



**FILED**

10/07/21  
04:59 PM

# Attachment A

# *Community Engagement & Empowerment*

## Microgrids Incentive Program

July 21, 2021

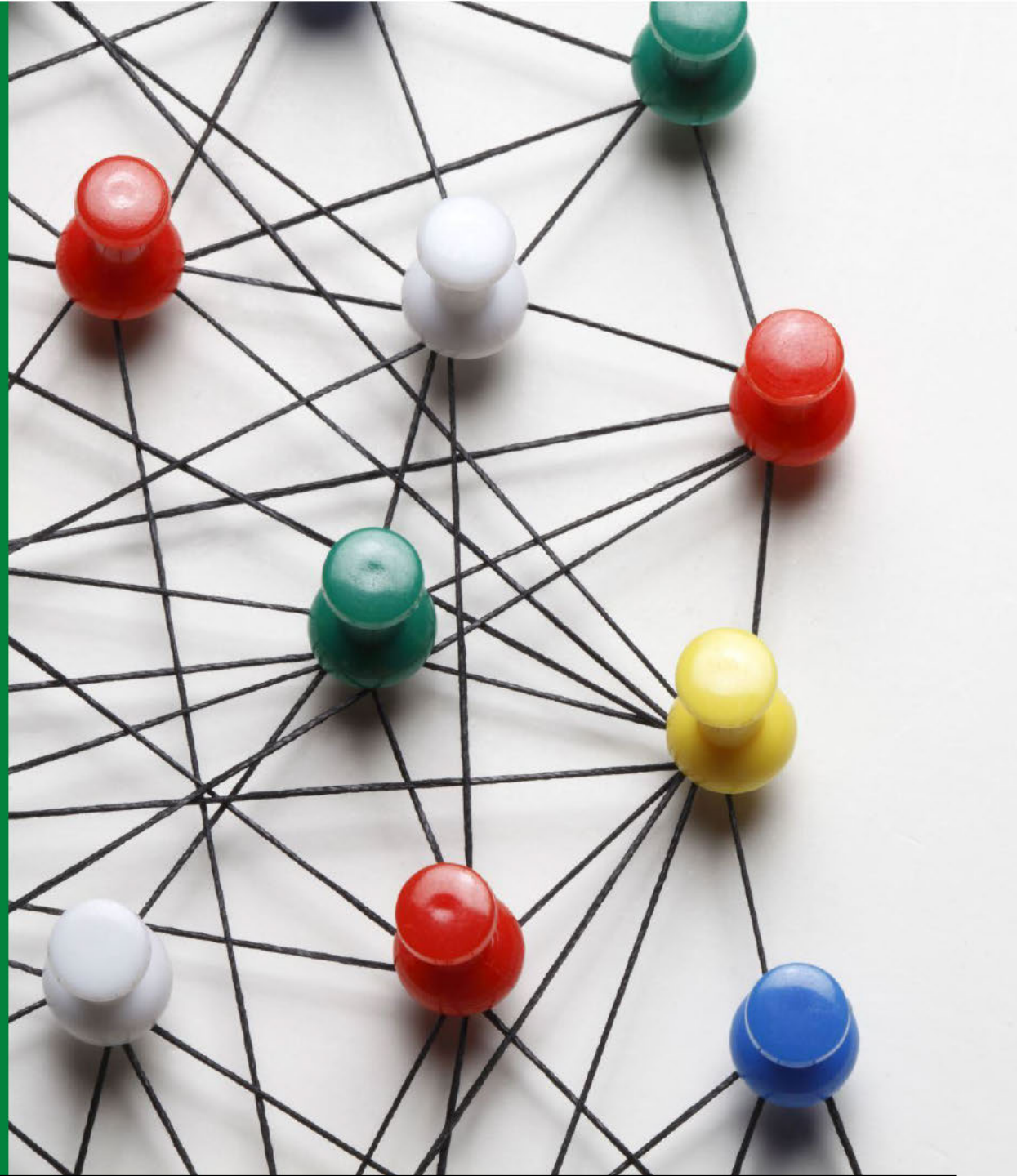
Seamus Guerin (*they/them*) CBE

Roger Lin (*he/him*) CEJA

COMMUNITIES  
FOR A BETTER  
ENVIRONMENT  
established 1978



CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE ALLIANCE



# *Presentation Goals – Community Engagement & Empowerment*

## IOU questions:

- How should the utility share information about:
  - where the resiliency needs presently exist,
  - which areas in California are most prone to outages,
  - what grid projects are already planned in those areas (if any),
  - and where investments in microgrids could be advantageous?
- What role does the utility play?

## Additional questions:

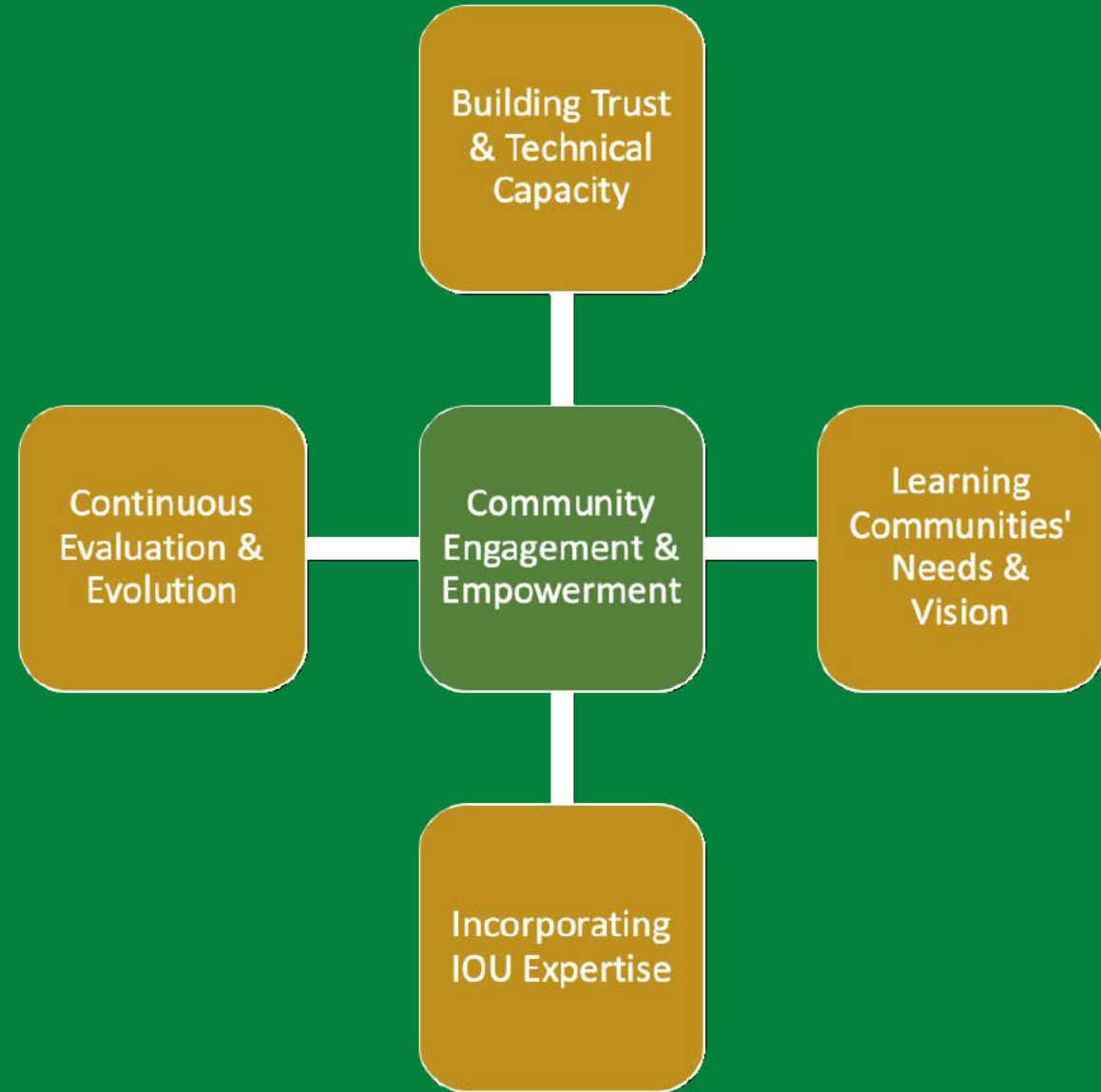
- What role do communities play?
  - During planning? Implementation? Evaluation?
  - How can communities be most empowered in their roles?
- What role do CBOs play?

# *Community Engagement & Empowerment*

*So you have a project idea...*

→ Iterative

→ Intertwined





# *Building Trust & Technical Capacity*

- Target communities often left behind
  - Histories of neglect, mistrust, false promises
  - Possible initial technical expertise barriers
- Technical Assistance Providers
  - Relationships matter; look to CBOs
  - Culturally competent partners
  - Help communities help themselves
    - Unlock their own expertise
- Where are these communities?  
Where are these CBOs?



Allensworth residents and Abigail Solis of Self-Help Enterprises in the CPUC San Joaquin Valley Pilot Proceeding

# *Learning Communities' Needs & Vision*

- Tap into existing networks and connect with leaders
- What other insights and priorities do they have?
- E.g. personal and community experiences with outages
- What is their vision for their community, and do microgrids fit in?

Allensworth Community Center



- Ex 1: "Critical facilities"
  - Community centers, nursing homes, schools, churches, foodbanks, and clinics
- Ex 2: No diesel microgrids
- Ex 3: Community control of new and existing facilities
  - Creative ownership and operation strategies

DO NOT PASS GO:  
Does the community want this?



# *Incorporating IOU Expertise*

- IOUs' wealth of knowledge
  - Outages & PSPS events – for location
    - What communities are impacted by shutoffs
    - Comparative data
  - Energy usage in the aggregate – for sizing
  - Costs and rates
- Gaps in existing data
  - Where vulnerable communities are
    - And what their needs are
  - Relationships to historic underinvestment and racist policies including redlining
- What pilot projects are going to teach us the most?



# Continuous Evaluation & Evolution

Evaluation opportunities	Formal	Informal – eyes open!
Community meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surveys</li><li>• Feedback at meetings</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where questions frequently come up</li><li>• Where there are understanding gaps</li><li>• Showing up early and staying late to meet residents</li></ul>
CBO engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reporting requirements</li><li>• Check-in meetings</li></ul>	
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surveys</li><li>• Feedback at meetings</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frequently encountered problems in the field</li></ul>

→ Evolution

→ No project is perfectly designed from the start

→ Priority #1: Community support; relationship and trust repairing and building



# *Presentation Goals – Community Engagement & Empowerment*

## IOU questions:

- How should the utility share information?
  - Iteratively in a culturally competent manner, always on a 2-way street, through TA providers like CBOs
- What role does the utility play?
  - Technical expertise to "train the trainer" via TA providers
  - Energy outage and usage data, and systems information
  - Political and financial resources

## Additional questions:

- What role do communities play?
  - During planning? Implementation? Evaluation?
    - Communities shape all stages of the project for the greatest project success and participant benefit
  - How can communities be most empowered in their roles?
    - Unlocking their own expertise through TA
    - Implementing their vision and proposals throughout
- What role do CBOs play?
  - Leverage existing relationships and knowledge
  - Technical assistance providers
  - Intermediary as trusted party by all, competent in "translating" across different forms of expertise

## *Tying it Together: Community Engagement & Eligibility Criteria*

- Consult with the DAC Advisory Group
- Funded CBO engagement
- Request for Proposals/D.18-12-015 criteria



# Community Engagement & Empowerment

*Thank you!*

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→ Follow up?

- Tyler Earl, Staff Attorney, CBE at [tyler@cbeocal.org](mailto:tyler@cbeocal.org)
- Roger Lin, Climate & Air Counsel, CEJA at [roger@caleja.org](mailto:roger@caleja.org)
- Seamus Guerin, Law Clerk, CBE at [seamusg@stanford.edu](mailto:seamusg@stanford.edu)

