

Questions, Answers, and Clarifications #3

Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Readiness

PON 14-603

Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program

California Energy Commission

November 13, 2014

Q.1	Can you please clarify the following statement at the Top of page 5 of the application manual: Applications addressing duplicative activities within regions previously funded by the Energy Commission or recommended for funding under this solicitation will be disqualified.
A.1	<i>The intent of this solicitation is not to fund identical activities that were previously funded by the Energy Commission, however, additional activities under the same categories of previous solicitations that qualify in this solicitation, such as “permitting and inspection process” activities may be funded. Also, if the same activities have already been proposed within the same region by another passing application that came in first under this solicitation, then another application proposing the same activities in that region will be disqualified.</i>
Q.2	I wanted to confirm my understanding that Category B applies to Plug-in Electric Vehicles (PEVs)/PEV-related projects only and as an applicant interested in hydrogen station related activities only it would not be appropriate for us to apply under category B. Is this accurate?
A.2	<i>Yes, that is correct. Applicants who are interested in hydrogen related activities should refer to Category C on page 11 of the solicitation for eligible activities.</i>
Q.3	Under Category C-FCEV Readiness, I wanted to confirm my understanding that the City of Downey can refer to a PEV Readiness Plan document generated by SCAG (Southern California Association of Governments) in our application in the absence of a locally generated plan. Under Category C-FCEV Readiness, I wanted to confirm my understanding that we can refer to a PEV Readiness Plan document generated by SCAG in our application in the absence of a locally generated plan.
A.3	<i>If the PEV Readiness Plan document referred to can be used for for Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle planning, then it may qualify as an eligible document.</i>
Q.4	The City of Downey doesn't currently have a hydrogen fueling station or data about use of hydrogen fueled vehicles in our area. The city does have a group of interested citizens and local elected officials interested in initiating development of a hydrogen fueling station. We were wondering if this grant is appropriate for groups who are in the early stages of developing their hydrogen-station related activities.
A.4	<i>Yes. This solicitation is for eligible public entities which may include cities interested in initiating development of a hydrogen fueling station.</i>

Q.5	<p>The budget sheet for applicants asked for Indirect “Overhead” and/or General Administration rates. In the first screen shot, I fill in the indirect similar to our previous successful grant submittals. But in reading the directions included with this budget page, I’m confused since it seems like it is asking for the rate for every individual component that builds up to our Indirect rate. Also, nowhere else in this PON does it provide a place to enter our Indirect overhead costs. Would you please clarify how the Energy Commission would like the “Indirect Costs” budget sheet filled in, and if Indirect Costs refer to Indirect Overhead and/or G&A? (I also read through the T&Cs and couldn’t find more explanation.)</p>
A.5	<p><i>The Indirect Cost & Profit worksheet sheet in the budget should be filled out as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Column A - Name of the Indirect Cost (e.g ., Indirect Overhead, G&A, LRDD, etc.)</i> • <i>Column B – Maximum Rate (whatever the percentage is)</i> • <i>Column C – Cost Categories within the budget that the specific overhead is based (direct labor, fringe benefits, travel, materials and miscellaneous, etc.).</i> • <i>Column D – This is the combined dollar amount of the cost categories identified in Column C.</i> <p><i>The rest of the columns are a breakdown of CEC and Match Shares, and their combined total.</i></p> <p><i>Please see a sample example Indirect Cost table at the end of this document filled out with random numbers.</i></p>
Q.6	<p>In Category A, subcategory f. for Local Government Code Adoption and Training, it states that, “This activity may provide training to city planners, city permitting staff, inspectors, and builders to implement codes by mid-2015.” Given the short-time frame to complete this subcategory (implemented by mid-2015), can you please provide further clarification on the acceptable types of activities that would meet the requirements of this subcategory, or at least clarify the final outcome that is expected? Can you please clearly define what “implemented by mid-2015” means (at a minimum) for this subcategory?</p>
A.6	<p><i>This activity may include development of a training program, outreach activities regarding code implementation, and training on code implementation by mid-calendar year 2015. The goal is to have some level of training activity in place by mid-calendar year 2015.</i></p>
Q.7	<p>Please clarify if refreshments/supplies for workshops or training events would be an eligible reimbursable cost. Can CEC funds be used to pay for these types of supplies?</p>
A.7	<p><i>Workshop supplies necessary to conduct the workshop are allowable expenses. Refreshments are NOT eligible expenditures.</i></p>

Q.8	Is the Department of Housing & Community Development an eligible applicant?
A.8	<i>Since the Department of Housing and Community Development is a public entity, they may apply under this solicitation.</i>
Q.9	Might a municipality with its own public utility successfully apply?
A.9	<i>Eligible applicants are California public entities that meet the requirements of this solicitation, including municipalities within public utility districts.</i>
Q.10	Regarding the LCFS and requirements of Attachment 10 and 11, if the City of Riverside applied for and received the grant, would the Riverside Utility which, assuming they collect LCFS credits, be required to transfer credits at a "discounted value" as discussed in Attachment 10 & 11?
A.10	<i>Since this solicitation does not fund fueling infrastructure, no LCFS credits are expected to accrue from funded projects.</i>
Q.11	Regarding Attachments 10 and 11 how does one determine the number of LCFS credits generated as a result of the grant - specifically those generated?
A.11	<i>Since this solicitation does not fund fueling infrastructure, no LCFS credits are expected to accrue from funded projects.</i>
Q.12	If an application addresses multiple activities, and the CEC declines to fund one proposed activity, would the CEC independently review the other activities to decide whether to fund them?
A.12	<i>The application is scored as "pass" or "fail" and cannot be divided by activity. If the application fails due to an ineligible activity, the applicant may reapply but will be placed at the bottom of the queue of submitted applications.</i>
Q.13	Are implementation of a PEV Readiness Plan's recommendations regarding City Plans eligible activities under the PEV Readiness EVSE siting activity, such as the development of City Guidelines and Policies and community engagement to 1) encourage EVCS siting, and 2) locate EVCS in areas most responsive to community needs?
A.13	<i>Based on the above description and without accounting for additional details which may affect eligibility, yes. These activities are consistent with the purpose of the "EVCS Siting" activity described in Section II.B.1.c which includes: is for reaching out to potential charging infrastructure host sites to identify appropriate sites and encourage and facilitate installation of EVCS in accordance with the relevant PEV regional infrastructure plan.</i>
Q.14	Do Task 1 Administrative and Task 5 data collection count against the \$20k (per jurisdiction) cap for local government code adoption and training? If so, how will these costs be allocated between multiple tasks contained in a single application?
A.14	No.
Q.15	How much time between application and contract should we allow before starting funded activities? For instance, if an application is submitted December 1, what project start date should be included in the grant schedule?

A.15	<i>The project start date is flexible, however, it is likely that the elapsed time between application submittal and contract will be at least 3 months due to the time for the notice of award to be posted, the business meeting date and subsequent execution of the agreement.</i>
Q.16	If the activities included in the application are solely focused on planning, research, policy development, and outreach – i.e. no physical project – is the “Local Health Impact” form (Attachment 8) still required?
A.16	Yes.

A.12 – EXAMPLE

Indirect Cost(s)

Name of Indirect Cost	Maximum Rate	Indirect Cost Base Description	Indirect Cost Base Amount	Amount		
				Commission Funds	Match Funds	Total
Indirect Overhead	53.00%	DL + FB	\$ 78,644	\$ 40,895	\$ 10,275	\$ 51,170
	0.00%		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	0.00%		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	0.00%		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	0.00%		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total:				\$ 40,895	\$ 10,275	\$ 51,170