

Grant Funding Opportunity from the California Energy Commission: Community Microgrids

Preliminary Notice, Official Notice has not yet been published by the CEC

Purpose: The California Energy Commission has indicated that they will be issuing a Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO) Announcement late 2016 or early 2017 to seek applicants who are interested in designing and implementing a community microgrid. We estimate that 8 different microgrids will be funded at a level of \$5-8 Million per project. The objective of the investment is to help demonstrate the commercial viability of a community microgrid, develop the metrics that can be used to measure and evaluate the value of a microgrid, and help create a replicable process for more rapid duplication and commercialization of community microgrids in locations throughout California. A microgrid can provide multiple benefits to a community including reduced energy consumption and associated operating costs, ability to increase resiliency for critical facilities (such as an airport, police station or civic center) since the connected buildings within the microgrid are able to "island" from the electricity grid in the event of a fire, earthquake or other disaster. Typically, onsite energy generation resources are included in a microgrid, which may include renewable generation such as solar and wind generation, combined heat and power (CHP) and battery storage. These resources can support the building's electricity needs during a power outage when they are effectively connected and controlled with the right technologies.

Willdan is meeting with various building owners to identify interested partners who would like to apply for community microgrid funding. Willdan is willing to complete the upfront grant proposal and project concept development when we secure committed partners for the CEC grant. Willdan is active in this emerging sector of the energy industry, with practical, hands-on experience gained through our staff's work at the Illinois Institute of Technology's Perfect Power Microgrid and 9 completed feasibility studies in New York for community microgrids funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

Eligibility: To be determined, but anticipate that public entities such as Counties, Cities, Airports, Universities, Commercial Building Owners and private corporations will be eligible.

Due Date:

Notice anticipated to be released November 2016 – January 2017 with responses due March or April 2017.