

THE ACCELERATE GROUP | LLC

PIPA Identification Kickoff and PIPA Framework

Policy+Innovation Coordination Group

Date of Meeting: April 15, 2020

April 16, 2020

PICG Status

Kick-Off Meeting



Workplan Development



PIPA Identification Process



PIPA Selection



3-5 PIPA Meetings



Database/Results Transparency



Policy+Innovation Forum



Next Steps



Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. PICG Process to Date
3. Project Coordinator Partnership Area Identification Process
4. Review Proposed Partnership Areas and PICG Feedback
5. Other Partnership Areas Considered
6. Public Comment
7. Next Steps

This was a public meeting and most of the PICG Members participated.

- 1) Formal Comment on Proposed Partnership Areas due 5/12

Policy+Innovation Partnership Areas:

On April 15, 2020 the Project Coordinator presented the twelve (12) proposed partnership areas, and the process it took to incorporate the background research and feedback from the Policy+Innovation Coordination Group (and the 400+ identified obstacles and/or challenges and hundreds of active EPIC Projects) into a set of initial partnership areas. This was an open meeting that was publicly noticed.

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** The Project Coordinator provided an overview of the creation of the Policy+Innovation Coordination Group, and its mission.
2. **PICG Proccess to Date.** The Project Coordinator reviewed the work of the PICG, outlining the meetings the PICG and work the PICG has done to date, the background research and interviews conducted by the Project Coordinator, the development of the Partnership Area Framework, and the process going forward to narrow the proposed partnership areas into the top 3-5 for 2020.

The Project Coordinator reiterated the definition of Policy+Innovation Partnership Areas as “issue areas of common interest and substantive opportunity, around which the PICG will engage in targeted coordination. Further, the Project Coordinator identified the criteria for selecting the Partnership Areas, what the PICG will do with Partnership Areas, and the process by which the CPUC would be selecting Partnership Areas.

- a. Partnership Area Framework: On March 23, 2020 the Project Coordinator presented the Draft Partnership Area Framework. The Partnership Area Framework mapped challenges and/or obstacle identified in interviews, regulatory assessment, and background analysis to strategies and policy goals. The initial Partnership Area Framework consists of 400+ identified obstacles and/or challenges.
- b. Criteria: Three top-level questions were asked of all the obstacles, challenges and strategies in the Partnership Area Framework to help identify possible Partnership Areas: Where are timely opportunities to connect RD&D to Policy?, Where can enhanced coordination accelerate outcomes?, and

what are the most critical challenges.

- c. What the PICG will do with Partnership Areas: The Project Coordinator described how the 3-5 selected Partnership Areas will become workstreams around which coordination and policy feedback can occur. This will include public meetings around which lessons learned and data from EPIC projects could be considered as input into policy-making efforts, as well as work plans to support collaboration and coordination among stakeholders. Further, the Project Coordinator described the use of a database for tracking project lessons learned and results to the obstacles and challenges identified in the Partnership Areas framework.
- d. Identifying Proposed Partnership Areas: The Project Coordinator reiterated the process for identifying and narrowing Partnership Areas, which follows these overall steps: 1) developing the Partnership Area Framework as a landscape analysis of state energy policy goals, strategies, and obstacles and challenges; 2) Mapping EPIC projects onto the obstacles and challenges in the Partnership Area Framework; 3) Identifying critical areas; 4) Identifying timely opportunities for EPIC R&D projects to provide feedback and input into policy-making processes; 5) Identifying Possible Partnership areas; and 6) Narrowing the Partnership Areas into the top 3-5 for 2020. Further, the Project Coordinator described that the CPUC will have a chance to consider alternative Partnership Areas for 2021 at an end-of-year forum to be held in late Fall 2020.

Project Coordination Partnership Area Identification Process.

The Project Coordinator then walked through in detail the process for identifying the twelve (12) proposed partnership areas. The process followed the rubric to narrow the obstacles and/or challenges identified in the Partnership Area Framework which was proposed in the March 23rd meeting. This meeting prioritizes partnership areas based on the following:

1. Timely Opportunities
2. Enhanced Coordination Accelerates Outcomes
3. Critical Challenges

The Project Coordinator also incorporated the feedback provided by the PICG and during the March 23rd meeting to help narrow the obstacles and/or challenges.

- Critical areas should be defined by areas that PICG members identified in interviews as priorities for their respective organizations
- Partnership Areas should be focused on areas where RD&D can have an impact
- Focus around Disadvantaged Communities and Equity
- Focus on what has been done in EPIC
- Focus on technology-focused obstacles
- Make sure Partnership Areas align with constraints of the EPIC program
- Ensuring we capture RD&D work that may touch many strategies.
- Ensure we recognize that as the world changes, so will the need in the research arena.

Clustering of Obstacles and Challenges

The Project Coordinator worked through the 400+ obstacles and challenges identified in the Partnership Area Framework to find places where issue areas and obstacles were related, overlapped, or could share learnings.

Identify Critical Issues Areas

The Project Coordinator conducted several one-on-one interviews with CPUC Commissioners, CPUC Staff, CEC Commissioners, CEC Staff, and the IOUs. Each interviewee provided their top priority or critical areas. These responses were overlaid into a Venn diagram and presented in the Proposed Partnership Areas document on April 8, 2020. The responses and feedback provided in the interviews guided the narrowing of partnership areas.

Identify Timely Policymaking Opportunities

The Project Coordinator received feedback in the one-on-one interviews on upcoming policy decisions that will be made in the next 6-18 months. As well, the Project Coordinator performed a thorough review of the CPUC proceedings and schedules to help inform the partnership areas.

Mapped EPIC Projects

The Project Coordinator reviewed all active EPIC projects, of the CEC and the utilities, and mapped the projects to all of the challenges and/or obstacles that the EPIC project could provide insights on. This helped identify where there is currently RD&D work being done, where projects touch several strategies and obstacles, and where coordination and collaboration can occur.

Impact on Disadvantaged Communities

During the identification process, the Project Coordinator consistently analyzed proposed partnership areas with the overarching question of how this will impact Disadvantaged Communities, Low-Income Communities and what part equity would play?

Proposed Partnership Areas and Feedback:

Using the identification process, the Project Coordinator presented twelve (12) proposed partnership areas (in no specific order) and six (6) additional partnership areas that were considered but not selected.

Proposed Partnership Areas:

Disadvantaged Communities	Building Decarbonization
Microgrids	Low-Income Multifamily Retrofits
Long-Duration Energy Storage	Distribution Resource Planning
Wildfire Mitigation	Price Signals
Public Safety Power Shutoffs	Green Electrolytic Hydrogen
Transportation Electrification	Climate Adaptation

During the April 15, 2020 Meeting, the following feedback was received on each of the Partnership Areas.

Disadvantaged Communities

- Participants agreed that this area is of significant importance.
- Coordination should include the several stakeholders, organizations, and working groups already focusing on and

working with Disadvantaged Community, Low-Income, and Tribal Community across the state.

- Should specifically engage tribal communities that may not be included in current DAC outreach efforts.
- The highest priority is to understand these community's needs and the problems that need to be solved, so that R&D is not designing answers to the wrong questions.
- This effort could benefit from providing technical assistance to these communities, and bringing in support from existing energy efficiency, solar, and financing programs.
- This effort should also take into account the risks and challenges for communities to take on something pre-commercial or near-commercial.
- Suggested additional core questions include: what should effective outreach look like? Can administrators work more closely to better implement projects in DACs?

Microgrids

- Participants confirmed that this partnership area is timely and critical, but due to the tight timeline, the focus should be on small scale, affordable, replicable, and clean microgrid solutions.
- Rulemaking 19-09-009 is critical and timely.
- In the future there may be another opportunity for this area to address hybrid and multi-customer facilities.
- Public Comment focused on the need to expand the range of options for microgrids to ensure they provide resiliency, and that we should take into consideration the many sizes microgrids can be.
- **Additional Partnership Question:** Are there simple regulatory and process solutions to streamline the combination of multiple facilities for one microgrid solution?

Long Duration Energy Storage

- Participants confirmed there are currently little to no active projects which could inform upcoming decisions and believe this may be better as a future partnership area.
- There are three EPIC 3 projects in solicitation at this moment that could inform this as a future Partnership Area.

Wildfire Mitigation

- Participants confirmed that while this is a critical topic, there are little to no active EPIC projects focused on emerging technologies

in this space.

- Comments noted that there seemed to be a bifurcated focus on science, tools, and modeling on one hand, and better understanding technology capabilities on the other.

Public Safety Power Shutoffs

- **Additional Partnership Question:** How do you include local communities in grid hardening, upgrades, and planning decisions?
- Some participants believed this partnership area should also bring together work being done around understanding the future grid topology and grid planning.

Transportation Electrification

- **Proposed Grand Challenge Question edit:** How do we harmonize our goals of resiliency of the grid and transportation electrification?
- Participants suggested a focus on any and all additional benefits of medium and heavy-duty vehicles when they aren't being used.
- Participants suggested this focus on grid improvements that accommodate or increase vehicle electrification.
- Participants recognize this partnership area would need to integrate with work being done across the state on transportation electrification, particularly the interagency VGI working group.

Building Decarbonization

- No feedback was provided.

Low-Income Multifamily Retrofits

- Participants suggested the work from the proposed Disadvantaged Community Partnership Area may help to inform this proposed Partnership Area.

Distribution Resource Planning

- Participants suggested reviewing California Energy Commission's DER roadmap

Price Signals

- **Additional Partnership Area:** How do we support pilot projects testing price signals?
- Participants noted this partnership area has several overlaps with other proposed areas such as transportation electrification,

microgrids, and long duration storage.

- There was a question as to whether this would try to seek to quantify a value for every technology and would be too cumbersome.
- Participants noted price signals are highly important both for distribution and transmission participation.
- A core focus of this area could be how do we enable technology for price signaling?
- Public comment suggested it would be helpful to enable project participation in wholesale market prices without having to get wholesale market participation.

Green Electrolytic Hydrogen

- Participants confirmed there are little to no active EPIC projects focused on this topic but recognized the importance of RD&D to uncover the true capabilities of green hydrogen.
- Participants believe this would be better as a future partnership area.
- Public Comment focused on the use of Hydrogen in multiple uses, including long-duration energy storage and microgrids, and its need to support ramping.

Climate Adaptation

- **Additional Partnership Question:** What do communities, customers, and individuals need to understand about climate to make future decisions?
- There were questions about whether the focus of this partnership area should be from the perspective of the customer needs, or the needs of the grid operator.
- Other participants suggested the focus of this partnership area should be around taking the modeling and forecasting work being done to create actionable directives for utility investment.

Other Considered Partnership Areas

Transmission level Renewable Energy and Storage Integration	Elevating new EE R&D tech into EE programs
Off-shore Wind	Carbon Capture and Storage
Lithium Recovery from Geothermal	Cybersecurity

No feedback was provided in the meeting on the other considered partnership areas.

Next Steps

The Project Coordinator is looking for continued feedback in the form of formal comments, due 5/12/20. The Project Coordinator will be available for further discussions with PICG members during this comment period. These comments should be focused on:

- What core questions are missing from the Proposed Partnership Areas?
- What identified areas do you think are the most critical, timely, and where coordination among RD&D can occur?
- What other EPIC projects are able to provide insights to the Partnership Areas?

**Please send formal comments by 5/12/20 to the Project Coordinator at:
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