deployment strategies, streamlined procurement practices, and innovative programmatic solutions.
Commercial Readiness	Products and services must be commercially available at time of RFI submission.

e. Submission Package

Submissions should be submitted by email to programinnovation@cleanpoweralliance.org with a subject line "Program Innovation RFI Submission: [Project Name]". Submissions must include the following attachments:

Required documents:

☐ Project Narrative (.pdf file)

☐ Executed NDA document (.pdf file)
☐ Signed Vendor Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form (.pdf file)

Recommended if available:

☐ Any other supporting documents, such as pictures, agreements, flow charts, diagrams, power point decks, test results, case studies, etc. that may be helpful in review of a Respondents submission (.pdf, .docx, or .zip)

Project Narrative Requirements

Respondents should submit a brief narrative (no more than 10 pages) describing their submission or idea. This narrative will be the primary source for reviewing submissions. The narrative should be submitted as a pdf document that includes the following sections in the order listed below:

1. Respondent Information
    a. Company name, contact name, contact email address, company address
    b. If applicable, examples of where this product or service has been implemented and any relevant results
2. Executive Summary
    a. Brief summary of the submission or idea (i.e. new business models, customer programs, contract structures, financing approaches, or partnerships with CPA etc.) and any relevant high-level details
    b. Any CPA requirements or actions needed to implement your submission
3. Market Need and Validation
    a. Describe the problem or market need this submission or idea solves
4. Customer Benefit
    a. Describe and/or quantify the benefits this submission or idea will provide to CPA and its customers
        i. Benefits may include but are not limited to improvements in clean energy accessibility, operational efficiency, cost savings, environmental impact, innovative financing mechanisms, or community engagement.
5. Action Items
    a. What are the next steps and potential timeline to implementing your submission or idea. Consider including details such as cost, data or systems, rates or tariffs, contract mechanisms, and specific requirements.

Non-Disclosure Agreement

All Respondents are required to sign CPA's standard Non-Disclosure Agreement ("NDA"). CPA will not accept changes to the NDA.

Vendor Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form

All Respondents are required to sign a vendor campaign contribution disclosure form.

Screening and Compliance

All submissions will be reviewed for basic compliance and completeness. At the discretion of CPA, participants may be contacted to notify them of deficiencies in their submission materials. **Respondents will have four (4) business days to respond with updated and compliant submission materials or risk rejection from consideration.**

Respondent is solely responsible for checking compliance of all submitted materials. Lack of communication from CPA does not imply confirmation of a compliant submission.

4. Communication Guidelines

CPA, at its sole discretion, may contact Respondents directly to ask additional questions, seek clarification, and/or request additional information as needed to assess a submission. If a Respondent, subsequent to this RFI, participates in a CPA solicitation and/or enters into an agreement for goods and/or services with CPA, such Respondent is prohibited from communicating with CPA personnel, board of directors, board alternates, or contractors outside of this Q&A process regarding their RFI submission. For further information, please see CPA's Vendor Communication Policy, available at: https://cleanpoweralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CPA2019-010_Policy_Vendor-Communications.pdf.

Q&A

All questions from Respondents will be answered through a formal Q&A process. Respondents must submit questions to ProgramInnovation@cleanpoweralliance.org. All questions received and all answers to such questions will be posted in a single response document and will be updated on a quarterly basis on the Programs Innovation RFI webpage. CPA's answers to these questions are incorporated herein by reference. CPA reserves the right to group questions, combine issues, or organize answers in a manner that CPA finds appropriate. Respondents are responsible for incorporating all relevant information contained in CPA's answers into their RFI responses.

5. No Guarantee of Offer or Agreement/Reservation of Rights

This RFI does not constitute an offer from CPA to buy and creates no obligation to execute any agreement as a consequence of this RFI.

CPA reserves the right, without qualification and in its sole discretion to: (i) Proceed with multiple Respondents or no Respondents at all, (ii) negotiate one or more agreements on a bilateral basis outside the terms of this RFI, (iii) create phases for evaluating or negotiating submissions, (iv) interview Respondents, (v) create separate or parallel tracks for evaluating or negotiating submissions. CPA may at any time and for any reason decline to enter into any agreement with any Respondent, to terminate negotiations with any Respondent, to abandon or cancel the RFI process in its entirety, or to not make an award. CPA may review any project(s) using the review criteria as specified in this RFI or may follow any review criteria or process as CPA may determine is appropriate and in the best interest of CPA. CPA shall not be liable to any Respondent submitting a submission in response to this RFI. CPA shall not be liable to any Respondent or party in law or equity for any reason whatsoever for any acts or omissions arising out of or in conjunction with this RFI.

CPA reserves the right to modify any date or deadline; provide additional Q&A opportunities; issue RFI clarifications, corrections, changes, or addenda; waive any RFI requirements or instruction for all Respondents if CPA determines, in its sole discretion, that the requirements or instructions are unnecessary, erroneous, or unreasonable; change or update RFI requirements in order to address any new or updated regulatory requirements, including but not limited to from; deem a Submission non-responsive if Respondent declines to accept the terms and conditions outlined in this RFI, as it may be amended from time to time; or, deem a Respondent non-responsive if a Respondent submits material changes to its submission.

CPA may waive any immaterial defect in any Submission and allow the Respondent to remedy those defects. CPA reserves the right to use its best judgment to determine what constitutes an immaterial deviation or defect. CPA reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to overlook, correct or require a Respondent to remedy any obvious clerical or mathematical errors occurring in the narrative portion of a Submission. No implied or express waiver of CPA's rights is intended and CPA reserves all rights.

CPA expressly reserves the right to request clarification of information submitted through supplementary follow-up questions or inquiries or to request additional information from any one or more of the Respondents.

Each Respondent's costs for developing its submission, including all RFI review, submission preparation and submittal costs, are entirely the responsibility of the applicable Respondent, and CPA shall not have any responsibility or liability for such costs.

CPA states that the information in this Innovation RFI Protocol is accurate to the best of CPA's knowledge but is not guaranteed to be correct. Respondents are expected to complete all due diligence activities prior to entering into any final contract negotiations with CPA.

6. Non-discrimination

CPA does not give preferential treatment or discriminate based on race, sex/gender, color, ethnicity, or national origin.

7. Confidentiality

All correspondence with CPA including responses to this RFI will become the exclusive property of CPA and will become public records under the California Public Records Act (Cal. Government Code sections 7920.000, et seq.) **All documents sent by Respondents to CPA may be subject to disclosure, unless exempt due to one of the narrow exceptions to the disclosure requirements**.

In order to designate information as confidential, the Respondent must clearly stamp and identify the specific portion of the material designated with the word "Confidential" and provide a citation to the California Public Records Act that supports keeping the information confidential. Respondent should not over-designate material as confidential. Over-designation would include stamping entire pages or series of pages as confidential that clearly contain information that is not confidential.

Therefore, any submission which contains language purporting to render all or significant portions of their submission “Confidential”, “Trade Secret” or “Proprietary”, or which fails to provide the exemption information required as described below may be considered a public record in its entirety subject to the procedures described below. **Do not mark your entire submission as “confidential”.**

If required by any law, statute, ordinance, a court, Governmental Authority, or agency having jurisdiction over the CPA, including the California Public Records Act, CPA may release Confidential Information, or a portion thereof, as required. In the event CPA is required to release Confidential Information, it shall notify the Respondent of the required disclosure, such that the Respondent may attempt (if it so chooses), at its sole cost, to cause the recipient of the Confidential Information to treat such information in a confidential manner, and to prevent such information from being disclosed or otherwise becoming part of the public domain. By submitting a submission, Respondent agrees to indemnify and hold harmless CPA, its directors, officers, employees, and agents, from any claims, liability, award of attorneys’ fees, expenses, or damages, and to defend any action brought against above said entities for CPA’s refusal to disclose any confidential, trade secret, or other proprietary information to any party.

CPA does not intend to disclose any part of any submission before it announces a recommendation for approval by CPA’s Board of Directors of a contract or if a contract will not be presented to the Board for approval, until contract negotiations are final, on the ground that there is a substantial public interest in not disclosing submissions during the evaluation or contract negotiation process.

8. Respondent Representations

By submitting a submission, Respondent agrees to be bound by the conditions of the Innovation RFI Protocol, and makes the following representations, warranties, and covenants to CPA, which representations, warranties, and covenants will be deemed to be incorporated in their entirety into each of Respondent’s submittals and are deemed to be material to CPA’s consideration of the submissions:

1. Respondent agrees that CPA is not liable to any Respondent or party in law or equity for any reason whatsoever for any acts or omissions arising out of or in conjunction with this RFI and that Respondent has no legal recourse whatsoever against CPA, its Members, CPA’s directors, officers, employees, and agents for rejection of their submittal(s).
2. Respondent acknowledges that it has had the opportunity to seek independent legal and financial advice of its own choosing with respect to this RFI and agrees to be bound by the terms and specifications of this RFI and any addenda subsequently issued prior to the due date of the submittal.
3. Respondent has obtained all necessary authorizations, approvals, and waivers, if any, required by Respondent to submit its submission pursuant to the terms of this RFI and to enter into a final agreement with CPA.
4. Respondent acknowledges that CPA reserves the right to enter into relationships with more than one Respondent, can choose not to proceed with any Respondent with respect to one or more identified Tasks, and can choose to suspend or cancel this RFI or issue a new RFI that would supersede and replace this RFI.

5. Respondent warrants that it has no employees in its employ who in any capacity have a position at CPA that enable him/her to influence the selection of a Respondent or any competing RFI, nor does Respondent have in its employ any CPA Board of Director, including any Regular or Alternating Directors (collectively "CPA Director") or CPA employee who is the spouse or economic dependent of such a CPA employee. A list of current CPA Directors can be found in CPA's Vendor Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form. This list may be updated from time to time.
6. Respondent's submission complies with all applicable laws and CPA policies.
7. Respondent warrants that all information submitted by Respondent to CPA in connection with this RFI is true and accurate as of the date of Respondent's submission. Respondent also covenants that it will properly and promptly update any submitted information immediately upon any material change thereto.
8. Respondent has reviewed, acknowledges, and accepts Section 5, "No Guarantee of Offer or Agreement/Disclaimer" in its entirety.

9. Description of Documents in RFI Release Package

1. Program Innovation RFI Protocol *(CPA Program Innovation Protocol.pdf)*:
    a. Description of Program Innovation RFI Solicitation, submissions and compliance requirements, submittal instructions, legal terms.
2. Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) *(CPA NDA Agreement 2026.docx)*:
    a. The NDA must be signed by all Respondents and submitted in submission package.
3. CPA Vendor Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form *(CPA CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM 2026.docx):*
    a. The Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form must be signed and **submitted with each submission package**.