Clean Power Alliance 2026 Clean Energy Innovation Solicitation for Emerging Technologies

Questions and Answers #2

Released November 6th, 2026

Eligibility Criteria

1. **Is energy efficiency a qualifying carbon-free power resource for the purpose of this solicitation?**

   Energy efficiency is not identified as an eligible technology in the Protocol. A proposal is eligible if it meets the Compliant Submission Specifications in Section 3(d), including the Technology specification, "Emerging clean renewable or carbon-free power technologies or resources providing energy storage capabilities."

2. **Can a proposal offer a generation nameplate capacity of 100 MW, which is our minimally sized design?**

   As specified in Section 3(d) of the Protocol, the maximum generation nameplate capacity is 50 MW.

3. **May a single generation system supply energy to more than one eligible project, with each proposal sized at or below 50 MW?**

   Provided that each proposal is offered as a standalone proposal and meets the Compliant Submission Specifications in Section 3(d). Each proposal will be evaluated individually.

4. **Section 1 states that the resource must be located within CAISO or able to deliver energy to CAISO. Is a resource whose generation assets are not physically located in California or within CAISO eligible, provided the receiving station is interconnected to CAISO and the proposer secures transmission rights?**

   Per Section 3(d) of the Protocol, the location project requirements are: "Within or outside of California, with delivery to the CAISO grid. Proposer is responsible for obtaining transmission rights to the CAISO grid"

5. **For an emerging technology that is not yet certified as a CEC eligible RPS resource, is certification required at submission under either award option, or may the proposer describe its plan to pursue certification?**

   Per the Project Narrative Requirements, item 4(b)(ii) (Commercial Viability, Technology description), the Project Narrative should "Describe if the technology is, or intends to be, certified as a CEC eligible RPS resource capable of providing PCC1 Renewable Energy Credits."

6. **Would either of these configurations qualify for the 2026 Innovation Solicitation?**

   A: Grid-connected: A system that normally operates behind the customer's meter, potentially under a non-export arrangement, and islands during utility outages.

   B: Permanently off-grid: A standalone system serving the facility after physical disconnection from SCE distribution service.

   Eligible proposals must be capable of delivering energy to the CAISO grid. Per Section 3(d), the Location specification requires "delivery to the CAISO grid," and a configuration that does not meet this specification is not eligible. If Configuration A can demonstrate its ability to deliver energy to the CAISO grid, it may be eligible. Configuration B, a standalone system serving the facility after physical disconnection from SCE distribution service, does not deliver energy to the CAISO grid and is not eligible.

7. **Specifically, does being geographically located within CAISO's footprint satisfy the solicitation's "located within CAISO or able to deliver energy to CAISO" criterion, or must the resource maintain a grid connection and/or deliver energy to CAISO? Must the host remain a CPA retail customer, or would you be open to having a direct CPA contract with a fully islanded site?**

   Section 1 of the Protocol states that the resource must be "located (or intended to be) within the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) or able to deliver energy to CAISO." A resource that does not deliver to the CAISO grid, including a fully islanded site, does not meet the Location specification. The Protocol does not include a requirement regarding whether a host is a CPA retail customer.

8. **For a hybrid solar-plus-storage project, how is the 1 MW minimum applied? Please clarify whether generation and storage must each independently meet the minimum, whether their capacities may be combined as long as 1MW AC**

output is met, and whether eligibility is measured using PV DC nameplate, AC/inverter capacity, storage discharge capacity, or capacity deliverable to the grid.

The Installed Capacity specification in Section 3(d) of the Protocol applies regardless of whether generation and storage are paired in a single configuration, and lists them separately: "Generation nameplate capacity of at least 1 MW, with a maximum of 50 MW" and "Storage nameplate capacity of at least 1 MW, with a maximum of 50 MW." The Protocol does not state that generation and storage capacities may be combined to meet the minimum, and it does not define a measurement basis. Therefore, Proposers should specify the generation and storage nameplate capacity of the project, and the basis used to measure each, in the Project Details Summary Table of the Project Narrative.

9. **May multiple customer sites be aggregated into one proposal to meet the minimum capacity requirement, or must each site independently meet it?**

   See response to Question #2. Each project proposal must independently meet the Installed Capacity requirements in Section 3(d) of the Protocol.

10. **Could a first-of-a-kind resilience application using commercially available PV and battery technology qualify where the innovation lies primarily in system operation or the contracting/financing structure, or must the underlying generation or storage technology itself be emerging?**

    The underlying generation or storage technology must be an emerging technology. Per Section 3(d), the eligible Technology is "Emerging clean renewable or carbon-free power technologies or resources providing energy storage capabilities," and Section 1 indicates the solicitation seeks projects that "introduce novel approaches to clean renewable or carbon-free generation and/or energy storage." A proposal where the innovation lies primarily in the contracting or financing structure is outside the scope of this solicitation. Per Section 1, proposals for new business models, customer programs, contracting structures, or partnerships should refer to the Program Innovation Request for Information available at https://cleanpoweralliance.org/contracting-opportunities/.

11. **If a proposal centered on customer resilience and an innovative contract structure is outside this solicitation's scope, should it instead be directed to CPA's Program Innovation RFI?**

    Provided that the submission meets the requirements of the Program Innovation RFI. Per Section 1 of the Innovation Solicitation Protocol, "This protocol is for

proposals for Emerging Technologies or a specific resource only," and proposals for new business models, customer programs, contracting structures, or partnerships should refer to the Program Innovation RFI. Information and submission instructions are available at https://cleanpoweralliance.org/program-innovation-rfi/

12. **If a proposer's minimum viable generation system produces 100 MW, may the proposer offer a defined 50 MW tranche to CPA while simultaneously committing the remaining capacity to a separate offtaker under a distinct power purchase agreement? If so, how should the proposal address shared infrastructure costs, reliability obligations, and Resource Adequacy compliance for the CPA tranche?**

    Provided that the 50 MW tranche is offered as a standalone proposal and will be evaluated individually. The proposal should address the remaining items in the Project Narrative: shared infrastructure costs through the interconnection description, including any new interconnection facilities (item 4(c)(iii)), and the explanation of how the price was formulated (item 4(e)(i)); reliability obligations through the interconnection, deliverability and operation risk descriptions (items 4(f)(ii) and 4(f)(iv).

13. **Would CPA consider an alternative proposal for the full 100 MW system if we demonstrate favorable delivered-energy economics? If so, must it accompany a separate offer meeting the stated 50 MW maximum?**

    See response to Question #2.

Award Options

14. **Under Award Option 1, may a proposal identify a candidate receiving region or shortlist of sites rather than a single specific site, and how will CPA score the Development Stage and Project Location criteria in that case?**

    Per Section 4 of the Protocol, proposals requesting a Letter of Support (Award Option 1) "may be selected based on the satisfaction of some or all criteria or on a diversity of scores." Proposals requesting Award Option 1 may describe a location or shortlist of sites in the Project Narrative, because a site is not required for Award Option 1 and is required to be eligible for Award Option 2 (Section 6). Proposals that do not have an identified site should indicate how a site will be determined

(Project Narrative Requirements, item 4(c)(i)), and may answer "Unknown" to site questions in the Proposal Form.

15. **For an eligible customer-sited project pursuing Award Option 2, which products or services could be considered in subsequent PPA negotiations — for example, onsite energy, grid-delivered energy or capacity, or resilience availability? Could onsite energy and resilience availability be considered without wholesale energy deliveries to CAISO?**

    Eligible projects in this solicitation must deliver, or be capable of delivering, energy to the CAISO grid as specified in Location specification in Section 3(d) of the Protocol. The Term Sheet (Attachment 1) of the Conditional Shortlist Agreement specifies the Delivery Point is "the Facility Pnode on the CAISO-Controlled Grid." Products identified in the Term Sheet include Energy, Green Attributes (Portfolio Content Category 1), Future Environmental Attributes, and Capacity Attributes, including resource adequacy benefits, as applicable. Onsite energy or resilience availability without delivery to the CAISO grid does not meet the Location specification.