

8/17/2021

EBCE Community Solar Program:

Information Session for Prospective Community Sponsors



Agenda

1. Welcome!

2. Community Solar Program Overview

- Program Summary
- Program Benefits & Structure
- Eligibility

3. Sponsorship Overview

- Sponsor's role
- Commitment Letter
- Sponsorship Process & Timeline

4. Next Steps, Upcoming Events, & Resources

Welcome!

- Poll
- Intended audience for this presentation
- Access to slides
- Q&A at the end

EBCCE Community Solar Program Overview

Program Overview

- The CPUC in 2018 adopted Decision 18-06-027, creating the community solar program. The program promotes the development of renewable generation in communities historically left behind in clean infrastructure development. Pursuant to the Decision, EBCE may implement its own community solar programs in its service area.
- EBCE's Community Solar program allows customers to receive **100% solar energy at a 20% discount** on their electric bills. The CPUC has allocated approximately 1.6 megawatts (MW) of program capacity to EBCE.
- The program requires a **community sponsor** of the project and will result in projects **located within five miles** of the community it serves.

Community Solar Program	
Program Size:	~1.6 MW (serves ~450 customers)
Participant Requirements:	At least 50% of participants must be residential customers who are CARE/FERA eligible; all participants must live in a DAC
Other Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Community Sponsor▪ Located within 5 miles of community served▪ Workforce development requirements

Program Benefits

Benefits to Eligible Residential Customers:

- 100% local solar energy
- 20% electric bill discount on top of CARE or FERA discounts
- Contribute to growth of local solar

Benefits to Eligible Sponsors:

- 100% local solar energy (or up to 25% of project output)
- 20% electric bill discount
- May receive Marketing, Education & Outreach funds to educate and recruit customer subscribers
- Contribute to growth of local solar

How does it work?

Community-based organizations— including local nonprofits, schools, or public agencies – partner with solar project developers to sponsor projects on behalf of nearby residents within a Disadvantaged Community.

Note:

Projects may have more than one Sponsor.

The Sponsor does not need to host the project on-site.

Eligibility

Community (project location): *The solar project must be...*

- Located in a Disadvantaged Community (“DAC”), and
- Within 5 miles of the customers’ community (defined according to its census tract borders)

Customers: *Customers subscribed to the project must be...*

- Located in a DAC that is within 5 miles of the solar project
- At least 50% of customer subscribers must be low-income

Sponsors: *Organizations sponsoring the project must be...*

- Non-profit, community-based organizations, local governments, or schools
- In order to be eligible for the 20% bill discount, sponsors must also be based in a DAC that is within 5 miles of the project and be an EBCE customer

A Note on Disadvantaged Communities (“DACs”)

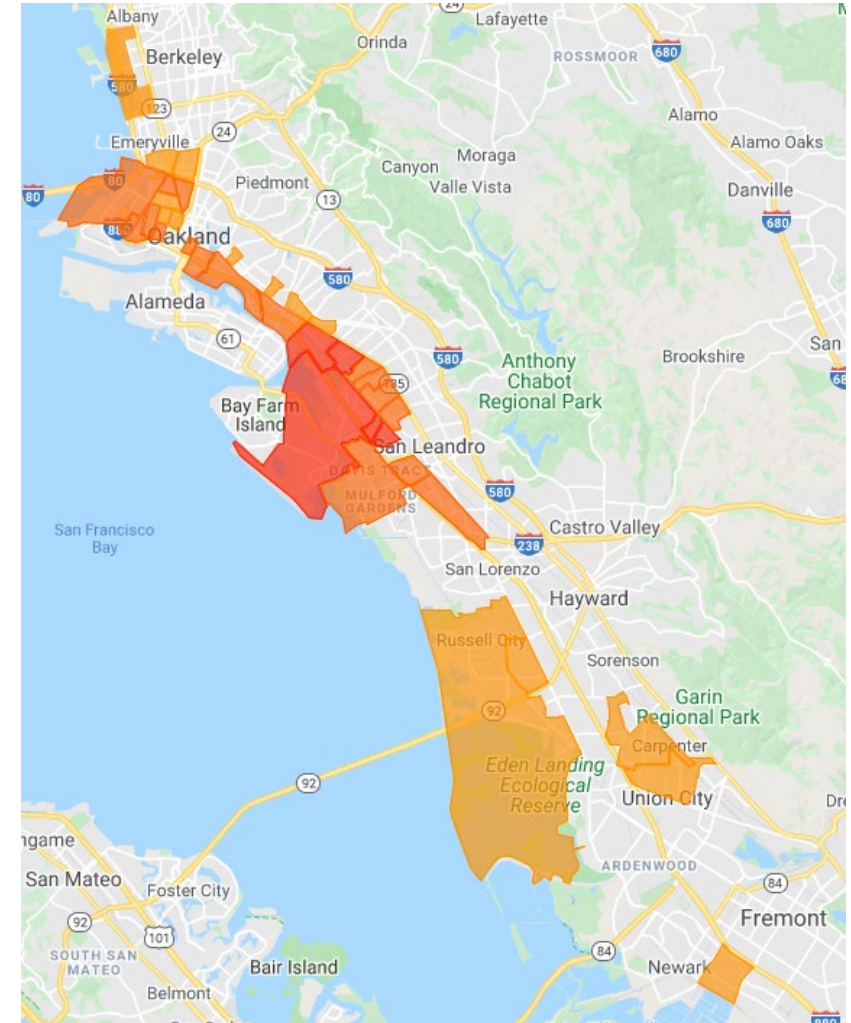
What is a “DAC”?

- For purposes of the program, DACs are defined geographically as the **25% highest-scoring census tracts in CalEnviroScreen 3.0**, a scoring methodology developed by CalEPA.
- The CPUC defines DACs in the following way:
 - “Disadvantaged communities refers to the areas throughout California which most suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty, high unemployment, air and water pollution, presence of hazardous wastes as well as high incidence of asthma and heart disease.

Can I find a map of DACs?

- Yes!
 - CalEPA maintains a map at this website:
<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535>
 - EBCE has developed this Google Maps-based tool for our service area:
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1jC7HCRCop-xGM9wlgYXX18Sdq9ENZDD&usp=sharing>

Snapshot of DACs in EBCE’s service area*

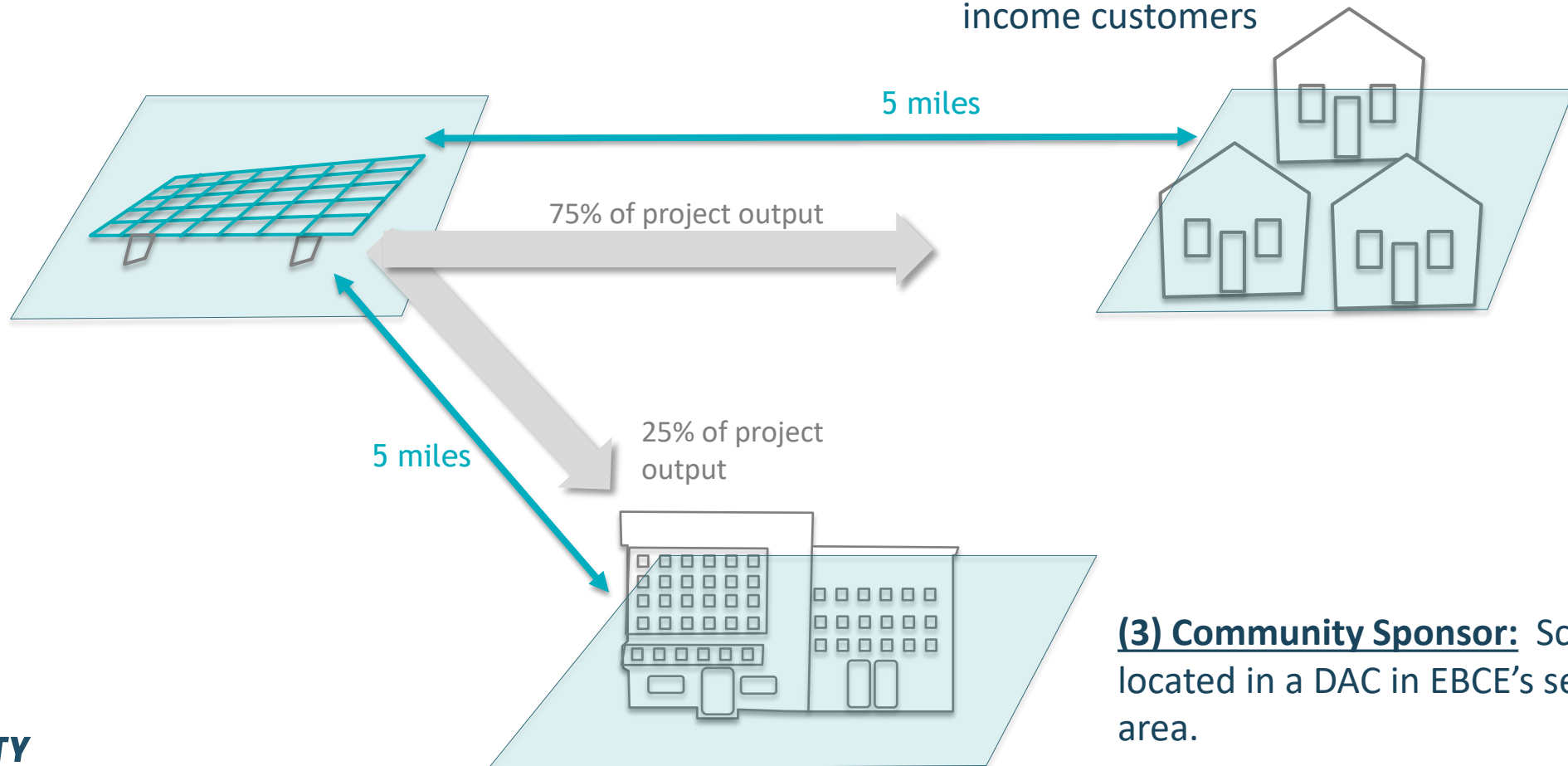


*EBCE cities with DAC census tracts include: Oakland (25), Tracy (16), San Leandro (3), Hayward (2), Union City (2), Emeryville (4), Berkeley (1), Newark (1)

Sponsor Example (1 of 2): Offsite project

(1) Project Site: Rooftop or ground-mounted solar, located in a DAC in EBCE's service area.

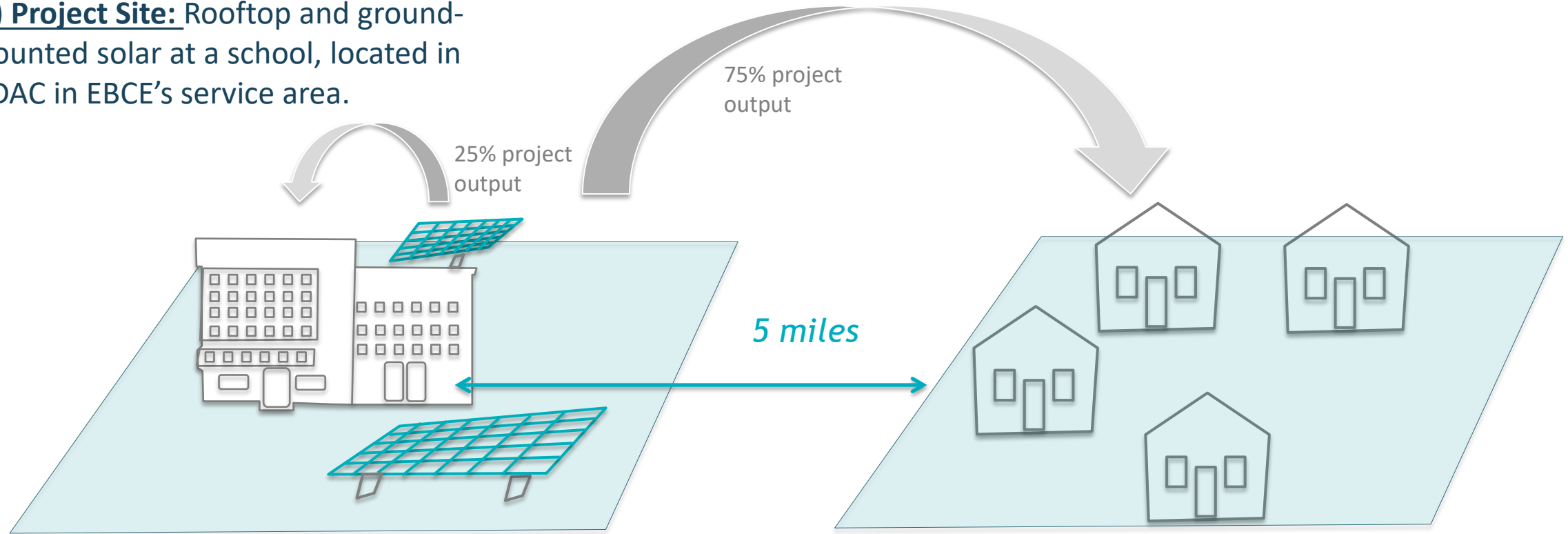
(2) Customer Subscribers: EBCE customers, located in a DAC that is within EBCE's service area; at least 50% of subscribers are low-income customers



(3) Community Sponsor: School, located in a DAC in EBCE's service area.

Sponsor Example (2 of 2): Sponsor as site host

(1) Project Site: Rooftop and ground-mounted solar at a school, located in a DAC in EBCE's service area.



(2) Community Sponsor: School, located in a DAC in EBCE's service area, serving as site host.

(3) Customer Subscribers: EBCE customers, located in a DAC that is within 5 miles of the project site; at least 50% of subscribers are low-income customers.

Sponsor's Role

Sponsor Role

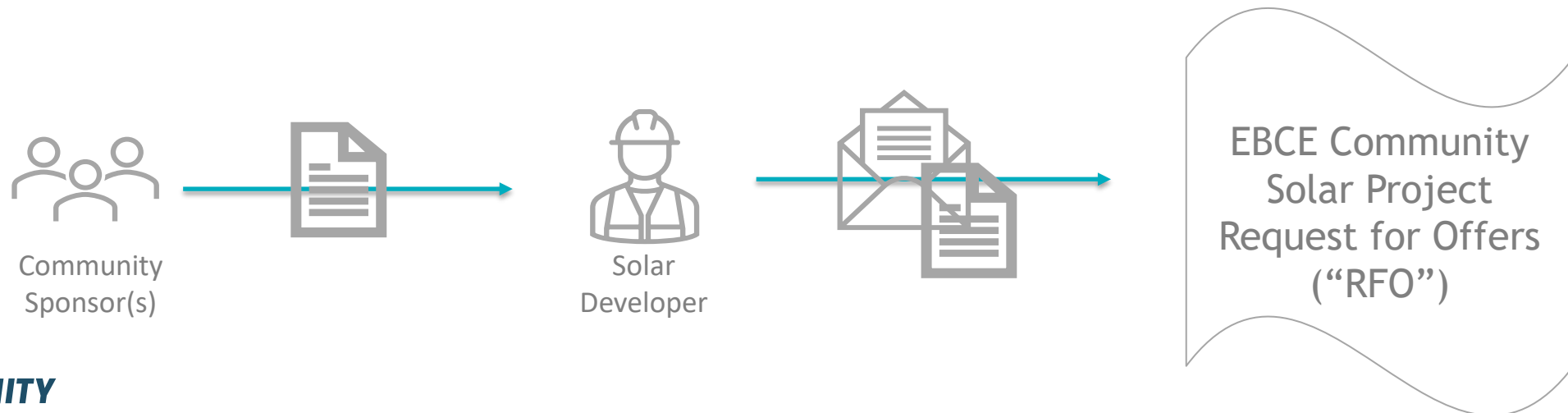
- **Help project developers and the community come together.**
 - Identify community-suggested project sites
 - Work with EBCE to conduct outreach and create interest in subscribing to the project
 - Provide a Letter of Commitment

Sponsor “Commitment Letter”

The CPUC requires that project developers obtain a **letter of commitment from a project sponsor** that includes:

- “Demonstration of substantial interest of community members in subscribing to project;
- Estimated number of subscribers, with justification to ensure project is sized to likely demand;
- A preliminary plan to conduct outreach and recruit subscribers (which may be conducted in conjunction with the developer and/or EBCE); and
- Siting preferences, including community-suggested host sites, and verification that the site chosen for the bid is consistent with community preference.”

The sponsor provides the letter to the project developer, who includes it in their bid package to EBCE.



Sponsorship Process & Timeline

RFO stages

Before EBCE's RFO

August 17 - December 10

- Partner with a solar project developer
- Begin thinking about potential project sites, outreach plans
- Provide solar project developer with Letter of Commitment

RFO period

September 13 - December 10

- Solar project developer includes Letter of Commitment in bid package to EBCE
- EBCE selects projects through competitive process

Project Selected

February 2022

- Begin outreach behalf of the community
- Once project is live and achieves required levels of low-income participation, subscribers begin receiving 20% bill discount

Next Steps, Upcoming Events, & Resources

Next Steps: Interested in sponsoring?

1. Begin connecting with solar project developers. EBCE is here to help!

- Fill out our [sponsor interest form](#) and we will feature your organization on our website as a potential sponsor.
- Attend “Community Sponsor/Developer Matchmaking Event” on September 28th.

2. Begin thinking about Letters of Commitment.

- Attend the next information session on September 14th or send questions to EBCE.

3. Stay up to date.

- Join our mailing list for the upcoming Community Solar Request for Offers [here](#) (check the box for “Solicitations and requests for proposals”)

Upcoming Events for Sponsors & Developers

- **September 14, 2021:** Sponsor Info Session II [Topic: Letters of Commitment]
- **September 24, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. PST:** RFO webinar
- **September 28, 2021:** “Matchmaking event” for Sponsors & Developers
- **October 12, 2021:** Sponsor Info Session III [Topic: TBD]

Additional Resources

Questions?

- Please email sweaver@ebce.org and jross@ebce.org

More Information:

- EBCE Community Solar Program and interest forms: <https://ebce.org/community-solar/>
- RFO website: <https://ebce.org/communitysolarrfo/>

Q&A

Appendix

2021 Community Solar RFO Schedule

Date /Time	Event
Ongoing	Respondents may register online to receive notices regarding the RFO.
August 17, 2021	Info Session I. Information Session for Prospective Community Sponsors.
September 13, 2021	Issuance. EBCE issues RFO.
September 14, 2021 (tentative)	Info Session II. Additional Information Session for Prospective Community Sponsors (if needed).
September 20, 2021	Questions Due. Deadline to submit questions for Respondent Webinar.
September 24, 2021	Webinar. Respondent Webinar for RFO at 2:00 p.m. PPT.
September 28, 2021 (tentative)	Event. “Meet-and-Greet” for Prospective Community Sponsors and Solar Project Developers.
September 29, 2021	Final Questions. Final deadline to submit questions.
October 5, 2021	Q&A Posted. EBCE to post Q&A document, inclusive of <u>all</u> questions.
October 8, 2021	Notice of Intent to Offer. Final deadline to submit NOI to Offer.
October 12, 2021 (tentative)	Info Session III. Additional Information Session for Prospective Community Sponsors (if needed).
December 10, 2021	Offers due by 5:00 p.m. PPT on December 10, 2021. Offers, including all required files and related information, must be submitted via Dropbox.
February 7, 2022	Project Selection. Anticipated date EBCE will notify Sellers via email of selection or waitlist status. EBCE may select Offers according to the eligibility and evaluation criteria described in Sections 3 and 4.
March 16, 2022	Presentation to EBCE Board. Target date for approval of Offers by EBCE Board of Directors.
March 22, 2022	Standard Contracts Sent. Anticipated date EBCE will send standard contract for execution to all Sellers.
April 1, 2022	Target Execution Date. Seller submittal of executed standard contract.
May 2022	Advice Letter Filing of Executed PPAs. Anticipated date EBCE will submit PPAs for CPUC Approval via Tier 2 advice letter.