

Original Questions, Answers, and Clarifications Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Readiness

PON 14-603

Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program

California Energy Commission

October 2, 2014

Eligibility	
Q.1	Can State entities that do not have a plan in place apply?
A.1	<i>Yes. They would apply under Category B.</i>
Q.2	Will a readiness plan and a PEVCC be an eligibility requirement of all future EV infrastructure PONs?
A.2	<i>Not necessarily. Until a PON is developed, we do not know what the requirements of that PON will be.</i>
Q.3	For Category A: is it a requirement that the PEVCC need to be operational i.e. meeting regularly. Can a sub-regional COG be the lead agency (receiver of funds)?
A.3	<i>For Category A, a PEVCC does not need to be meeting regularly. A sub-regional COG may be the lead agency and receiver of the funds.</i>
Q.4	Category A activity f states: "f. Local Government Code Adoption and Training: Adopt residential and/or nonresidential voluntary measures in California Green Building Standards Code California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 11, A4.106.8 Electric vehicle (EV) charging and A5.106.5.3 Electric vehicle charging. This activity may provide training to city planners, city permitting staff, inspectors, and builders to implement codes by mid-2015." Is funding allowed only for jurisdictions that adopt the voluntary code; or can jurisdictions apply for funding for training to implement the mandatory code?
A.4	<i>The funding provides incentives to encourage jurisdictions to adopt some or all of the voluntary code. Funding is not allowed for implementation of the mandatory sections of the code but is allowed for implementation of the voluntary code.</i>
Q.5	Is no funding available for EV infrastructure? If so, would "infrastructure" include, for instance, demo charging stations for workplaces and/or MUDs?
A.5	<i>This solicitation does not provide funding for infrastructure purchase or installation. Demonstration charging stations for workplaces and/or MUDs are not eligible projects under this solicitation.</i>

Q.6	Category A, sub-section a states: “Permitting and Inspection Process: Implement the streamlining of permitting and inspection processes, including outreach to city permitting offices and inspectors, development of online permitting and information websites, dissemination of best practices and standardization of permit fees. Work with the ZEV Infrastructure Project Manager in the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development to facilitate and accelerate the permitting and establishment of fast charging infrastructure.” Is permitting and inspection streamlining funding limited only to fast charging, or can an agency apply for funding that is focused on or limited to permitting and inspection streamlining for Level 1 and Level 2 charging?
A.6	<i>All charging levels may be included in funding for streamlining.</i>
Q.7	Is any grant money available to the private sector if they are complying with the grant goals?
A.7	<i>Section I.M of the solicitation (Eligible Applicants) states that eligible applicants are California public entities that can meet the requirements of this solicitation for Categories A, B, and C. A private company or other entities that do not meet the requirements of section I.M may be part of a project as a subcontractor or project partner (a partner provides work or funding for the project but does not receive reimbursement from the Energy Commission).</i>
Q.8	Can a subcontractor be on two proposals with different primes under category A?
A.8	<i>Yes.</i>
Q.9	Can a prime also be a sub on a different proposal under Category A?
A.9	<i>Yes.</i>
Q.10	Can a private entity team up with a public agency if the public agency is the prime?
A.10	<i>Yes. See A.7 above.</i>
Q.11	Can the same municipality participate in multiple applications in category A as long as they are the lead on only one application?
A.11	<i>Yes.</i>
Q.12	If a regional transportation planning agency has completed a PEV readiness planning study on a self-funded basis (not through the CEC) but does not yet have a PEVCC created, is this entity eligible for Category A or must it first go through the Category B planning process?
A.12	<i>The agency appears to be eligible for Category A funding. Applicants should include a copy of the regional plan (or weblink reference) within the application.</i>
Q.13	Can an entity that does not currently have a readiness plan join with another entity who does have a PEVCC submitting a Category A proposal?
A.13	<i>Based on the above hypothetical and without accounting for additional details which may affect eligibility, yes. However, funded activities must be consistent with and included within the readiness plan.</i>

Q.14	Infrastructure is not allowed, what about installation?
A.14	<i>Projects to purchase or install EVCS infrastructure are not eligible. The solicitation allows studies to improve the EVCS installation process and siting. See section b and c under N, Eligible Projects, page 10 of the solicitation.</i>
Q.15	To clarify, adopted means adopted by the PEVCC at the end of the planning process correct?
A.15	<i>Adopted means adopted, at the end of the planning process, by an organization that has jurisdiction over the regional plan.</i>
Q.16	What does “plan adopted” mean? Specifically/technically? Adopted by our region or adopted by the CEC?
A.16	<i>See A.15 above.</i>
Q.17	What is meant by “EVCS installation process” in category A?
A.17	<i>EVCS installation process as used in Category A means streamlining and improving coordination between contractors, inspectors and utilities with regard to charging infrastructure site development and hardware installation. This is not funding for actual EVCS installation. See A.14 above.</i>
Q.18	Would having an implementation grant (cat A) prevent us from receiving a infrastructure grant in the future (2015)? Would we have to finish the implementation grant first or can they happen in parallel?
A.18	<i>An active implementation grant will most likely not prevent an organization from receiving a future infrastructure award. The exact requirements of future infrastructure funding solicitations are not currently known. It should be noted that performance on past or ongoing agreements may be a factor in awarding funding in future solicitations.</i>
Q.19	If a prime that has a PEVCC and readiness plan is applying for a region that does not have a plan would they be allowed to apply?
A.19	<i>Based on the above hypothetical and without accounting for additional details which may affect eligibility, the prime described above would be allowed to apply under Category B for a new plan for the region that does not have a plan. Category A projects must be consistent with an existing and adopted readiness plan.</i>
Q.20	Regarding the approval of awards according to regions, is there a geographical preference?
A.20	<i>No. However, addendum #1 has established geographic funding caps for category A proposals.</i>
Q.21	The readiness plans are not just about public charging stations, but also for private sector?
A.21	<i>Readiness plans are for all entities (businesses, public agencies, workplaces, residences, etc.) within the readiness plan area. Please also see A.7.</i>
Q.22	Are funds for California Corporations or just public entities?
A.22	<i>Only public entities are eligible to apply as the prime. Private entities may participate in the award as project partners or subcontractors.</i>

Q.23	Are non-governmental organizations (NGOs) eligible to apply?
A. 23	<i>No.</i>
Q. 24	Are NGOs considered public entities?
A.24	<i>No.</i>
Q.25	Can we budget for signage to guide drivers to EVCS that aren't currently installed but are planned to be installed within the period of performance for this PON? What about stations that are in our PEV plans but do not yet have funding for installation?
A.25	<i>Signage funds are available under this solicitation for EVCS that are installed or where installation has begun and will be completed within the term of the agreement. Station sites that have been identified in a readiness plan but will not be installed during the term of the agreement are not eligible for signage funds.</i>
Q.26	In reference to Title 20, section 3103 which specifies that a project shall not be eligible for funding if it is mandated by any local, regional, state or federal law, rule or regulation-- does Governor Brown's Executive Order B-16-12 apply in this situation and disqualify state governments?
A.26	<i>It is incumbent on potential applicants to determine what laws apply to them and whether or not they are eligible to apply to this solicitation. This solicitation was drafted with the intent of including state governments as eligible applicants. See section II.M, "Eligible Applicants."</i>
Q.27	Are there any restrictions regarding "Awareness Activities" in Categories A & B?
A.27	<i>As long as the activity results in increased ZEV awareness for consumers, businesses and local government officials, there are no restrictions other than the \$50,000 funding cap.</i>
Q.28	On page 13, under FCEV readiness F4 says "evaluating and clean up public lots..." What does clean up mean? Is it site prep?
A.28	<i>Funds can be used to evaluate and assess public lots for suitability to install hydrogen refueling stations. This includes proximity to freeways, buildings, and other fueling facilities. Clean up has been removed as an eligible project cost (see Addendum #1). Clean up may be defined and considered in a future funding opportunity.</i>
Q.29	I am currently managing the Bay Area's Experience Electric campaign, and we are potentially seeking additional funds to continue our efforts. The Experience Electric campaign consists of a series of EV ride and drives throughout the Bay Area, and we are showing initial success in our efforts to improve people's perceptions of EVs through direct driving experience in an environment free from sales pressure. I noticed that you have a maximum award amount of \$50k in Category A for PEV awareness. Is this a firm amount? Since our efforts go beyond awareness, could we apply in different sub-categories in Category A?

A.29	<i>It is incumbent on applicants to make their own determinations with respect to eligibility. The Energy Commission cannot provide specific advice tailored to an individual entity or project's eligibility because we may be unaware of additional details not provided in your question which could determine eligibility. That being said, in general, under this solicitation PEV awareness activities funded by the Energy Commission are capped at \$50,000. If an applicant is a public entity and meets eligibility requirements they may apply for other activities under Category A.</i>
Q.30	The California Department of Parks and Recreation would be interested in Category B funding and would like to consider the full range of parks across the state, rather than a specific region. Could the Department partner with various local public agencies in order to set up a PEVCC? Could they partner with existing PEVCCs but apply for funding to amend their existing plans to include the Parks if they are not explicitly addressed in the existing plan? Or, could the Parks be considered generally as included in existing plans because they are destination locations and therefore the Parks could apply directly for Category A funding?
A.30	<i>It is incumbent on applicants to make their own determinations with respect to eligibility. The Energy Commission cannot provide specific advice tailored to an individual entity or project's eligibility because we may be unaware of additional details not provided in your question which could determine eligibility. That being said, in general, an applicant may partner with local public agencies or may partner with entities within an existing PEVCC to set up a new PEVCC and conduct a new plan specific to that applicant's destination sites. However, if destination sites, for example, are already addressed as a priority by an existing PEVCC, even though the PEVCC does not mention the applicant specifically, this may qualify the applicant to apply for Category A funds.</i>
Q.31	What will the CEC do if multi jurisdictions apply for one region? For example city, county, etc.
A.31	<i>Each applicant would be considered a separate and distinct application, even if they are within a currently recognized PEV planning region. See addendum #1 for geographic funding caps for Category A proposals.</i>
Q.32	What date would we get the funds?
A. 32	Funds would be available to the project when the agreement is fully executed by both parties, or the agreement start date, whichever is later. An earliest anticipated execution date is January 2015.
Q. 33	What date would we need to expend the funds?
A. 33	All projects and tasks must be completed by March 31, 2019.
Q.34	How can I determine if an area is covered by a regional readiness plan--who can we contact?
A.34	<i>See the list of regional readiness plan contacts in Attachment 12 of the solicitation.</i>

Q.35	Can you please clarify the disclaimer note regarding CEQA on page 19?
A.35	<i>It is incumbent upon project recipients to comply with the requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act. If review of a project takes so long that encumbrance deadlines are compromised, then the Energy Commission reserves the right to cancel the award. It is likely that projects which are categorically exempt or not considered a project under CEQA will undergo review in a timely manner.</i>
Q.36	While there are no “matching requirements”, is there any preference given to proposals that do have matching funds?
A.36	<i>No.</i>
Q.37	On page 15 of the Application Manual, part F, on the elements in the application it says "N/A" next to Letter(s) of Support/Commitment. However, on page 18 of the Application Manual, number 8, first bulleted point says that it is mandatory to submit letters of commitment from all key project partners. Can you clarify which it is, do we need letters from partners?
A.37	<i>N/A refers to no prepared template for the item(s). Applicants are required to submit all documents listed under Section III, F. Application Organization, including letters of support/commitment.</i>
Q.38	Eligible projects under “Category A – PEV Readiness Plan Implementation,” require the applicant to refer to an existing and adopted regional PEV Readiness Plan. Under a previous effort, SCAG was able to develop a Southern California PEV Readiness Plan, which we hope to further implement with funds made available by PON-14-603. The plan has been presented to our Board. As a regional entity, what constitutes proper adoption for eligibility in the PON-14-603 solicitation? Would it be adoption by the SCAG Board, jurisdictions within the region, or by the PEV Coordinating Council that DOE expects from applicants?
A.38	<i>It is incumbent on applicants to make their own determinations with respect to eligibility. The Energy Commission cannot provide specific advice tailored to an individual entity or project’s eligibility because we may be unaware of additional details not provided in your question which could determine eligibility. Please see A.15 above.</i>
Q.39	I would like to know if PON-14-604 is something I, as a private California Citizen, can apply for or is this reserved for public utilities?
A.39	<i>No. See A.7 above.</i>

Miscellaneous	
Q.40	Will this PowerPoint be available on website?
A.40	<i>Yes. URL: http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/PON-14-603/PON-14-603_Workshop_Presentation.pdf</i>
Q.41	What does coordination with local coordinating council entail?

A.41	<i>Contact with the PEVCC representatives and discussion regarding the proposed activities.</i>
Q.42	Can you explain first come first serve?
A.42	<i>Funds are awarded, until they run out, in the order that eligible applications are received. This means that the first application received (i.e., stamped) by the Energy Commission, if it meets eligibility criteria, will be awarded the funds it requests. The sooner you submit an application, the greater your chance of being funded.</i>
Q.43	What is Phil Dyer's email address?
A.43	Phil.Dyer@energy.ca.gov
Q. 44	Is this current program oversubscribed and is it an annual program? Is this a new program? If not, can you please provide information on the last round of funding and a link showing the number of applications received, the number of projects awarded funding, a list of project funded including the applicant's name, brief description of the project and the amount of the award?
A. 44	<i>This solicitation complements and builds upon two previous solicitations involving planning for plug-in electric vehicles and alternative fuels. These may be found at the following links: http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/transportation.html (for PON-13-603) and http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/PON-10-603/. The Notice of Proposed Awards provides information on the applicants and recommended awards. The NOPAs for the two previous solicitations can be accessed at: http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/PON-13-603_NOPA_Revised4.pdf and http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/PON-10-602_NOPA_revised.pdf. Please contact the recipient or see final reports project descriptions.</i>