



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

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New \$1 Billion Program Will Increase Solar for 150,000 Low-Income Renters *California Public Utilities Commission Approves Proposed Decision on Solar for Multifamily Affordable Housing Program*

San Francisco, CA — The renewable energy revolution in California continues to grow with the new Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program. Created by the passage of AB 693 (Eggman), this new program will bring \$1 billion over 10 years in rooftop solar to low-income renters. The new program is intended to bring 300 megawatts of new solar projects with the potential to serve over 150,000 low-income renters at over 2,000 affordable housing properties across the state. Yesterday, the California Public Utilities Commission approved the final proposed decision for the SOMAH program.

“We thank the California Public Utilities Commission for standing on the right side of history with their approval of this ground-breaking new program that invests in communities most impacted by fossil fuels, will lead to economic savings for tenants, and brings us closer to achieving energy equity in our state. As a co-sponsor of the original bill, AB 693 by Assemblymember Eggman, CEJA is committed to seeing an equitable implementation of the SOMAH program as the process moves forward. Environmental justice communities and low-income renters must be included in this growing renewable energy revolution in California and have the most to benefit through savings on their utility bills and a thriving local economy.”

— **Strela Cervas, State Organizing Director, California Environmental Justice Alliance**

“The adoption of the SOMAH program means we are one step closer to seeing the multitude of benefits from clean energy for residents living in affordable housing. We applaud CPUC’s leadership in ensuring cost-savings for low-income tenants and promoting meaningful investments in disadvantaged communities. We will continue to engage in the process moving forward to ensure the program serves our community needs.”

— **Amee Raval, Policy and Research Associate, Asian Pacific Environmental Network**

“We look forward to working with a statewide Program Administrator to make the goals of SOMAH a reality for low-income tenants in environmental justice communities.”

— **Shana Lazerow, Legal Director, Communities for a Better Environment**

Here are some of the features of the new Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program:

- Eligibility: properties with five or more dedicated affordable housing, where most (80%) of the tenants are low-income (60% of area median income) OR located in a disadvantaged community
- More than half the savings must go to tenants, but landlords may benefit for common area electricity costs
- Units in Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) can participate
- Requires job training and a focus on local jobs

- A single statewide Program Administrator will run the program

The SOMAH Program Administrator will be selected by April 30, and the Commission anticipates approving a handbook setting out how the PA will administer the program by August 30.

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California Environmental Justice Alliance is a statewide, community-led alliance that works to achieve environmental justice by advancing policy solutions. We unite the powerful local organizing of our members in the communities most impacted by environmental hazards – low-income communities and communities of color – to create comprehensive opportunities for change at a statewide level. We build the power of communities across California to create policies that will alleviate poverty and pollution. Together, we are growing the statewide movement for environmental health and social justice.

www.caleja.org