



Clean Energy Alliance

2026 Request for Proposals (“RFP”)

*Long-Term Low/No Emissions Energy and San
Diego-IV Local Capacity*

Issuance Date: March 3, 2026

Response Deadline: April 3, 2026

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OVERVIEW

Background

Clean Energy Alliance issues this Request for Proposals (“RFP”) to solicit competitive offers for:

1. Long-term, low/no emissions supply and/or capacity from projects interconnected within, or with the ability to interconnect to, the California Independent System Operator (“CAISO”) balancing authority.
2. Long-term capacity from storage projects offered locally in the San Diego-Imperial Valley Local Capacity area (SD-IV).

In consideration of long-term energy and capacity contracting requirements, Clean Energy Alliance (“CEA”) has future open positions for energy products and Resource Adequacy capacity (“RA”). CEA has a goal of supplying 100% renewable energy on a 24/7 basis to its customers by 2035. To accomplish this goal and adequately match its load shape on a monthly basis, CEA must contract for a diverse mix of low/no emissions resources. Moreover, local development is key to meeting CEA’s local RA requirements as well as to fulfilling CEA’s mission to supply customers with sustainable and affordable energy that fosters local economic growth and community well-being. CEA anticipates that any selected project(s) will enter into a Power Purchase Agreement (“PPA”) or Energy Storage Services Agreement (“ESSA”) with CEA to address energy and/or capacity offtake.

About CEA

Clean Energy Alliance is a Community Choice Aggregator (“CCA”) formed in November 2019 through a partnership between the cities of Carlsbad, Del Mar, and Solana Beach to provide alternative energy resources to the residents of its communities. CEA has since expanded to include the cities of Escondido, San Marcos, Oceanside, and Vista and now serves around 255,000 customer accounts. Customer load typically fluctuates between 300-400MW and peaks in the summer around 500MW+.

More information about CEA can be found on our website at thecleanenergyalliance.org. Additional details related to this RFP process can be found by visiting <https://thecleanenergyalliance.org/solicitations/>. Prospective participants are encouraged to regularly check this website for updates to the bid requirements, response form and accompanying materials – *respondents are responsible for submitting all offers using the most current response form.*

SUBMISSION PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS

RFP Schedule*

This RFP will be administered in consideration of the following schedule:

RFP Activity	Anticipated Date of Completion
RFP issuance	March 3, 2026
Deadline for electronic question submittal	March 16, 2026
CEA posts responses to questions	March 18, 2026
RFP response deadline	April 3, 2026
CEA shortlist and waitlist notifications	April 30, 2026
Execution of shortlist term sheets and exclusivity agreements	Q3 2026

*CEA reserves the right to change the schedule of these events at any time for any reason

Respondents may submit questions to CEA regarding this RFP process and associated materials no later than 5:00 P.M. PT on March 16, 2026. All questions should be submitted electronically to procurement@thecleanenergyalliance.org and must include the following subject line: “Questions for CEA: 2026 Renewable Energy and Local Capacity RFP”. CEA will post responses to all questions on its website after responses have been prepared – CEA anticipates posting such responses by March 18, 2026.

CEA may submit clarifying questions to certain respondents or conduct interviews, as necessary, based on information provided in the response template and/or supporting materials included with each response. CEA shall have the right, at its sole discretion, to request information without notifying other respondents. CEA shall establish due dates for responses at the time of each informational request and will directly notify individual respondents in the event that follow-up and/or interviews are necessary during this process.

Only electronic submittals will be accepted in response to this RFP; such submittals must be received by CEA no later than 5:00 P.M. PT on April 3, 2026. All responses should be submitted to procurement@thecleanenergyalliance.org and must include the following subject line: “Response to CEA 2026 Renewable Energy and Local Capacity RFP”.

Submission Requirements

For both low/no emissions renewable energy/capacity and San Diego local projects, a complete submission includes the following filled out in full:

- Standardized response form
- Project-appropriate Term Sheet (with edits)



By participating in this RFP, each respondent acknowledges that it has read, understands, and agrees to the terms and conditions set forth in these instructions. CEA reserves the right to reject any offer that does not comply with these requirements. Furthermore, CEA may, in its sole discretion and without notice, modify, extend, suspend, or terminate this RFP without further obligation or liability to any respondent. This RFP does not constitute an offer to buy or create an obligation for CEA to enter into an agreement with any party, and CEA shall not be bound by the terms of any offer until CEA has entered into a duly authorized and fully executed agreement.

Standardized Response Template

All respondents must use the appropriate response template provided by CEA, which asks respondents to outline the details of each proposed project in full. CEA has posted the templates to its website (<https://thecleanenergyalliance.org/solicitations/>) as Attachment 1a and 1b to this RFP and will require respondents to independently access and download the template prior to response preparation. An unmodified version of the template must be completed in its entirety, reflecting all applicable details of the proposed project, based on instructions provided in the template.

Each respondent may propose one or more project offers conforming with the requirements outlined below in the section titled "Project Requirements". The submission tab can be duplicated within the same Excel file for respondents who wish to submit multiple projects. Failure to meet the submission and project requirements defined below shall be grounds for proposal rejection.

Term Sheet

All respondents must review and submit the appropriate Term Sheet as per resource and submission type (Attachments 2a - 2d). The Term Sheet represents CEA's standard commercial pro forma agreement and is intended to align CEA and a respondent commercially before entering into more thorough Power Purchase Agreement or similar negotiations. All edits must be made with Track Changes on, so that redlines are visible during CEA's evaluation.

Project Requirements

1) Low/no emissions supply and/or capacity

i. Resource Location: CEA will accept projects located within and outside of the CAISO as long as they have the capability to interconnect and import into the CAISO. CEA has a strong preference for interconnection or delivery to the area generally termed SP15, as defined by the CAISO.

ii. Project Type: CEA is not interested in standalone solar generation offers under this solicitation, but welcomes offers for co-located/hybrid solar plus storage, geothermal, standalone storage, including long-duration energy storage, carbon capture¹, wind

¹ CEA's interest in carbon capture refers to capture and storage of emissions from a generating facility – this could involve carbon capture on biomass/biogas facilities, or capture and storage of emissions from natural gas generation facilities. CEA is open to considering low or no emissions generation that may not be RPS-eligible.

(including repowers), biogas/biomass projects, and other low/no emissions generation.

iii. Renewable Resource Eligibility: Generating renewable resources must be certified by the California Energy Commission (“CEC” or “Commission”) as Eligible Renewable Energy Resources (or must receive CEC certification prior to the commencement of any energy deliveries proposed in the response template), as set forth in applicable sections of the RPS Eligibility Guidebook, the California Public Utilities Code (“Code”) or other applicable documentation, all of which may be amended or supplemented from time to time. Each respondent shall be responsible for certification of the proposed resource through the certification process administered by the CEC and shall be responsible for maintaining such certification throughout the contract term.

iv. Product: Offers for bundled PCC1 renewable energy should include electric energy, Green Attributes/Renewable Energy Credits and Capacity Attributes, if such capacity attributes are available. Offers for standalone storage, including for long-duration energy storage, should include electric energy charge and discharge, ancillary services, and capacity attributes. CEA requests price offers for full toll or top-bottom 4 (“TB4”) structures but will also consider RA-only price offers.

v. Energy and Capacity Amount (MW AC): CEA has negotiated and executed PPAs ranging from 1MW local projects to 100MW+ utility scale projects and is open to a similar range of offtake capacity for future projects.

vi. Deliverability and Resource Adequacy (RA): CEA will consider projects both with full deliverability and energy-only status through this RFP, with the hope that energy-only projects will have a pathway to deliverability. RA value will be assessed based on the projected Slice of Day qualifying capacity of the project.

vii. Term of Agreement: Not less than ten (10) years and not more than twenty (20) years, commencing on the Initial Date of Delivery.

viii. Proposed Indicative Pricing: Each response must propose a single, flat price for the Product delivered from the proposed resource, priced at the generator node and/or at the SP 15 Trading Hub, as defined by the CAISO (TH_SP15_GEN-APND). Generation pricing shall include the energy commodity, all Green Attributes/Renewable Energy Credits, and (if applicable) Capacity Attributes. Alternative pricing options may be proposed so long as the aforementioned pricing requirements have been satisfied. Proposers should provide key assumptions that are reflected in the pricing, and how alternative assumptions on these key inputs could change pricing (i.e., a price range).

ix. Scheduling Coordinator (“SC”) Responsibilities: CEA will evaluate proposals in which the Buyer or Seller provide the SC function but typically anticipates that Buyer will provide SC responsibilities. If SC services are desired to be provided by Seller, the proposal should explain the reasoning for this allocation of responsibilities.

2) San Diego local capacity

Unless otherwise stated, same as above, plus the following:

vii. Resource Location: Projects must be located within the San Diego-Imperial Valley

Local Capacity Area, as defined by the CAISO, to qualify.

viii. Project Type: CEA is primarily interested in offers for standalone storage (4-hour and/or long-duration) but will consider offers for other project types such as solar plus storage.

ix. Product: Offers for standalone storage should include electric energy charge and discharge, ancillary services, and capacity attributes. CEA requests price offers for full toll or top-bottom 4 (“TB4”) structures but will also consider RA-only price offers.

x. Project Deliverability Status: CEA will consider the potential Local RA value of each project during its review of proposals. Please describe the project’s path to full capacity deliverability status (“FCDS”), if applicable, or any alternative approach to providing RA value to CEA.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

CEA will evaluate project responses against a common set of criteria that will include various factors. Responses for long-term low/no emissions supply/capacity will be evaluated separately from responses for long-term San Diego local capacity, but both buckets will be evaluated using a similar set of criteria. A non-exhaustive list of factors to be considered during CEA’s evaluative process is included below. This list may be revised at CEA’s sole discretion.

- Overall quality of response, inclusive of completeness, timeliness, and conformity;
- Price and relative value within CEA’s supply portfolio, inclusive of potential curtailment risk;
- Project location and local benefits (including impacts to Disadvantaged Communities or DACs, as defined in the most recent cycle of CPUC’s Integrated Resource Plan filing instructions), and any interconnection considerations;
- Project development status, including but not limited to progress toward interconnection, deliverability, siting, zoning, permitting, and financing requirements/plan;
- Qualifications, experience, financial stability, and structure of the prospective project team (including its ownership);
- Environmental impacts and related mitigation requirements, including fire risk and fire safety precautions and impacts to air pollution within communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the existing generating fleet;
- Potential impacts to grid reliability;
- Potential economic benefits created within communities with high levels of poverty and unemployment;
- Acceptance of the relevant CEA term sheet;
- Workforce benefits, including projected hires (number and type of jobs), duration of

work (during construction and operation phases); and

- To the extent that the proposed generating facility is expected to replace/supplant or augment an existing generating facility, the respondent should quantify the associated emission impacts of this transition.

CONTRACTING AND CREDIT

Contracting Process

CEA plans to negotiate a PPA or ESSA term sheet and an exclusivity agreement with each shortlisted supplier and has provided CEA's term sheet form with this RFP (Attachments 2a - 2d). Respondents should indicate acceptance of CEA's term sheet in the response form in the relevant response box under the Key Terms section. If modification of any provision of the Term Sheet is a requirement of an offer, or a condition of pricing, a redlined term sheet should be submitted with the RFP response, and such modification must be identified in the respective section of the Term Sheet. CEA will favor offers with minimal proposed edits to the Term Sheet. Please include clear and sufficient detail explaining the nature of the proposed edits. CEA discourages redlined comments that simply state "discuss" or "to be discussed" if further explanation or context is not provided. Final selection will be contingent upon the execution of a term sheet by CEA and the respondent.

Credit

With respect to buyer credit, CEA has established a "lockbox structure" that allows for the collateralization of power supply contracts through the grant of a secured interest in the deposit account in which customer revenue is deposited by SDG&E on its behalf.² CEA prefers to utilize the lockbox structure for purposes of collateralizing PPAs or ESSAs related to this RFP, but also anticipates having an investment grade credit rating by the time that many of these projects are entering construction. A sample set of lockbox credit documents can be provided upon request. CEA's latest financial statements and budget forecasts can be found here: [Clean Energy Alliance – Key Documents](#).

Exclusivity Agreement and Bid Deposits

CEA will require exclusivity agreements for all shortlisted projects upon execution of a Term Sheet. Bid deposits of \$5,000/MW times the project's guaranteed capacity will be required. CEA will accept bid deposits in the form of cash or an agreed upon form of a Letter of Credit. Letter of Credit means an irrevocable standby letter of credit, in a form reasonably acceptable to CEA, issued either by (i) a U.S. commercial bank, or (ii) a U.S. branch of a foreign commercial bank that meets the following conditions: (A) it has sufficient assets in the U.S. as determined by CEA, and (B) it is acceptable to CEA in its sole discretion. The issuing bank must have a credit rating of at

² SDG&E is CEA's billing agent.



least A- from S&P or A3 from Moody's, with a stable outlook designation. All costs of the Letter of Credit shall be borne by Offeror.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All correspondence with CEA, including responses to this RFP, will become the exclusive property of CEA and will become public records under the California Public Records Act (Cal. Government Code section 6250 et seq.) All documents sent by respondents to CEA may be subject to disclosure, unless exempt due to one of the narrow exceptions to the disclosure requirements.

In order to designate information as confidential, the respondents must clearly stamp and identify the specific portion of the material designated with the word "Confidential" and provide a citation to the California Public Records Act that supports keeping the information confidential. Respondents should not over-designate material as confidential. Over-designation would include stamping entire pages or series of pages as confidential that clearly contain information that is not confidential.

Therefore, any proposal which contains language purporting to render all or significant portions of their proposal "Confidential", "Trade Secret" or "Proprietary", or which fails to provide the exemption information required as described below may be considered a public record in its entirety subject to the procedures described below. A respondent should not mark its entire proposal as "Confidential".

If required by any law, statute, ordinance, a court, governmental authority or agency having jurisdiction over CEA, including the California Public Records Act, CEA may release confidential information, or a portion thereof, as required by the applicable law, statute, ordinance, decision, order or regulation. In the event CEA is required to release confidential information, they shall notify the respondent of the required disclosure, such that the respondent may attempt (if it so chooses), at its sole cost, to cause the recipient of the confidential information to treat such information in a confidential manner, and to prevent such information from being disclosed or otherwise becoming part of the public domain.

CEA does not intend to disclose any part of any proposal before it announces a recommendation for award, on the grounds that there is a substantial public interest in not disclosing proposals during the evaluation process.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

CEA does not, and will not discriminate, and requires in its contracts with suppliers that they will not discriminate, on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, disability (physical or mental), sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or domestic partner status, religion, political beliefs or affiliation, familial or parental status (including pregnancy), medical condition (cancer-related), military service, or genetic information.

CEA strives to support local jobs, sustainable and inclusive workforce opportunities, local economic sustainability, and diversity through contracting for its power sources (see [CEA's](#)



[Inclusive and Sustainable Workforce Policy](#)) in a manner that is consistent with anti-discrimination laws. CEA encourages respondents to submit information regarding planned efforts by respondent and respondent's contractors to:

- Employ workers and businesses from the local area of the proposed project(s).
- Employ properly licensed contractors and CA Certified electricians.
- Utilize local apprentices, particularly graduates of San Diego County pre-apprenticeship programs.
- Pay workers prevailing wage for each craft, classification and type of work performed.
- Provide workers compensation coverage to on-site workers.
- Support and use State of California approved apprenticeship programs.

Pursuant to California Senate Bill 255 (Public Utilities Code Section 366.2(m)(2)), CCAs are required to report to the California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") on their diverse suppliers, as defined by CPUC General Order 156. Consistent with the California Public Utilities Code and California Public Utilities Commission policy objectives, respondents are encouraged to complete a Supplier Diversity questionnaire with their submission (linked in the Response Form), and respondents that execute an agreement with CEA will be asked to complete the aforementioned questionnaire and provide any other information that CEA needs to comply with its reporting requirements set forth in Public Utilities Code Section 366.2(m)(2) or other applicable law.

CEA encourages all eligible parties to get a Supplier Clearinghouse Certification with the CPUC. For overview information on the CPUC Supplier Diversity Program, please visit the program homepage (<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/supplierdiversity/>). For information on the certification process and requirements, please visit the CPUC's Certifications page (<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/about-cpuc/divisions/news-and-public-information-office/business-and-community-outreach/supplier-diversity-program/certification>).