
San Diego Community Power 2026 Request for Information (“RFI”) for Cluster 16 Commercial Interest Allocation (“Cluster 16 RFI”)

I. INTRODUCTION

San Diego Community Power (“Community Power”) is the default electricity provider for the following municipalities: Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, National City and San Diego as well as the County of San Diego which serves unincorporated areas (the “Member Agencies”). Community Power’s Joint Powers Authority (“JPA”) agreement is the first in California with a goal to achieve 100 percent renewable energy availability and usage by no later than 2035, which is in advance of current State targets. For more information, please visit Community Power’s website.¹

Through this RFI, Community Power is seeking proposals (also referred to herein as “offers”) for products from renewable energy and/or energy storage projects seeking to contract with Community Power by first securing a Commercial Interest Point Allocation (“CIP”) from Community Power, in alignment with the California Independent System Operator’s (“CAISO”) Cluster 16 process.²

II. PROJECTS REQUESTED

Through this RFI, Community Power requests proposals for products from new renewable energy and/or storage projects participating in Cluster 16 that have one or more of the following attributes:

A. Renewable (RPS) Resources

- Long-lead time (“LLT”) zero-emitting, Renewable Portfolio Standard (“RPS”)-eligible resources with an 80% capacity factor (“clean firm resources”) as defined by the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”)³, bundled with all Green Attributes/Renewable Energy Credits related thereto, and Capacity Attributes, including Resource Adequacy (“RA”) value, as applicable.
- Other RPS eligible resources.

B. Standalone Energy Storage Resources

¹ www.sdcommunitypower.org

² CAISO Interconnection webpage: <https://stakeholdercenter.caiso.com/StakeholderInitiatives/Interconnection-process-enhancements-2023> <https://www.caiso.com/generation-transmission/generation/generator-interconnection>

³ CPUC Decision 21-06-035: <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M389/K603/389603637.PDF>

- 4-hour duration or longer, including LLT resources as defined by the CPUC⁴ providing energy and Capacity Attributes, including full RA value. Note, Standalone Energy Storage resources are not eligible for Energy Only CIPs.

C. Hybrid or Co-located Projects

- Paired RPS and energy storage resources with preference for AC-coupled co-located resources (two separate CAISO meters).

III. RFI SCHEDULE

This RFI will be administered per the schedule below. Community Power reserves the right to change the schedule of these events at any time and for any reason.

RFI Activity	Anticipated Date of Completion
RFI issuance	July 23, 2026
Deadline for electronic question submittal	July 31, 2026 5:00 P.M. Pacific Time (PT)
Community Power posts responses to questions	August 4, 2026
RFI Proposal Submittal Deadline (Original)	August 12, 2026 5:00 P.M. PT
Extended RFI Proposal Submittal Deadline	August 21, 2026 12:00 P.M. PT
Community Power Short-List and Waitlist Selection Notifications	September 7, 2026
Execution of Exclusivity Agreements between Respondents and Community Power	October 12, 2026
Community Power Deadline to inform CAISO of Commercial Interest Point Allocation	October 29, 2026

IV. PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Each respondent should provide information regarding one or more renewable energy, energy storage, or paired project(s) conforming to the following eligibility requirements, as applicable.

- A. Exclusivity Agreement:** Only projects that are committed to Community Power under the terms of a fully executed Exclusivity Agreement with Community Power are eligible to receive CIPs. See the posted Exclusivity Agreement template for details on the terms and conditions. Any

⁴ CPUC Decision 21-06-035: <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M389/K603/389603637.PDF>

proposed markups to Community Power’s Exclusivity Agreement should be submitted together with proposals.

- B. Interconnection:** To be awarded CIPs from Community Power, Projects must be seeking interconnection in CAISO’s QC16 under either the criteria for (i) “Deliverability in Deliverable Zones” or (ii) “Energy Only eligible for cash reimbursement,” in accordance with Appendix KK of the CAISO Resource Interconnection Standards.⁵ Before the award of CIPs, Respondents must provide documentation demonstrating eligibility for participation in the Cluster 16 process, including inclusion on CAISO’s publicly posted list of Cluster 16 Interconnection Requests and/or other evidence acceptable to Community Power demonstrating qualification for Cluster 16 CIP consideration. Community Power currently expects CAISO to post this list in late October 2026, allowing Community Power sufficient time to validate Interconnection Request status and submit Commercial Interest Point allocations to CAISO by October 29, 2026.⁶ Projects that are seeking interconnection through SDG&E’s Wholesale Distribution Access Tariff (WDAT) Cluster Study process and are participating in Cluster 16 to secure deliverability are also eligible.
- C. Resource Location:** The point of physical interconnection (“POI”) for any eligible generator must be within the CAISO footprint.
- D. CEC Eligibility:** All proposed generating resources must be certified by the California Energy Commission (“CEC”) as Eligible Renewable Energy Resources (or must receive CEC certification prior to the commencement of any energy deliveries proposed in the response template), as set forth in applicable sections of the California Public Utilities Code (“Code”), as such Code may be amended or supplemented from time to time. Each respondent shall be responsible for certification of the proposed resource through the certification process administered by the CEC and shall be responsible for maintaining such certification throughout the contract term. All Renewable Energy Certificates must be created by and transferred to Community Power via the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (“WREGIS”), or its successor, without any additional costs or conditions to Community Power. Each respondent shall be independently responsible for registering its generating project(s) with WREGIS and for maintaining an active WREGIS account throughout the proposed term of agreement.
- E. Generating Capacity:** Minimum ten (10) megawatts (“MW”) AC, except for projects sized one (1) MW or greater that are interconnecting through SDG&E’s Wholesale Distribution Access Tariff (WDAT) and are participating in Cluster 16 to secure deliverability.
- F. Commercial Operation Date:** No eligibility deadline for commercial operation for these Cluster 16 resources.

⁵ <https://www.caiso.com/documents/appendix-kk-resource-interconnection-standards-as-of-jun-25-2025.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.caiso.com/documents/appendix-kk-resource-interconnection-standards-as-of-jun-25-2025.pdf>



- G. Contract Types:** Community Power will consider proposals for fixed price contracts for energy, ancillary services, PCC1 attributes, and resource adequacy, as applicable.
- H. Term of Agreement:** Not less than ten (10) years (for all except RA-only agreements which may be as short as five (5) years) and not more than twenty (20) years).
- I. Point of Delivery:** Community Power prefers proposals that provide Community Power with options to settle at the SP 15 Trading Hub.
- J. Scheduling Coordinator (“SC”) Responsibilities:** Community Power anticipates serving as Scheduling Coordinator for contracted resources, subject to the final negotiated agreement. Respondents should identify any proposed exceptions in their proposal.
- K. Sustainable Workforce:** Community Power updated its Inclusive and Sustainable Workforce Policy (“ISWP”) (Attachment B) and its Energy Proposal Evaluation Criteria (“EPEC”) (Attachment C) in February 2026 to enhance Community Power’s policies and evaluation of long-term contracts for new build resources to further incentivize and codify higher workforce standards. Pursuant to the ISWP, proposals for Utility-Scale solar, battery storage and wind projects are required to utilize a project labor agreement (“PLA”).⁷

For all other projects, see the section on Project Eligibility Criteria for how projects can earn higher scores in the EPEC.

- L. Supplier Diversity:** Public Utilities Code Section 366.2(m), as amended by Senate Bill 255, requires certain community choice aggregators, including Community Power, to annually submit to the California Public Utility Commission (“CPUC”): (1) a detailed and verifiable plan for increasing procurement from small, local, and diverse business enterprises; and (2) a report regarding its procurement from women, minority, disabled veteran, persons with disabilities, and LGBT business enterprises.

General Order (GO) 156, adopted by the CPUC, requires certain California public utilities to engage in outreach activities and meet specific procurement goals from women, minority, disabled veteran, persons with disabilities, and LGBT business enterprises. Qualified businesses become GO 156 certified through the CPUC and are then added to the GO 156 Supplier Clearinghouse database (www.thesupplierclearinghouse.com). Although Community Power is not subject to GO 156, Community Power supports the goals and principles of GO 156 and desires to obtain information relating to supplier diversity in order to assist Community Power in evaluating its outreach and other activities consistent with applicable law.

V. PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

⁷ For purposes of the ISWP, “Utility-Scale” means 10 MW or greater as defined at the point of interconnection (to account for co-located renewable and storage facilities).



Community Power will evaluate responses against a common set of criteria including:

A. Quantitative Assessment:

1. Project Nodal Economics: In light of the pricing uncertainty for these early-stage projects currently applying for interconnection in Cluster 16, Community Power will model the project's performance at a CAISO proxy node representative of the point of interconnection ("POI") using a single hypothetical technology-specific price (\$/MWh or \$/kW-month, as applicable) for all submitted proposals in that technology category. Prices will be derived using the following methodology:
 - i. Respondents will submit an indicative price range as follows:
 - a. For RPS resources: Respondents provide a low and high price estimate for each MWh of electric energy delivered from the project, presuming a 15-year term PPA settlement at the generator node (\$/MWh) (inclusive of all products: RECs, RA, etc.)
 - b. For storage resources: Respondents provide a low and high capacity price estimate in \$/kW-month, presuming a 15-year term full toll ESSA agreement (inclusive of all products: CAISO revenues, RA, etc.).

NOTE: Submitted prices are non-binding and serve only to calculate a single price for each technology category for the Community Power model. Lithium-ion battery prices for different durations will be considered different technologies for purposes of this calculation.

- ii. Community Power will calculate the simple average of all submitted prices within the same technology category.
- iii. The resulting price for each technology category will be applied to all projects submitted in that category.
- iv. Community Power will assess whether the Respondent's submitted proxy node is reasonably representative of historic and forecasted grid conditions to expect at the project's POI and reserves the right to utilize an alternative, more representative proxy node if deemed necessary.
- v. Community Power will model the resulting prices against the relevant proxy nodes factoring in historical and forecasted pricing, which informs generation curtailment risk, basis risk against the SP15 trading hub and/or SDG&E's default load aggregation point and forecasted net revenue potential.



2. Resource Adequacy value: Community Power will evaluate the project's expected Qualifying Capacity and Net Qualifying Capacity, as well as the project's fit in Community Power's resource adequacy compliance portfolio. 8
3. Renewable attribute value: Community Power will consider the volume and delivery profile of renewable attributes that the project contributes toward Community Power's renewable targets.
4. Project Technology and Product Diversity: Community Power will consider whether the project's technology will add to the diversity of Community Power's portfolio. For example, Community Power encourages participation by LLT resources such as long-duration storage and clean firm resources.
5. Project Development Status: Community Power will consider whether a project has secured site control or options for site control. Prior to shortlisting, Community Power will require documentation of site control. Any incremental project development progress will be considered as a measure of viability, including site feasibility studies, permitting progress and complexity, and community outreach.
6. Transmission Assessment: Community Power will consider the CAISO's most recent publicly available report on available TPD capacity and constraint mapping results to assess the project's potential for an eventual TPD allocation by CAISO.⁹ Respondents should provide information in the project narrative regarding the project's interconnection and deliverability strategy and any material factors that may affect the project's ability to advance through the interconnection and deliverability allocation process.
7. Developer Experience: Community Power will evaluate the developer's direct organizational experience with developing projects of similar scale and technology within CAISO's footprint. Respondents should also provide sufficient detail on (i) efforts to assess the project POI's capacity potential, and (ii) the developer's high-level procurement and deployment strategy to date for major equipment, including main power transformers and other high-voltage equipment, photovoltaic panels, wind turbines, generators, and battery modules, as applicable. Community Power will also evaluate whether respondents have provided details on established partnerships with equipment suppliers for their project pipeline.

⁹ <https://www.caiso.com/library/transmission-capability-estimate-inputs-for-cpuc-integrated-resource-plan-jul-15-2026>

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8. Developer/Project Financials: Community Power will consider the anticipated financing structure of the project and the primary developer/owner's current financial standing.

B. Workforce Development:

Community Power considers the project's expected benefits to the local economy and workforce. As outlined in Section IV on Project Eligibility, proposals for Utility-Scale solar, battery storage and wind projects are required to commit to a PLA for construction of the project. For all other projects, Community Power expects projects to pay prevailing wages and commit to working with union labor and apprenticeship programs. The highest scores in this category are given to projects that utilize a PLA. If PLAs are not utilized, proposals can earn higher scores that meet or exceed targeted workforce standards by undertaking certain actions, including:

1. Utilizing a skilled and trained workforce or joint labor-management partnership/apprenticeship/training committees in states without skilled and trained workforce legislation as well as local apprentices, and graduates of San Diego and Imperial County pre-apprenticeship programs;
2. Utilizing union maintenance agreements in operations;
3. Committing to at least 50% union labor; or
4. Committing to at least 80% local hiring.

Proposals that fail to provide details regarding their anticipated workforce commitments will be scored lower in this category.

- C. Community Benefits:** Community Power prefers projects that provide environmental and economic benefits to communities afflicted with poverty or high unemployment, or that suffer from high emission levels of toxic air contaminants, criteria air pollutants, and greenhouse gases. Preference is given to projects located within a Disadvantaged Community (DAC), Community of Concern (COC), a region otherwise designated by local jurisdiction or permitting agency as prioritized for renewable energy development ("Renewable Energy Development Zone" or "REDZ"), or on tribal land with consent.

To assist Community Power in assessing such benefits, each respondent should address the following question in its proposal: is the proposed facility located (or will it be located) in a community afflicted with poverty or high unemployment or one that suffers from high emission levels? If so, describe how the facility can provide the following benefits to adjacent communities:



- Emissions reduction – identify existing generation sources by fuel source within 6 miles of proposed facility and indicate whether the proposed facility will replace/supplant the identified generation sources;
- To the extent that the proposed generating facility is expected to replace/supplant an existing generating facility, the respondent is asked to quantify the associated emission impacts of this transition.

Community Power also encourages contributions to a community benefit fund that benefits Community Power customers.

In addition, Community Power may require community outreach measures, depending on project details (location, proximity to residences and/or other sensitive receptors, etc.), even if these are not required per local permitting by the Authority Having Jurisdiction. To the extent that any outreach strategies have been initiated or planned, please provide this detail in the proposal narrative.

D. Environmental Stewardship: Community Power prefers projects that are located on currently or previously developed land (including agricultural land no longer suitable for farming) or brownfield lands. Community Power encourages respondents to provide information on organizational initiatives for environmental stewardship, including how it informs project site selection as well as construction and operational activities.

VI. INSTRUCTIONS

A. Questions

Respondents may submit questions regarding this RFI via the question submission form available on Community Power's website specific to this RFI. The question form can be accessed by using the following link: [Questions Submission Form](#).

All questions must be received by 5:00 P.M. (PT) on July 29, 2026. Community Power will post responses to questions by August 1, 2026. Community Power reserves the right to group similar questions when providing answers.

Community Power may submit clarifying questions to certain respondents or conduct interviews, as necessary, based on information provided in the response template and/or supporting materials included with each response. Community Power shall have the right, at its sole discretion, to request information without notifying other respondents. Community Power shall establish due dates for responses at the time of each informational request and



will directly notify individual respondents in the event that follow-up and/or interviews are necessary during this process.

B. Proposal Submittals

Only electronic submittals will be accepted. Responses should be submitted via an online form available on Community Power's website, which can be accessed by using the following hyperlink: [Cluster 16 RFI Submission Form](#). This form should be submitted for each unique project submitted via the standardized offer form (Attachment A).

Such submittals must be received by Community Power no later than 12:00 P.M. PT on August 21, 2026, previously 5:00 P.M. PT on August 12, 2026.

It is the sole responsibility of the submitting respondent to ensure that its proposal is received before the submission deadline. Submitting respondents shall bear all risks associated with delays in delivery. Any proposals received after the scheduled closing date and time for receipt of proposals may not be accepted.

Standardized offer form: All respondents must provide a project narrative and complete the standardized offer form template provided by Community Power. Community Power has posted the Excel template on its website and will require respondents to independently access and download the template for response preparation. An unmodified version of the template must be completed in its entirety based on instructions provided in the template.

Community Power may submit clarifying questions to certain respondents or conduct interviews, as appropriate, based on information provided in the offer form or supporting materials.

VII. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

This RFI is a solicitation for proposals only and is not intended as an offer to enter into a contract or as a promise to engage in any formal competitive bidding or negotiations. Community Power may, at its sole discretion, accept or reject any or all proposals submitted in response to this RFI. In addition, Community Power may, at its sole discretion, only elect to proceed with contract negotiations for some of the services included in the proposal. Community Power further reserves the right to cancel this RFI at any time prior to contract award without obligation in any manner for proposal preparation, interview, fee negotiation or other marketing costs associated with this RFI. Community Power also reserves the right to waive minor errors and omissions or inconsequential disparities in proposals, request additional information or revisions to offers, and to negotiate with any or all respondents.

Community Power shall not be liable for any costs incurred by the respondent in connection with the preparation and submission of any proposal. Community Power has the right to amend the RFI, in



whole or in part, by written addendum, at any time. Community Power is responsible only for that which is expressly stated in the solicitation document and any authorized written addenda. Such addendum shall be made available to each person or organization in which Community Power records indicate has received this RFI. Should such addendum require additional information not previously requested, failure to address the requirements of such addendum may result in the proposal being found non-responsive and not being considered, as determined in the sole discretion of Community Power. Community Power is not responsible for and shall not be bound by any representations otherwise made by any individual acting or purporting to act on its behalf prior to an award of contract by Community Power. Community Power has the right to reissue the RFI at a future date.

VIII. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PUBLIC RECORDS

Proposals submitted in response to this RFI shall become the exclusive property of Community Power. Community Power is subject to the California Public Records Act (“CPRA”). The proposal will become a matter of public record when contract negotiations are complete and when an agreement is executed by Community Power. Exceptions to disclosure may be available to those parts or portions of proposals that are justifiably and reasonably exempted under the CPRA, such as trade secrets. If a respondent desires to exclude a portion of its proposal from disclosure under the CPRA, the respondent must prominently mark it “confidential” and state the specific provision in the CPRA that provides the exemption, as well as the factual basis for claiming the exemption. A blanket statement of confidentiality or the marking of each page of the proposal as confidential shall not be deemed sufficient notice of a CPRA exemption. A respondent who indiscriminately and without justification identifies most or all of its proposal as exempt from disclosure or submits a redacted copy may be deemed non-responsive.

Although the CPRA recognizes that certain confidential information or other exempt records may be protected from disclosure, Community Power is not in a position to establish that the information that a respondent submits is exempt. If a request is made for information marked “Confidential,” Community Power will provide respondents who submitted the information with reasonable notice to seek protection from disclosure by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Community Power shall not, in any way, be liable or responsible for any resulting disclosure of any such record or any parts thereof pursuant to the CPRA or otherwise by law.

IX. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Community Power is governed by the Political Reform Act, Government Code Section 1090, Government Code Section 84308, and other requirements governing conflicts of interest, campaign contributions, and gifts. Respondents are required to review all applicable conflict of interest laws. In addition, Community Power has adopted policies governing procurement. Respondents are advised to review all policies, including the Procurement Policy, available at: <https://sdcommunitypower.org/resources/key-documents/>.



The respondent may not contact or receive information outside of this RFI process. If it is discovered that the respondent contacted and received information from anyone other than the mediums used to share information about this solicitation specified above and under the process specified herein regarding this solicitation, Community Power may, in its sole discretion, disqualify the proposal from further consideration.

All contact regarding this RFI or any matter relating thereto must be in writing and submitted using the Questions Submissions Form.

X. REPORTING OF SUPPLIER DIVERSITY INFORMATION

Public Utilities Code Section 366.2(m) requires certain community choice aggregators, including Community Power, to annually submit to the California Public Utility Commission (“CPUC”): (1) a detailed and verifiable plan for increasing procurement from small, local, and diverse business enterprises; and (2) a report regarding its procurement from women, minority, disabled veteran, persons with disabilities, and LGBT business enterprises.

General Order (GO) 156, adopted by the CPUC, requires certain California public utilities to engage in outreach activities and meet specific procurement goals from women, minority, disabled veteran, persons with disabilities, and LGBT business enterprises. Qualified businesses become GO 156 certified through the CPUC and are then added to the GO 156 Supplier Clearinghouse database.¹⁰

To assist Community Power with its reporting obligations under Public Utilities Code Section 366.2(m) and with evaluating its supplier outreach and other activities, the successful respondent(s) that is/are awarded the contract(s) will be asked to voluntarily disclose their certification status with the CPUC Clearinghouse, as well as their efforts to work with diverse business enterprises, including women business enterprises (WBEs), minority business enterprises (MBEs), disabled veteran business enterprises (DVBs), and lesbian gay bisexual transgender business enterprises (LGBTBEs).

Except as otherwise expressly provided under Community Power’s Procurement Policy and/or required by applicable state or federal law or funding requirements (including, without limitation, any grant or loan conditions), Community Power shall not use any demographic information received from respondents in any way as part of its decision-making or selection process. Rather, Community Power will use such information solely for compliance with its reporting obligations to the CPUC and evaluation of Community Power’s outreach and other activities consistent with applicable law. Pursuant to Article I, Section 31 of the California Constitution, Community Power shall not discriminate against or give preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin except as otherwise allowed therein.

XI. NON-DISCRIMINATION

¹⁰ www.thesupplierclearinghouse.com



Community Power will not discriminate and will require its contractors to not discriminate on the basis of race, gender expression, gender identity, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, or disability in the solicitation, selection, hiring, or treatment of contractors, subcontractors, vendors, or suppliers. The successful respondent shall provide equal opportunity for subcontractors to participate in subcontracting opportunities.

XII. PROTESTS

- A. **Protest Contents:** A respondent may protest a contract award if the respondent believes that the award was inconsistent with Community Power Procurement Policy or if this RFI is not in compliance with applicable law. A protest may be submitted electronically to cstephens@sdcommunitypower.org within five (5) business days after receipt of notification of the contract award. Any protest submitted after 5:00 PM of the fifth (5th) business day after notification of the contract award will be rejected by Community Power as invalid and the respondent's failure to timely file a protest will waive the respondent's right to protest the contract award. The respondent's protest must include supporting documentation, legal authorities in support of the grounds for the protest and the name, mailing address and telephone number of the person representing the respondent for purposes of the protest. Any matters not set forth in the protest shall be deemed waived.
- B. **Community Power Review:** Community Power will review and evaluate the basis of the protest provided the protest is filed in strict conformity with the foregoing. Community Power shall provide the respondent submitting the protest with a written statement concurring with or denying the protest. Action by Community Power relative to the protest will be final and not subject to appeal or reconsideration. The procedure and time limits set forth in this section are mandatory and are the respondent's sole and exclusive remedy in the event of protest. Failure to comply with these procedures will constitute a waiver of any right to further pursue the protest, including filing a government code claim or legal proceedings.

I. ATTACHMENTS

- A. **Offer Form**
- B. **Inclusive and Sustainable Workforce Policy**
- C. **Energy Proposal Evaluation Criteria**
- D. **Exclusivity Agreement Template**

