



CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE ALLIANCE

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## **SOMAH Program Launch Ensures Equitable Solar Access for Affordable Housing Tenants in California**

**Sacramento, CA | July 2, 2019** — The California Environmental Justice Alliance celebrates the launch of California's Solar on Multifamily and Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program, the nation's largest investment in low-income residential solar for renters. With its focus on clean energy and reducing costs for hundreds of thousands of affordable housing residents, SOMAH will provide rebates to affordable housing property owners who install solar and provide clean energy and significant utility bill savings to tenants.

The California Environmental Justice Alliance was a co-sponsor and leading advocate for the passage of legislation creating SOMAH and in helping shape the program to ensure maximum community benefit. Over 10 years, SOMAH will provide up to \$100 million annually in financial incentives for solar on multifamily affordable housing in the state, ensuring equitable solar access to affordable housing tenants and creating clean energy job training opportunity in local communities.

"SOMAH demonstrates that we can invest in communities most impacted by fossil fuels, create economic benefits for low-income renters, and ensure that our renewable energy future puts equity at the center. California will only be able to meet its renewable energy goals by ensuring that families living in affordable housing can access renewable energy."

— **Jose Torres, Energy Equity Program Manager, California Environmental Justice Alliance**

"With its focus on clean energy and reducing costs for hundreds of thousands of affordable housing residents in California's most impacted communities, SOMAH will provide rebates to affordable housing property owners who install solar and provide clean energy to communities who otherwise would not have access."

— **Allen Hernandez, Executive Director, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice and SOMAH Advisory Committee Member**

SOMAH is administered by a team of nonprofit organizations that provide a variety of no-cost resources including technical assistance to property owners, tenant engagement resources and job training to ensure maximum community participation and benefit. California Environmental Justice Alliance is one of four community-based organizations supporting the program in its first year with community outreach and program feedback. The program is overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission.

Interested participants can access sample application forms and other resources, register for contractor and property housing owner webinars and sign up for job training opportunities on the [CalSOMAH.org](http://CalSOMAH.org) website.

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[California Environmental Justice Alliance](http://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](http://www.caleja.org)

**[The Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing \(SOMAH\)](http://www.calsomah.org)** program provides up to \$100 million annually in financial incentives for installing photovoltaic (PV) energy systems on multifamily affordable housing in California. The program's unique, community-based approach ensures long-term, direct economic benefits for low-income households, helps catalyze the market for solar on multifamily housing and creates jobs. SOMAH is funded through the greenhouse gas allowance auction proceeds of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, Liberty Utilities Company and PacifiCorp. SOMAH aims to install 300 megawatts of generating capacity by 2030.

[www.calsomah.org](http://www.calsomah.org)