



CPUC Fact Sheet Expanding Solar in Disadvantaged Communities

One of California's most influential policies driving the adoption of rooftop solar has been Net Energy Metering (NEM), a program that allows residential customers to sell electricity from their solar panels back to the grid. However, as solar adoption and investment have increased throughout the state, low income and disadvantaged communities (**DACs**) have lagged behind: for example, just 17 percent of all rooftop solar in Pacific Gas and Electric Company's service territory is located in DACs, and only 0.4 percent of PG&E's rooftop solar belongs to low income residents in DACs. DACs are defined as the top 25 percent most disadvantaged communities in California according to CalEnviroScreen 3.0.

To address this gap, Assembly Bill 327 (Perea, 2013) directed the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to develop "specific alternatives designed for growth among residential customers in disadvantaged communities."

Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves' [alternate proposal](#) implements AB 327 by establishing three new targeted programs: the **DAC-SASH** program, the **DAC-Green Tariff**, and a **Community Solar Green Tariff** program. Each program takes a different approach to address the diverse hurdles facing expanded solar adoption in these communities. These programs are in addition to the [Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing program](#) - AB 693 (Eggman) - that was established in December 2017 and is nearing its 2018 launch.

The DAC – Single-family Solar Homes (DAC-SASH) program

\$10 million annually; \$3 per Watt for systems 1 kW-5 kW in size ~ 3.3 MWs annually

Modeled on the existing, successful SASH program, DAC-SASH will provide up-front financial incentives for solar installation on homes owned by low income residents in DACs. The program will allow for greater eligibility and help overcome barriers like lack of access to capital or credit. The DAC-SASH program will provide \$10 million in incentives annually through 2030, to be funded by utility greenhouse gas allowance revenues or public purpose program funds.

The DAC – Green Tariff program

20% bill discount; up to 70 MWs for PG&E and SCE, and 18 MWs for SDG&E

Subscribing customers will receive 100 percent renewable energy purchased by their utility (not generated by onsite solar panels), similar to the existing Green Tariff/Shared Renewables Program. However, the DAC-Green Tariff program will provide a 20 percent *discount* on electricity bills for low income customers who live in DACs, and projects must be located in DACs. This option overcomes barriers to solar for customers who rent their home, cannot afford solar, or whose home is unsuitable for solar. The DAC-Green Tariff program will be funded by utility greenhouse gas allowance revenues or public purpose program funds.

Community Solar Green Tariff

Local, community-sponsored solar; up to 18 MWs for PG&E and SCE, 5 MWs SDG&E

While similar to the DAC-Green Tariff, this program includes many community-driven elements like job creation and solar in the community. Projects will be sited within a top 25% DAC, and subscribers must also be in a top 25% DAC within 5 miles of the project. Participants will receive a 20% bill discount, and the program requires demonstration of community involvement and interest, including site preferences. This approach is intended to ensure customers in disadvantaged communities have access to local solar power, with an assured economic benefit and robust community involvement. The Green Tariff Community Solar program will be funded by utility greenhouse gas allowance revenues or public purpose program funds.

More Information and Next Steps

Parties to the proceeding may comment on these proposals by June 11, 2018. The CPUC may consider the proposal and a related proposal from an Administrative Law Judge at its June 21, 2018, Voting Meeting in San Francisco.

Documents related to this proceeding are available at:

https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/apex/f?p=401:56:0::NO:RP,57,RIR:P5_PROCEEDING_SELECT:A1706030.

Information about Commissioner Guzman Aceves is available at:

www.cpuc.ca.gov/Guzman_Aceves/

To receive electronic updates on this proceeding, sign-up for the CPUC's free subscription service at <http://subscribecpuc.cpuc.ca.gov>, and use proceeding number R.14-07-002. Through the subscription service you can also subscribe to our press releases to receive news and event announcements.

The public is invited to comment to the CPUC at the Voting Meeting, or through written comments to:

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