

DOCKETED

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**CEC STAFF WORKSHOP
BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS)
AGENDA**

**February 23, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Remote Access Via ZOOM:

Remote Access via [ZOOM](https://energy.zoom.us/j/88934343446?pwd=bW1ZV0pySGtINjdhaGxDVWNUWkjxdz09). For Details, go to
<https://energy.zoom.us/j/88934343446?pwd=bW1ZV0pySGtINjdhaGxDVWNUWkjxdz09>

**and enter the Meeting ID: 889 3434 3446 and passcode: 659459
or to participate by telephone call 1-213-338-8477**

OBJECTIVE: To discuss safety related considerations for Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects related to the siting, permitting, construction, and operation of BESS systems. The focus of this workshop will be on large scale lithium-ion BESS systems designed to serve the electric grid that are currently in the development, permitting, or construction stages, or have begun operation. The workshop will discuss overall operational safety of BESS systems, in addition to existing barriers, challenges, and successes regarding battery storage projects in California.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES: Establish a community of engaged stakeholders who can collectively lead the way in the safe development of BESS projects throughout the state and in the process, help California achieve its clean energy goals and targets.

AGENDA

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| 10:00AM – 10:15AM | Welcome/Introductory Remarks from Chair David Hochschild |
| 10:15AM – 11:00AM | Current and Future Landscape of Large-Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems and Overview of State Actions/Tools Available to Accelerate Project Deployment |
| 11:15AM – 12:00PM | PANEL 1 – Siting and Permitting of Battery Energy Storage Projects
California will see more BESS projects as we work to reach our energy and climate goals. Renewable energy such as solar and wind are intermittent, and battery energy storage systems will be |

key in providing reliable power. According to the most recent SB 846 Report, the Joint Agency Reliability Planning Assessment, there will be more than 6,000 MW coming online from BESS projects alone through 2026. Recognizing that local jurisdictions have a range of experience permitting BESS projects, this panel will explore the barriers, challenges and lessons learned in permitting battery storage projects from the perspective of local governments and developers. Topics include safety considerations of BESS projects undergoing environmental review and implementation of fire codes by local firefighting departments.

12:00PM – 1:00PM

Lunch Break

1:00PM – 1:45PM

Overview of Current State of BESS Safety Practices in Design and Operations

Presentation of report on current UL requirements, common safety features and configurations to minimize safety concerns, common industry operations and safety standards, mandatory and optional safety requirements.

1:45PM – 2:30PM

PANEL 2: Battery Energy Storage Design, Manufacturing, Operations & Safety

BESS facilities are essential to providing reliable energy. They provide energy during peak times and act as back-up power during emergencies. Nevertheless, there are well-known safety risks with lithium-ion batteries. This panel will examine risks, and discuss developer and manufacturer operational and safety standards, as well as local government requirements for safe operations. Topics include new technology and configuration changes that arise between the planning and installation phases of project development.

2:30PM – 2:45PM

Break

2:45PM – 3:00PM

Overview of the Development of BESS Safety Standards

Presentation on current efforts such as GO 167B and SB 38 (Laird).

3:00pm – 3:45PM

PANEL 3: Review of BESS Case Study on Safety Practices Based on Operational Experience of New Systems

Although BESS systems are relatively new, we now have significant actual operational experience and lessons learned from actual safety events. This panel will examine one case-study and discuss interactions with the community and first responders, and

what we learned that may be incorporated into future BESS safety strategies.

3:45 PM – 4:00PM

Closing Remarks & Next Steps