Queue Cluster 16 Commercial Interest Points
Request for Offers

Launch: July 8, 2026
Close: August 21, 2026

RFO 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 Ratings, is soliciting competitive proposals from projects seeking Commercial Interest Points (CIP) for interconnection in the California Independent System Operator (CAISO)'s Queue Cluster (QC) 16.

The QC 16 Commercial Interest Points (CIP) Request for Offers (RFO) is limited to projects seeking interconnection in CAISO's QC16 under either the criteria for "Deliverability in Deliverable Zones" or the criteria for "Energy Only eligible for cash reimbursement", in accordance with Appendix KK of the CAISO Resource Interconnection Standards. Projects must also be seeking commercial interest points from a Load Serving Entity. For projects that meet these interconnection criteria, the RFO seeks offers from the following product categories:

1. **Renewable Generation Only:**
    - **Regular RPS Resources:** New build RPS-eligible generation resources seeking deliverability, 15 MW – 250 MW[1] in size. PPA tenor must be between 10 and 20 years.

[1] CPA will consider contracting with projects smaller than the minimum size referenced above if they are located within CPA's service area (Los Angeles or Ventura Counties). The minimum system size for individual locally sited renewable generation projects must be at least 5 MW. CPA will not accept the aggregation of multiple projects to achieve the minimum size requirement.

- **Energy-Only RPS Resources:** New build RPS-eligible generation resources 15 MW – 250 MW[2] in size. PPA tenor must be between 5 and 20 years. This product category is limited to projects that intend to enter QC16 under the "Energy Only eligible for cash reimbursement" criteria, not for projects seeking deliverability.

2. **Renewable Generation Plus Storage:** RPS-eligible generation (15 MW – 250 MW) paired with storage projects (15 MW – 250 MW). The storage duration must be at least 4 hours, and the capacity cannot exceed 100% of the generating nameplate capacity. Projects must be seeking deliverability on either the renewable generation or the storage. PPA tenor must be between 10 and 20 years.
3. **Standalone Storage:** Standalone storage projects with a storage capacity of 15 MW – 250 MW. The storage duration must be at least 4 hours. Project must be seeking deliverability on the storage. PPA tenor must be between 10 and 20 years.

CPA will not be executing Power Purchase, Energy Storage, or RA Agreements with projects pursuant to this RFO. The purpose of this RFO is for CPA to allocate its CAISO QC16 commercial interest points. Shortlisted projects from this RFO will be expected to execute an Exclusivity Agreement with CPA, further details are provided in Section 8 of this document.

General instructions for participating in CPA's QC 16 RFO and specific requirements are described in the text of this document ("RFO Protocol").

[2] CPA will consider contracting with projects smaller than the minimum size referenced above if they are located within CPA's service area (Los Angeles or Ventura Counties). The minimum system size for individual locally sited renewable generation projects must be at least 5 MW. CPA will not accept the aggregation of multiple projects to achieve the minimum size requirement.

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. RFO Overview and Goals

The goal of this RFO is for CPA to solicit and evaluate offers for QC 16 renewable energy generation and energy storage in order to distribute its CAISO commercial interest points. Successfully shortlisted projects will execute an Exclusivity Agreement that will require the project to be offered into a future CPA RFO once project cost and online date are more certain.

Responses to the RFO are due August 21, 2026, at 11:59 PM Pacific Time.

Projects eligible to participate are listed in the introduction section of this document. A complete offer specification and detailed timeline are included in this document.

c. Acknowledgement of Terms

By participating in CPA's RFO, Proposers acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions set forth in this RFO Protocol. CPA reserves the right to reject any offer 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 RFO without liability to any organization or individual. The RFO 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 offer until CPA has entered into a fully executed agreement.

3. Submission Details

a. Registration

To access RFO materials, participate in Q&A, and receive notifications, all Proposers must register online using the RFO webpage cleanpoweralliance.org/QC16RFO.

b. Timeline

Date	**Item**
July 8, 2026	RFO and Q&A opens
July 23, 2026	Deadline to submit questions at 11:59pm Pacific Time. Submit questions directly on the RFO webpage: cleanpoweralliance.org/QC16RFO
July 31, 2026	Q&A document posted to the CPA RFO webpage

August 21, 2026	Deadline to submit RFO Proposals on the RFO webpage at 11:59 PM Pacific Time
September 9, 2026	Proposers notified of shortlist and waitlist status
September 9 – October 23, 2026	Exclusivity Agreement negotiations
October 29, 2026	CPA submits its commercial interest point allocations to CAISO

c. Process

CPA will employ the following process.

- Proposers must complete the Offer Form and submit a Project Narrative to provide key project details. Proposals will be evaluated and ranked based on information provided in the Offer Form and Project Narrative. Proposers are expected to provide an indicative price and Commercial Operation Date (COD) for projects (see Section 3.d). CPA understands that QC 16 projects are early stage, therefore it will consider such pricing and COD as indicative ("QC 16 Initial Offer").
- CPA will evaluate the QC 16 Initial Offers consistent with evaluation and selection criteria in Section 4 of this RFO Protocol.
- Shortlisted projects will be offered CPA's QC 16 commercial interest points in an amount equal to the points requested in the Offer Form or agreed to by parties, not to exceed a number equal to the full capacity of the interconnection application in MW-AC. However, to receive the commercial interest points, Proposers must first execute the QC 16 Exclusivity Agreement that requires Proposers to post a QC 16 Shortlist Deposit (see Section 7) and provide CPA an exclusive Right of First Offer on the project. QC 16 Proposers who have a greater degree of confidence in their projects may post more than the minimum QC 16 Shortlist Deposit. CPA will factor this increased posting amount into the evaluation of the project.
- The QC 16 Exclusivity Agreement will require Proposers to provide at least one firm, binding offer ("QC 16 Revised Offer") to CPA within two years of Proposer's receipt of its Final Interconnection Facilities Study Report results (or equivalent) in a subsequent RFO during such two-year period, as determined by CPA. Subject to certain exceptions outlined below, if Proposers do not provide a Revised Offer in such subsequent RFO round(s), CPA will be entitled to retain as liquidated damages the Proposer's QC 16 Shortlist Deposit.
- If the terms of the QC 16 Revised Offer are acceptable to CPA, Power Purchase Agreement or Energy Storage Agreement negotiations, as applicable, will commence.
- CPA will retain the QC 16 Shortlist Deposit if any of the following occur: (i) there are material misrepresentations of information related to the QC 16 Initial Offer or QC 16 Revised Offer, except a change in the pricing and COD from the QC 16 Initial Offer (ii) Proposer fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the QC 16 Exclusivity Agreement or the RFO, including this RFO Protocol; (iii) the Proposer does not submit the QC 16 Revised Offer within the required two-year timeframe; (iv) Proposer unilaterally withdraws either the QC 16 Initial Offer or the QC 16 Revised Offer or attempts to materially modify the QC 16 Revised Offer; (v) CPA rejects the QC 16 Revised Offer following execution of a QC 16 Exclusivity Agreement; (vi) CPA accepts the offer but the

parties do not execute a power purchase agreement; or (vii) prior to the Exclusivity Deadline, Proposer enters into discussions with any third party under which such third party, or any of such third party's affiliates may agree, conditionally or unconditionally, to enter into a long-term purchase agreement for any Products being sought in this RFO with respect to the project that is subject to the QC 16 Exclusivity Agreement.

- If the project is not studied by CAISO, or withdraws from the interconnection process, or, if CPA accepts the offer and the parties sign a long-term purchase agreement, then CPA will refund the deposit.

d. Compliant Submission Specifications

All proposals must meet the following specifications in order to be considered for selection. Please ensure that proposals conform to the appropriate specifications for the project submitted. Any material deviations from the following list will be treated as non-compliant and excluded from consideration.

Renewable Generation Only Projects

Location	Within or outside of California, with delivery to the CAISO grid. Pseudo-tied or dynamically scheduled projects are not allowed.
Products	**Projects Seeking Deliverability:** New build Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)-eligible from solar, wind, geothermal, biomass or other renewable resources. Projects must be offering all Energy, PCC1 and RA attributes. **Energy Only Projects:** New build Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)-eligible from solar, wind, geothermal, biomass or other renewable resources. Projects must be offering PPAs that include all Energy Only Attributes (Energy, PCC1).
Installed Capacity	RPS generation nameplate capacity between 15 MW and 250 MW. CPA will consider projects located in Los Angeles or Ventura Counties with a minimum size of 5MW.
Expected Commercial Operation Date (COD) or PPA Start Date	There will be no limitation on the latest start date. CPA has a preference for projects with an earlier COD.
PPA Term	**Projects Seeking Deliverability:** Ten (10) to twenty (20) years. **Energy Only Projects:** Five (5) to twenty (20) years.

Price & Settlement	Indicative PPA Price: Fixed $/MWh with zero percent (0%) annual escalator over the PPA tenor. The price provided in the Offer Form should assume that the project does not receive any Investment Tax Credit (ITC) or Production Tax Credit (PTC) benefits. The PPA Price must be offered for delivery at the expected project pricing node.
Number of Offers	Proposers must submit one (1) primary offer for a unique facility/location. This project should be the most competitive offer that meets all compliance requirements. <u>Please submit one Offer Form Template</u> containing all data as instructed in the Excel file to ensure proper evaluation of all components of the project. Refer to "Submission Package" section below for more details on a compliant submission. **NOTE: If a single Proposer wishes to submit multiple unique facilities (at different locations), each project must be submitted as an entirely new Submission Package with fully completed copies of each document.**
Scheduling Coordinator (SC)	CPA will prefer to be the SC.
Ownership	All projects will be owned by the Proposer, with CPA contracting the output of the resource for the duration of the PPA term.
Interconnection	Projects must be in Queue Cluster 16. Projects that are interconnecting through utility procedures such as Wholesale Access Distribution Tariff (WDAT) are eligible provided they are applying for inclusion in QC16 in order to be allocated deliverability. Pseudo-tied and dynamically scheduled projects are not allowed in this RFO.
Commercial Interest Point Eligibility	Projects must be seeking commercial interest points from a Load Serving Entity (LSE). The number of points requested must not exceed a number equal to the full capacity of the interconnection application in MW-AC.
Seller Security Requirements	**Projects Seeking Deliverability:** $5/kW of Project Capacity (due upon execution of the Exclusivity Agreement). **Energy Only Projects:** $3/kW of Project Capacity (due upon execution of the Exclusivity Agreement).

CPA CLEAN POWER ALLIANCE

Renewable Generation Plus Storage Projects

Location	Within or outside of California, with delivery to the CAISO grid. Pseudo-tied or dynamically scheduled projects are not allowed.
Products	New build Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)-eligible from solar, wind, geothermal, biomass or other renewable resources paired with energy storage projects. Projects must be offering all Energy, Ancillary Service, PCC1 and RA attributes.
Installed Capacity	RPS-eligible generation (15 MW – 250 MW) paired with storage projects (15 MW – 250 MW). The storage duration must be at least 4 hours, and the capacity cannot exceed 100% of the generation nameplate capacity.
Expected Commercial Operation Date (COD) or PPA Start Date	There will be no limitation on the latest start date. CPA has a preference for projects with an earlier COD.
PPA Term	Ten (10) to twenty (20) years.
Price & Settlement	Indicative Renewable PPA Price: Fixed $/MWh with zero percent (0%) annual escalator over the PPA tenor. Indicative Storage Price: Fixed $/kWm with zero percent (0%) annual escalator over the PPA tenor. The price provided in the Offer Form should assume that the project does not receive any Investment Tax Credit (ITC) or Production Tax Credit (PTC) benefits. PPA prices must be offered for delivery at the expected project pricing node.
Number of Offers	Proposers must submit one (1) primary offer for a unique facility/location. This project should be the most competitive offer that meets all compliance requirements. Please submit one Offer Form Template containing all data as instructed in the Excel file to ensure proper evaluation of all components of the project. Refer to “Submission Package” section below for more details on a compliant submission. **NOTE: If a single Proposer wishes to submit multiple unique facilities (at different locations), each project must be submitted as an entirely new Submission Package with fully completed copies of each document.**
Scheduling Coordinator (SC)	CPA will prefer to be the SC.

Ownership	All projects will be owned by the Proposer, with CPA contracting the output of the resource for the duration of the PPA term.
Interconnection	Projects must be in Queue Cluster 16 seeking interconnection under the criteria for "Projects Seeking Deliverability in a Deliverable Zone". Projects must be seeking deliverability on either the renewable generation or the storage. Projects that are interconnecting through utility procedures such as Wholesale Access Distribution Tariff (WDAT) are eligible provided they are applying for inclusion in QC16 in order to be allocated deliverability. Pseudo-tied and dynamically scheduled projects are not allowed in this RFO.
Commercial Interest Point Eligibility	Projects must be seeking commercial interest points from a Load Serving Entity (LSE). The number of points requested must not exceed a number equal to the full capacity of the interconnection application in MW-AC.
Seller Security Requirements	$5/kW of Project Capacity (due upon execution of the Exclusivity Agreement).

Standalone Storage Projects

Location	Within or outside of California, with delivery to the CAISO grid. Pseudo-tied or dynamically scheduled projects are not allowed.
Products	New-build standalone storage projects. Projects must be offering all Energy, Ancillary Services, and RA attributes.
Installed Capacity	Storage capacity of 15 MW – 250 MW. The storage duration must be at least 4 hours. PPA tenor must be between 10 and 20 years.
Expected Commercial Operation Date (COD) or PPA Start Date	There will be no limitation on the latest start date. CPA has a preference for projects with an earlier COD.
PPA Term	Ten (10) to twenty (20) years.
Price & Settlement	Indicative Storage Price: Fixed $/kWm with zero percent (0%) annual escalator over the PPA tenor. The price provided in the Offer Form should assume that the project does not receive any Investment Tax Credit (ITC) or Production Tax Credit (PTC) benefits. PPA prices must be offered for delivery at the expected project pricing node.

Number of Offers	Proposers must submit one (1) primary offer for a unique facility/location. This project should be the most competitive offer that meets all compliance requirements. Please submit one Offer Form Template containing all data as instructed in the Excel file to ensure proper evaluation of all components of the project. Refer to "Submission Package" section below for more details on a compliant submission. **NOTE: If a single Proposer wishes to submit multiple unique facilities (at different locations), each project must be submitted as an entirely new Submission Package with fully completed copies of each document.**
Scheduling Coordinator (SC)	CPA will prefer to be the SC.
Ownership	All projects will be owned by the Proposer, with CPA contracting the output of the resource for the duration of the PPA term.
Interconnection	Projects must be in Queue Cluster 16 seeking interconnection under the criteria for "Projects Seeking Deliverability in a Deliverable Zone". Projects must be seeking deliverability on the storage. Projects that are interconnecting through utility procedures such as Wholesale Access Distribution Tariff (WDAT) are eligible provided they are applying for inclusion in QC16 in order to be allocated deliverability. Pseudo-tied and dynamically scheduled projects are not allowed in this RFO.
Commercial Interest Point Eligibility	Projects must be seeking commercial interest points from a Load Serving Entity (LSE). The number of points requested must not exceed a number equal to the full capacity of the interconnection application in MW-AC.
Seller Security Requirements	$5/kW of Project Capacity (due upon execution of the Exclusivity Agreement).

e. Submission Package

Proposals should be submitted via the RFO webpage at cleanpoweralliance.org/QC16RFO by the submission deadline. Note that CPA will not be automatically sending out confirmation emails. Below is a checklist for the required documents:

- ☐ Project Narrative (.pdf file)
- ☐ Offer Form (.xlsx file) – single offer form per submission package
- ☐ Geospatial footprint project file (.kml file)
- ☐ Executed NDA document (.pdf file)

- ☐ Signed Vendor Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form (.pdf file)
- ☐ Past 2 years of audited financial statements. Unaudited financial statements are acceptable if audited financial statements are not available (.zip or .pdf). Bidders must state that audited financial statements are not available in the Narrative.
- ☐ Single line diagram (if available)
- ☐ Other supporting documents (if applicable)

Project Narrative Requirements

Proposers should submit a brief narrative of the proposed project and vendor qualifications. This narrative will be primarily used as a reference for specific project details that are not fully captured in the Offer Form and for further assessment of shortlisted proposals. **The project narrative should be submitted as a pdf document that includes the following sections in the order listed below:**

1. Project summary
    a. Brief summary of project including location, sizing, and any relevant high-level details (1-2 paragraphs)
2. Project details summary table
    a. Should include project name, product category, project type, project location city and county, project size, PPA Term, COD, and pricing
3. Technology Description
    a. Describe the generation and/or storage technology your project uses.
4. Detailed site description
    a. Detailed description of the current land use of the project footprint, including a detailed site map
    b. Describe the project's proposed interconnection including proximity to transmission interconnection, generation tie-in distance and permitting status, whether the project is seeking FCDS or energy-only status
    c. Describe the project's decommissioning plans, including any decommissioning requirements.
5. Project risk
    a. Brief overview of project risks, particularly related to status of:
        i. Project interconnection
        ii. Site control
        iii. Environmental, zoning, studies, and permitting (including description of the permitting lead agency and achieved and outstanding milestones)
        iv. Financing
6. Community experience
    a. Describe what benefits the project provides the community in which it is located, including resiliency, CPA member agency partnership or co-investment, and grant eligibility.
    b. Describe the project's intended workforce development efforts, including commitments to union and targeted hires.
7. Developer experience

a. Brief description of developer experience, particularly as relates to previously completed projects of a similar scope and scale.

8. Commercial Readiness scoring expectation
    a. Describe background information about QC 16 interconnection and expected scoring intended to be submitted to CAISO for project viability and system need as detailed in section 4. b. below. Please highlight any additional information you believe CPA should consider with regards to your proposal.
9. Alternative Offers (Optional)
    a. If the Proposer would like to propose offer alternative offer variants beyond the primary offer in the Offer Form Template, these variants may only be described in text in this section. These alternative offers may not be submitted as separate offer forms and CPA, at its sole discretion, may assess for additive value if the primary proposal is chosen for shortlisting consideration.
    b. Alternative offers that might be proposed are alternative arrangements that may provide additional value, or alternate proposals for allocating commercial interest points amongst a project or group of projects.

Offer Form

The Excel Offer Form is the primary source of data for evaluating submissions. **This Offer Form is mandatory and must be fully completed for each submission to be considered compliant.** Proposals must complete the appropriate sheets within the data template for the product category being submitted.

The Offer Form contains the following sections as well as a guide (titled "Instructions") on how to complete. All yellow fields in the sheets must be fully completed, utilizing the drop-down lists when provided.

1. **Participant & Project Info:** this sheet provides summary information for the project.
2. **Qualitative Assessment:** a questionnaire that gathers information for qualitative selection criteria. Responses to the qualitative questionnaire will be a significant component to CPA's project evaluation, and all relevant cells must be completed to receive full consideration.
3. **Development Risk:** questions are intended to assess potential project development risk, and all relevant cells must be completed to receive full consideration.
4. **Other Questionnaire:** additional questions which are important to CPA but do not contribute to the qualitative assessment.
5. **Error Validation:** tracks specific errors/missing information in the offer form. The sheet will indicate which sections are required and checks for missing information. Make sure that this sheet has no errors prior to submitting the offer form. <u>Note that it is still the Proposer's responsibility to conduct quality control on the offer form as well as any document in the submission package.</u>

Redlined PPAs

This RFO will not require Proposers to submit redlined PPA's, however, the RFO materials packet includes the RPS Only, RPS plus Storage, and Energy Storage Agreement proforma for reference and it is highly recommended that Proposers review the relevant Agreement to understand terms that the QC16 Revised Offer may be subject to.

Geospatial Footprint Project File

Proposers are required to submit a file of the relevant geospatial footprint of their project in **Google Earth KML (.kml) format only**. If an incorrect file format is submitted, the project may be excluded from consideration. Geospatial files that are overly expansive, or that do not reflect the expected footprint of the specific project being submitted for consideration, may also be deemed non-compliant and risk the project being excluded from consideration. Instructions on generating the files are available in Exhibit A.

Non-Disclosure Agreement

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

f. Screening and Compliance

After the submission deadline, all submissions will be reviewed for conformance and completeness. At the discretion of CPA, Proposers may be contacted to notify them of deficiencies in their submission materials. **Proposers will have two (2) business days to respond with updated and conforming submission materials or risk rejection from consideration.** Updates to the indicative PPA price are not allowed after submission.

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

4. Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Projects will be evaluated based on a combination of qualitative criteria including indicative price, environmental stewardship, workforce development, development risk, project location, and impact on Disadvantaged Communities. Additionally, projects in the QC16 RFO will be assessed on the CAISO cluster study criteria: Project Viability Engineering Plan, Project Viability Expansion, and System Need.

a. Qualitative Evaluation Criteria

In performing this evaluation, CPA will consider a common set of qualitative criteria, a partial list of which is included below. This list may be revised at CPA's sole discretion and includes:

- Overall clarity and quality of response, inclusive of completeness, timeliness, and conformity.
- The indicative price provided by Proposers.
- **POI Availability:** Projects will be evaluated for the amount of available Interconnection Capacity in Megawatts (MW) at the proposed Point of Interconnection (POI).
- **CAISO Cluster Study Criteria:** Projects will be scored according to their answers in the Offer Form Template regarding the below CAISO cluster study criteria:
    - Project Viability Engineering Plan – Projects may score a maximum of 50 sub-points with more points assigned according to the percentage completion of a project's engineering design plan.

- Project Viability Expansion – Projects may score a maximum of 50 sub-points depending on whether they are an expansion of an existing project, a project under construction, or make use of an existing or under-construction generator tie line.
  - System Need – Projects may score a maximum of 100 sub-points depending on whether they are providing Local Resource Adequacy or are a potential long-lead-time resource.
- **Environmental Stewardship**: Projects are ranked high, neutral, or low ranging from its location being in a multi-benefit area or renewable energy zone to project is located in a high-conflict area. See Exhibit A for a tool to identify the designated high-conflict areas, renewable energy zones, and multi-benefit areas.
  - High score: The project is located in a multi-benefit or renewable energy zone or is located on non-natural land (e.g. commercial or industrial areas, areas with existing energy infrastructure).
  - Neutral score: The project is not located in a multi-benefit area, renewable energy zone, or high-conflict area.
  - Low score: The project is located in a high-conflict area or on natural, undisturbed lands that are not located in a multi-benefit area or renewable energy zone.
- **Workforce Development:** Projects are ranked high, medium or low based on labor practices—ranging from use of targeted-hire, union labor, or multi-trade project labor agreements (including state-apprenticeship graduates), to projects without labor agreements but demonstrating prevailing wage, union labor, and targeted-hire commitments, to those with no such commitments.
  - Projects score High if they meet conditions either a or b listed below.
    - a) Projects that secured a Project Labor Agreement or similar community benefit agreement.
    - b) Projects that utilize a skilled and trained workforce meeting all of the following criteria:

- All electrical work[3] will be performed by Journeymen Electricians[4] Apprentices[5]
- At least 60% of all Journeyman Wiremen are graduates of a state-approved joint labor management apprenticeship training program.
- At least 10% jobsite electrical workers shall be OSHA 30-hour General Industry Safety and Health Certified
- Projects utilizing prevailing hourly wage rates.
- Projects utilizing local and targeting hires, including a minimum of 40% of all hours of project work shall be performed by Local Targeted Workers[6], with priority given to residents of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, workers from Economically Disadvantaged Areas[7], and Disadvantaged Workers[8].

---

[3] Electrical work is defined as the placement, installation, commissioning, testing, programming, erection or connection of any electrical wires, fixtures, appliances, apparatus, raceways, conduits, transmission lines, solar photovoltaic cells or any part thereof, or any upgrade thereto; which generates, transmits, transforms, stores or storage used to integrate eligible renewable resources, add/or utilizes electrical energy, regardless of form or purpose, and regardless of voltage; as well as electrical energy efficiency, which includes but is not limited to: all lighting work, all advanced lighting controls (including third party certification, California Advanced Lighting Control Training Program {also known as "CALCTP"}, all building controls and automation, energy and electric technology related to metering, sub-metering and/or systems related to or regarding demand response.

[4] Journeymen Electrician is a worker who either: 1) graduated from an apprenticeship program for the applicable occupation that was approved by the chief or located outside California and approved for federal purposes pursuant to apprenticeship regulations adopted by the Secretary of Labor, or 2) has at least as many hours of on-the-job experience in an applicable occupation as would be required to graduate from an apprenticeship program for the applicable occupation that is approved by the chief.

[5] An Apprentice means registered in an apprenticeship program approved by the chief pursuant to Section 3075 of the Labor Code who is performing work covered by the standards of that apprenticeship program and receiving the supervision required by the standards of that apprenticeship program.

[6] Local Targeted Worker refers to workers located within a 25-mile radius of the project.

[7] Economically Disadvantaged Area means a zip code that includes a census tract or portion thereof in which the median annual household income is less than 80% of the statewide annual median household income, as measured and reported by the U.S. Census Bureau in the 2020 U.S. Census and as updated upon the U.S. Census Bureau issuing updated Median Annual Household Income data by census tract in the American Community Survey.

[8] Disadvantaged Worker means an individual who faces at least one of the following barriers to employment: (1) being homeless; (2) being a custodial single parent; (3) receiving public assistance; (4) lacking a GED or high school diploma; (5) having a criminal record or other involvement with the criminal justice system; (6) suffering from chronic unemployment; (7) emancipated from the foster care system; (8) being a veteran of the United States Armed Services; (9) being an apprentice with less than 15% of the required graduating apprenticeship hours in a program; or (10) residing in an area that falls in the top 15-percentile of the CalEnviroscreen 4.0 score.

- Medium score: The project does not commit to have a project labor agreement, but will pay prevailing wages, use union labor, and make targeted hire commitments.
    - Low score: The project does not demonstrate the requirements for a High or Medium score.
- **Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs):** Projects are ranked high, medium, neutral, or low, ranging from those demonstrating community benefits in a DAC to those that do not align with community priorities.
    - High score: The project is located within a DAC and demonstrates DAC workforce and community development benefits.
    - Medium score: The project is not located within a DAC but can demonstrate DAC benefits and has completed community outreach.
    - Neutral score: The project does not demonstrate DAC benefits.
    - Low score: The project is inconsistent with community priorities.
- **Project Location**: Projects are ranked high, medium, or low with preference given to projects located in Los Angeles or Ventura County.
    - High score: The project is in Los Angeles or Ventura County.
    - Medium score: The project is located in another county within California or it is located within a Federally-designated energy community or on tribal lands with demonstrated community support (including outside of California).
    - Low score: The project is located outside of California not in a Federally-designated energy community or on tribal lands without demonstrated community support.

b. Development Risk

All projects will be assessed for project development risk using the answers supplied in the "Development Risk" sheet of the Offer Form template. The assessment focuses on progress toward interconnection, deliverability, siting, zoning, permitting, and financing requirements. The results of these questions will be used to provide an additional qualitative project score to aid in final project shortlisting.

5. Communication Guidelines

CPA will not be answering questions from Proposers related to the RFO outside of the formal Q&A process. CPA, at its sole discretion, may contact Proposers directly to ask additional questions, seek clarification, and/or request additional information as needed to assess an offer. Proposers are prohibited from communicating with CPA personnel, board of directors, board alternates, or contractors outside of this Q&A process. **If it is discovered that a Proposer contacts and receives information from any CPA personnel, board director or alternate, or contractor outside of the rules established by this RFO, CPA may, in its sole determination, disqualify such Proposer from further consideration or take any other action as CPA may decide.** Please review 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 Proposers will be answered through a formal Q&A process. Proposers must submit questions to the RFO web page cleanpoweralliance.org/QC16RFO by 11:59 PM Pacific Time on July 23rd, 2026. All questions received and all answers to such questions will be posted in a single response document on the RFO page by July 31st, 2026. 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. Proposers are responsible for incorporating all relevant information contained in CPA's answers into their RFO responses.

6. Buyer Security

CPA does not provide collateral or performance security in connection with any PPAs, ESAs or Exclusivity Agreements that it may execute in connection with this RFO. By submitting an offer through this RFO, Seller acknowledges and accepts that CPA does not intend to provide collateral or performance security in connection with any PPA, ESA, or Exclusivity Agreement and no such offer submitted will be subject to a requirement that CPA post collateral or security.

7. Exclusivity Agreement

Following Proposer notification (i.e., shortlist selection), in order to continue with the process and receive CPA's Commercial Interest Points, selected Proposers will be required to sign CPA's QC 16 Exclusivity Agreement that is attached to the RFO Release documents as "CPA QC 16 Exclusivity Agreement 2026.docx" and to **submit a deposit of $5.00/kW AC for projects seeking deliverability and $3.00/kW AC for energy-only projects (or for the additional amount identified in their Offer Form) for all shortlisted project capacity ("QC 16 Shortlist Deposit")**. The QC 16 Shortlist Deposit is intended to secure the obligations of any shortlisted Proposer(s) during the negotiating period and to ensure that each offer has been carefully considered. The Shortlist Deposit must be in the form of either a cash deposit or a Letter of Credit. "Letter of Credit" means an irrevocable standby letter of credit, in a form reasonably acceptable to CPA, issued either by (i) a U.S. commercial bank, or (ii) a U.S. branch of a foreign commercial bank that meets the following conditions: (A) it has sufficient assets in the U.S. as determined by CPA, and (B) it is acceptable to CPA in its sole discretion. The issuing bank must have a credit rating of at least A- from S&P or A3 from Moody's, with a stable outlook designation. In the event the issuer is rated by both rating agencies and the ratings are not equivalent then the lower rating will apply. All costs of the Letter of Credit shall be borne by Proposer.

Please refer to the QC 16 Exclusivity Agreement for additional details regarding the exclusivity period and return of the QC 16 Shortlist Deposit. If a proposer would like to submit redlines to the Exclusivity Agreement for CPA's consideration, it may do so by including it in its Submission Package under Other Supporting Documents.

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

This RFO does not constitute an offer from CPA to buy and creates no obligation to execute any agreement as a consequence of this RFO. Under no circumstances shall CPA be bound by the terms of any Proposer's proposal nor any subsequent agreement until CPA has obtained all necessary approvals of its management and the CPA Board of Directors and all the conditions precedent, if any, set forth in a fully executed agreement have been satisfied or waived.

CPA reserves the right, without qualification and in its sole discretion to: (i) select multiple Proposers or no Proposers at all, (ii) negotiate one or more agreements on a bilateral basis outside the terms of this RFO, (iii) create phases for evaluating or negotiating proposals, (iv) interview Proposers, (v) create separate or parallel tracks for evaluating or negotiating proposals. CPA may at any time and for any reason decline to enter into any potential agreement with any Proposer, to terminate negotiations with any Proposer, to abandon or cancel the RFO process in its entirety, or to not make an award. CPA reserves the right, without qualification and in its sole discretion, to consider, accept, or reject a Proposer's request to replace one or more projects with another project(s) proposed by Proposer. In CPA's sole discretion, CPA may evaluate any such proposed replacement project(s) using the evaluation criteria as specified in this RFO or may follow any evaluation criteria or process as CPA may determine is appropriate and in the best interest of CPA. CPA shall not be liable to any Proposer submitting a proposal in response to this RFO. CPA shall not be liable to any Proposer or party in law or equity for any reason whatsoever for any acts or omissions arising out of or in conjunction with this RFO.

CPA reserves the right to modify any date or deadline; provide additional Q&A opportunities; issue RFO clarifications, corrections, changes, or addenda; waive any RFO requirements or instruction for all Proposers if CPA determines, in its sole discretion, that the requirements or instructions are unnecessary, erroneous, or unreasonable; change or update RFO requirements in order to address any new or updated regulatory requirements, including but not limited to from CAISO regarding QC 16; deem a Proposal non-responsive if Proposer declines to accept the terms and conditions outlined in this RFO, as it may be amended from time to time; or, deem a Proposer non-responsive if a Proposer submits material changes to its Proposal, including but not limited to a Revised Offer for QC 16 Proposers or submits its Proposal that CPA, in its discretion, considers to be a counter proposal, including but not limited to a Revised Offer for QC 16 Proposers.

CPA may waive any immaterial defect in any Proposal and allow the Proposer 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 Proposer to remedy any obvious clerical or mathematical errors occurring in the narrative portion of a Proposal. 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 Proposers.

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

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

9. Collaboration

No Proposer shall collaborate on, coordinate, or discuss with any other Proposer or potential Proposer the substance of this RFO, RFO strategies, or whether CPA has shortlisted certain bids.

10. Non-discrimination

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

11. Confidentiality

All correspondence with CPA including responses to this solicitation 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 Proposers 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 Proposer 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. Proposer 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 proposal which contains language purporting to render all or significant portions of their proposal "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 proposal 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 Proposer of the required disclosure, such that the Proposer 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 proposal, Proposer 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 proposal before it announces a recommendation for approval by CPA's Board of Directors of a contract, on the ground that there is a substantial public interest in not disclosing proposals during the evaluation or contract negotiation process.

12. Proposer Representations

By submitting a bid, Proposer agrees to be bound by the conditions of the RFO 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 Proposer's submittals and are deemed to be material to CPA's consideration of the proposals:

1. Proposer agrees that CPA is not liable to any Proposer or party in law or equity for any reason whatsoever for any acts or omissions arising out of or in conjunction with this RFO and that Proposer has no legal recourse whatsoever against CPA, its Members, CPA's directors, officers, employees, and agents for rejection of their submittal(s).
2. Proposer acknowledges that it has had the opportunity to seek independent legal and financial advice of its own choosing with respect to this RFO and agrees to be bound by the terms and specifications of this RFO and any addenda subsequently issued prior to the due date of the submittal.
3. Proposer has obtained all necessary authorizations, approvals, and waivers, if any, required by Proposer to submit its offer pursuant to the terms of this RFO and to enter into a final agreement with CPA.
4. Proposer acknowledges that CPA reserves the right to enter into relationships with more than one Proposer, can choose not to proceed with any Proposer with respect to one or more identified Tasks, and can choose to suspend or cancel this RFO or issue a new RFO that would supersede and replace this RFO.
5. Proposer 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 Proposer or any competing RFO, nor does Proposer 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. Proposer's submission complies with all applicable laws and CPA policies.
7. Proposer warrants that all information submitted by Proposer to CPA in connection with this RFO is true and accurate as of the date of Proposer's submission. Proposer also covenants that it will properly and promptly update any submitted information immediately upon any material change thereto.
8. Proposer has reviewed, acknowledges, and accepts Section 9, "No Guarantee of Offer or Agreement/Disclaimer" in its entirety.
9. Proposer acknowledges and accepts that CPA does not intend to provide collateral or performance security in connection with any agreement.

13. Description of Documents in RFO Release Package

1. RFO Protocol *(CPA QC 16 RFO Protocol.pdf)*:
   a. Description of RFO, submissions and compliance requirements, contract terms, selection criteria, submittal instructions, legal terms.

2. Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) *(CPA NDA Agreement 2026.docx)*:
    a. **The NDA must be signed by all Proposers and submitted in submission package.**
3. QC 16 Exclusivity Agreement *(CPA QC 16 Exclusivity Agreement 2026.docx)*:
    a. The Exclusivity Agreement must be signed by all Proposers selected by CPA to enter into the negotiation and contracting phase and receive Commercial Interest points. This document is not required during initial submission.
4. Offer Form Template *(CPA 2026 QC 16 Offer Form.xlsx)*:
    a. Template for submitting all projects specifications, qualitative assessment answers, and developer and project risk answers.
    b. **Must be fully completed (shows no error in validation sheet) and submitted in submission package.**
5. Power Purchase Agreements *(RPS Plus Storage Pro Forma 2026.docx, RPS Only Pro Forma 2026.docx, Energy Storage Agreement 2026.docx)*:
    a. Each proposal is not required to submit a redlined PPA. The PPA is provided herein as reference.
6. CPA Vendor Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form *(Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form 2026.docx):*
    a. **The Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form must be signed and submitted with each submission package**.

Exhibit A: Clean Power Alliance Environmental Stewardship Mapping Tool

The Clean Power Alliance Environmental Stewardship Mapping Tool is available for optional use by Proposers in the RFO.

Note that detailed instructions on the Tool and its use are provided on the Tool's splash screen and are accessible from the Tool's main screen by clicking the button.

The Tool will help Proposers understand if a Project overlaps with certain environmental avoidance areas ("Avoidance Areas" in the Tool) or preferred renewable energy development and multi-benefit areas ("Renewable Energy Zones and Multi-benefit Areas" in the Tool).

CPA will use the Evaluation Tool to conduct internal environmental screening of RFO projects. To facilitate this, **Proposers are required to submit a file of the relevant geospatial footprint of their project in Google Earth KML (.kml) format.** KMZ (.kmz) format will **not** be accepted – KMZ files can be easily converted to KML files using Google Earth or a similar program. Proposers are not required to conduct their own project environmental screening.