

## **SDCP Solar for Our Communities Webinar # 1 & 2 Questions & Answers**

**September 21, 2023**

Questions posed during the SDCP Solar for Our Communities #1 and 2 have been aggregated into the following document.

**Question 1:** How is SDCP's service territory defined?

**Answer:** SDCP provides reliable, affordable electricity to nearly 1 million customer accounts in the Cities of, Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, National City, and San Diego as well as the unincorporated communities of the County of San Diego. Please note that sovereign tribal nations in SD county are not currently served by SDCP.

**Question 2:** Are projects located on Tribal land eligible?

**Answer:** Yes, but only for the Disadvantaged Communities Green Tariff (DAC-GT) program. Tribal lands are considered a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). The CalEPA's [CalEnviroScreen 4.0 map](#) shows the disadvantaged communities designated by CalEPA for the purpose of SB 535. These areas represent the 25% highest scoring census tracts in CalEnviroScreen 4.0, census tracts with high amounts of pollution and low populations, and federally recognized tribal areas as identified by the Census in the 2021 American Indian Areas Related National Geodatabase. Please note that sovereign tribal nations in SD county are not currently served by SDCP and therefore, Community Solar Green Tariff (CSGT) projects are not eligible to be built on tribal land.

**Question 3:** Are Community Sponsors responsible for customer acquisition?

**Answer:** For DAC-GT, SDCP will use autoenrollment. Customers interested in enrolling in the CSGT program can sign up with SDCP online or by phone. SDCP will verify customer eligibility based on service account address to verify DAC census tract and the five (5) mile locational requirement. Low-income customers will be enrolled on a first-come, first-served basis. Once 50% of project capacity is subscribed by low-income customers, non-low-income qualified customers located in DACs will become eligible for enrollment. Non-low-income customers can be recruited before the 50% subscription requirement for low-income customers is met. Recruited customers will be placed on a waitlist until 50% of the project capacity is subscribed by low-income customers.

**Question 4:** Why do Community Sponsors encourage people to get a 20% bill discount?

**Answer:** The Community Sponsor's role is to work with solar developer(s) to encourage involvement, awareness, and substantial interest of community members that will be served by the CSGT project. The 20% bill discount will be automatically

applied to eligible residential customers once CSGT projects come online no sooner than 2025.

**Question 5:** Will Community Sponsors be eligible for the 20% bill discount if they meet all eligibility requirements but do not qualify as low-income? In other words, is the low-income qualification required for Community Sponsors to receive a 20% bill discount?

**Answer:** The Community Sponsor is a non-profit community-based organization, local government entity, and/or school and they must be based in the same geographic area (top 25% DAC within 5 miles of the project) and be able to receive bill credits. The sponsor does not need to be CARE/FERA-qualified in order to receive the 20% bill discount. (p. 76-77, Section Community Sponsor [D. 18-06-027](#))

**Question 6:** Is the Community Sponsor's discount transferrable to another entity? Some CBOs may not have any load.

**Answer:** The Community Sponsor can receive up to 25% of the project's energy output and receive a 20% bill discount on that energy. This energy cannot be transferred to another entity. If the Community Sponsor is not able to utilize 25% of the project's energy output, the remaining energy will be allocated to eligible community members. There may be more than one sponsoring entity supporting a single community solar project. Multiple sponsors may receive the 20% discount as long as all sponsors meet the eligibility requirements.

**Question 7:** For the Letter of Commitment from a Community Sponsor for the CSGT program, could you elaborate on what qualifies as a "demonstration of substantial community interest" and a "verification of community siting preference"?

**Answer:** SDCP is looking for surveys conducted or testimony from the community that demonstrates that there is interest in the solar project and the proposed site location.

**Question 8:** For the 50% of CSGT subscribers who are not low-income residents, can they be small businesses, nonprofits, or other entities, as long as they are located within 5 miles of the project?

**Answer:** All subscribers must be residential customers. According to [D. 18-06-027](#), the CSGT program will not be extended to non-residential customers other than the Community Sponsor (p. 70).

**Question 9:** Are the eligibility requirements for the developer already available? In other words, what kind of vetting requirements can be expected?

**Answer:** All available information is provided in the RFO. Please visit [SDCP's Solicitation webpage](#) for more information.

**Question 10:** If a project reaches Permission To Operate (PTO) prior to 2025, does it just wait until January 1, 2025?

**Answer:** A project will not be eligible if it comes online prior to 2025 without the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC's) approval.



**Question 11:** Will the Offer Packages be made public?

**Answer:** No. Offer packages will not be made public.

**Question 12:** Can you clarify the eligible project locations? Must all the projects be located in a DAC, or can they also be located in a Community of Concern?

**Answer:** DAC-GT projects must be located in CPUC-defined eligible DACs. DACs are census tracts that either score at or above the 75th percentile (i.e., scoring in the top 25 percent statewide) in the current CalEPA CalEnviroScreen 4.0 on a statewide basis, or are one of the census tracts that score in the highest five percent of CalEnviroScreen's pollution burden, but do not have an overall score within San Diego Gas and Electric's (SDG&E's) service territory. CSGT projects must also be located in CPUC-defined eligible DACs as census tracts, but only within SDCP's service territory and located within 5 miles of the benefitting customers' census tract.

**Question 13:** Is SDCP considering identifying or providing any sites for development? Specifically potential ground-mount sites.

**Answer:** SDCP will explore possibilities to identify sites that could be used for development. Should any sites be identified by SDCP, we will provide an announcement with details on SDCP's solicitation webpage.

**Question 14:** Can you explain more about how auto-enrollment works? What if there are more eligible customers than projects?

**Answer:** Automatic enrollment means that eligible customers are automatically subscribed to DAC-GT by a Program Administrator (SDCP) based on certain criteria until the program capacity allocation in MWs is reached. Effectively, automatic enrollment lowers barriers to access for customers such as transaction costs, or non-monetized costs, including the time investment to learn about the technology and application process. Eligible customers are enrolled automatically in the DAC-GT tariff by the Program Administrator based on certain criteria approved by the CPUC. Customers are then notified of their enrollment in the program and given the option to opt out. For more information on auto-enrollment, please review [Resolution E-5124](#).

**Question 15:** What if there are 100 eligible customers and only enough solar generation for 99?

**Answer:** If there is not enough program capacity to enroll all customers in a given category under the DAC-GT and CSGT programs from the respective category, customers will be randomly selected for program enrollment. All remaining customers will be placed on a waitlist. SDCP will monitor program attrition on a monthly basis and will enroll additional customers from the waitlist as program capacity becomes available.

**Question 16:** Will winning bids be made public?

**Answer:** SDCP must submit the selected bid/ executed contract for approval to the CPUC. All sensitive information will be redacted.



**Question 17:** Will the developer or contractor will enter into a PPA with SDCP?

**Answer:** Yes. SDCP will enter into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the awarded solar developer(s).

**Question 18:** Are solar developers responsible for finding subscribers?

**Answer:** For DAC-GT, SDCP will use autoenrollment. For CSGT, Community Sponsors will work with the solar developers to get the word out. The Community Sponsor's role is to work with the project developer to encourage program participation within their community. Customers interested in enrolling in the CSGT program can sign up with SDCP online or by phone. SDCP will verify customer eligibility based on service account address to verify DAC census tract and the five (5) mile locational requirement.

**Question 19:** Can you confirm storage is not required for DAC-GT or CSGT projects?

**Answer:** Per CPUC guidelines, both programs do not support the procurement of energy storage.

**Question 20:** Both CSGT and DAC-GT projects must be located in a DAC census tract located in SDCP's service area. In addition, all CSGT subscribers must live within 5 miles of the project. Correct?

**Answer:** DAC-GT projects must be located in a DAC census tract located in SDG&E's service area. CSGT projects must be located in a DAC census tract located in SDCP's service area. According to [D.18-06-027](#), the CSGT projects must be sited in a top 25% DAC, and subscribers to the project must be within 5 miles of the project and also within a top 25% DAC (not necessarily the same DAC). This can be found in Section 6.5.3, titled project siting (p 68 of D. 18-06-027).

**Question 21:** When will the recording be available?

**Answer:** The recordings are available on the SDCP Solar for Our Communities webpage [here](#).

