Southern California Regional Energy Network

Public Agency Distributed Energy Resources Disadvantaged Communities (DER DAC) Project Delivery Program Implementation Plan

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Program Overview

In 2019, to enhance offerings for the Public Sector and to build on the insights gained from the Southern California Regional Energy Network's (SoCalREN) existing public sector strategies, SoCalREN expanded its energy efficiency (EE) project delivery by launching the Public Agency Distributed Energy Resources Disadvantaged Communities (DER DAC) Project Delivery Program (PDP), publicly recognized as Pathway to Zero.

DER DAC includes distributed energy resources (DER) and sustainability strategies during project identification and provides educational information and resources for integrating DERs into energy efficiency projects. The Pathway to Zero Program is offered to underserved and/or hard-to-reach customers.[1] Similar to SoCalREN's Public Agency Energy Efficiency Project Delivery Program, the DER DAC Program will provide energy efficiency project management and education, as well as information and subject matter expertise on DER and sustainability strategies for underserved and/or hard-to-reach public agency customers. The goal of the program is to maximize energy efficiency opportunities while driving the integration of DERs to help public agencies achieve zero net energy (ZNE). SoCalREN has discovered that, for most public agencies in the program, energy efficiency retrofits are merely the starting point to meeting their energy goals. Many aim to achieve deeper energy savings, water efficiency savings, and greater energy resiliency through renewable generation, energy storage, and advanced energy management systems. The DER DAC program will support underserved and/or hard-to-reach public agencies and address comprehensive resilience strategies to achieve their climate, sustainability, and economic goals.

Program Budget and Savings Information

The budget and savings information for the Program are presented in the tables below.

Table 1. Program Budget and Savings Information

1	Program Name	SoCalREN Distributed Energy Resource Disadvantaged Communities (DER DAC) Program (Public Facing Name: Pathway to Zero)			
2	Program ID number	SCR-PUBL-B2			
3	Program Implementer	SoCalREN + Third-Party (ICF and Willdan)			
4	Portfolio Administrator	County of Los Angeles/SoCalREN			
5	Program Implementer Type	Third-Party Solicited (REN)			
6	Portfolio Segment	Equity			
7	Total Program Budget 2024–2027	$4,607,206			
8	Program Budget by Year	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**
		$855,000	$1,045,000	$1,187,500	$1,520,706
9	Program Duration	2019–Current			

[1] As defined by Cal. Pub. Util. Code Section 1601(e),California Public Utility Commission Decision 23-06-055, and SoCalREN criteria for underserved communities which includes facilities within a rural community ZIP code containing tracts classified by Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) codes as being outside of a metropolitan area core and Title I schools.

10	Total System Benefit (TSB)	**N/A (Non-resource)**
11	CO2	**N/A (Non-resource)**
	Lifecycle Gross	N/A
	First-Year Gross	
	First-Year Net	
12	KW	**N/A (Non-resource)**
	First-Year Gross	N/A
	First-Year Net	
13	kWh	**N/A (Non-resource)**
	Lifecycle Gross	N/A
	First-Year Gross	
	First-Year Net	
14	Therms	**N/A (Non-resource)**
	Lifecycle Gross	N/A
	First-Year Gross	
	First-Year Net	
15	Pgm. Cost Effectiveness TRC	**N/A (Non-resource)**
	TRC by Year	N/A
16	Pgm. Cost Effectiveness PAC	**N/A (Non-resource)**
	PAC by Year	N/A
17	Market Sector	Public Sector
18	Program Type	Non-Resource
19	Delivery Type	Downstream
20	Intervention Strategies	Technical Assistance, Audit, Marketing and Outreach
21	M&V Methods	Other—EM&V

Implementation Plan Narrative

1. Program Description

Southern California Regional Energy Network's (SoCalREN) mission is to bring together a variety of services with one common goal: achieving unprecedented levels of energy savings across Southern California. SoCalREN's Public Sector Programs are dedicated to empowering public agencies to lead their communities toward a safe, secure, resilient, affordable, and sustainable clean energy future. SoCalREN offers comprehensive services to public agencies to identify energy efficiency projects that yield electricity and gas savings, overcome common barriers to implementation, and deliver energy efficiency projects. A key initiative for this program is to serve communities who are most in need of energy services to ensure equitable access to resources and expertise.

In addition to energy efficiency, many public agencies have indicated interest in deeper energy savings and greater self-reliance through local renewable energy generation, energy storage, energy management systems, and water efficiency technologies. While customers may have the interest and motivation to pursue these types of DER strategies, they often lack the knowledge and funding needed to take immediate action. In response, SoCalREN developed a Public Agency Distributed Energy Resources Disadvantaged Communities (DER DAC) Project Delivery Program, publicly referred to as Pathway to Zero, to address this market gap and provide tailored support for public agencies. Pathway to Zero helps access technical services for distributed energy resource (DER) projects through funding made available by the IDSM Tier III Advice Letter approval. Services from this program will increase energy efficiency savings, boost involvement in Investor-Owned Utility (IOU) and state programs, reduce carbon emissions, and offset energy consumption through renewables and other technologies. The program will contribute to SoCalREN's vision of supporting communities on their path to zero net energy (ZNE), and customers will optimize energy and cost savings by taking a comprehensive approach to facility energy projects.

To reach this goal, the DER DAC Program seeks to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Fill market gaps in the public sector and provide underserved and/or hard-to-reach public agencies with an integrated, objective, and comprehensive EE and DER solution for their facilities and non-facility infrastructure.
2. Increase the percentage of underserved and/or hard-to-reach public agencies that engage their communities in DER energy actions and strategies, reducing overall community energy consumption.
3. Increase the number of public agencies participating in SoCalREN's EE programs, with an emphasis on underserved and/or hard-to-reach communities.
4. Encourage underserved and/or hard-to-reach public agencies to engage their constituents in energy and DER programs and strategies.
5. Expand the implementation of energy efficiency projects and integrate EE as a standard business practice for underserved and/or hard-to-reach public agencies.
6. Increase underserved and/or hard-to-reach public agency awareness of applicable clean energy projects that can support DER projects and decarbonization goals.

7. Position public agencies and key regional partners to lead community awareness campaigns, engage stakeholders, build public awareness of local, regional, and state efforts, develop energy action plans, and drive participation in Program Administrator (PA) resource programs.

DER-DAC offers energy efficiency services to over 1,000 eligible public agencies (e.g., cities, counties, tribes, school districts, community colleges, universities, water districts, sanitation districts, state and federal agencies, and other special districts) within the Southern California Edison (SCE) and Southern California Gas (SCG) service territories, helping agencies reduce energy and maintenance costs at public sites and facilities. It is delivered through a third-party implementer who designed the program and is responsible for securing and coordinating all program resources and services to meet the program's objectives and targets. The implementer works closely with Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) and third-party program implementers to engage public agencies and channel savings to resource programs, driving cost-effective energy solutions.

At no cost to agencies, the DER DAC program identifies energy saving measures and works closely with public agency staff throughout the project lifecycle—from performance specification to construction completion—to implement energy efficiency strategies with a focus on underserved and hard-to-reach[2,3].

2. Performance Tracking

Program Performance Metrics

SoCalREN's DER DAC Program is proposing the following key performance metrics to be tracked and reported on periodically throughout the program cycle.

Table 2. Program Performance Metrics

#	Metric	Method	Frequency
1	DER Education/Outreach Materials and Activities	Number of DER education/outreach materials and activities completed by the program	Annually
2	Comprehensive EE Project Proposals	Number of comprehensive energy efficiency project proposals developed with DER DAC support	Annually
3	EE and DER Audits/Technical Services	Number of EE and DER audits and technical services completed	Annually
4	Active Projects	Number of active DER DAC projects	Annually
5	Lifetime Bill Savings	Estimated lifetime customer bill savings associated with DER DAC-supported projects	Annually

[3] 2As defined by CPUC Code Section 1601(e), CPUC Decision 23-06-005, and SoCalREN criteria for underserved communities.

SoCalREN's CRM will track this information to demonstrate the impact of the DER DAC Program. The Program will work closely with all SoCalREN Public Sector Programs to collect customer updates quarterly and as needed. This data will be entered into the CRM to generate reports, supporting the overall goals for enrollment and engagement across SoCalREN's Public Sector Programs.

Quantitative Program Targets

Table 3. Quantitative Program Targets

Metric	2026 Target	2027 Target
# DER Education/Outreach Materials Developed	10	TBD
# of comprehensive EE project proposals (e.g., with ISDM support)	10	TBD
# of EE and DER Audits/Technical Services	10	TBD
# of active Projects	Indicator	Indicator
Lifetime Bill Savings	Indicator	Indicator

3. Program Delivery and Customer Services

SoCalREN's DER DAC Program offers public agencies serving underserved and/or hard-to-reach communities customized project management and technical engineering services through a third-party implementer to implement cost-effective and streamlined projects. The DER DAC Program aligns with complements other downstream intervention strategies and programs and actively works to ensure both SoCalREN and other Program Administrator offerings are leveraged when feasible. After enrollment in SoCalREN's Project Delivery Program, each agency is assigned a dedicated Project Manager and engineering team to navigate the process, address project challenges, and proactively identify solutions.

The DER DAC Program uses a phased project delivery process to guide projects from planning and identification to execution and completion. Each phase includes activities to ensure industry best practices, agency alignment, utility coordination, and cost-effectiveness throughout the project. The following is a high-level overview of the project delivery process and services deployed by SoCalREN's DER DAC Program.

Project Identification: Enrolled agencies with projects located in underserved and/or hard-to-reach communities can participate in the DER DAC Program. Once confirmed to meet one or more eligibility criteria, a Project Manager is assigned to the agency to begin identifying energy efficiency and DER opportunities.

To assist with opportunity identification, the Project Manager prepares an agency-wide energy analysis. The analysis provides a portfolio-wide snapshot of energy consumption and cost by sector (i.e. water and wastewater pumping, street lighting, facilities, and outdoor lighting) and estimates the energy and financial impacts of potential energy efficiency and DER retrofits. The analysis also identifies which facilities are located within communities that are eligible for the DER DAC Program and helps pinpoint energy efficiency and DER project opportunities.

Audit: Once a project is identified, the agency signs a project commitment form that confirms its commitment to pursue the project, if viable, before the program invests limited resources in conducting an audit. The DER DAC Program Project Manager then works with the designated engineer to complete a detailed facility audit or site visit and to identify a preliminary list of recommended energy efficiency and DER measures to present to the agency. Leveraging the funding made available through the IDSM Tier III Advice Letter approval, the preliminary list of measures (and all audit phase activities) includes applicable clean energy projects that could leverage external implementation funding. After the agency selects which energy efficiency and DER measures to implement, the DER DAC Program prepares audit calculations and a project proposal with operational and maintenance improvements and/or upgrades to equipment and controls. The proposal details the business case for the recommended energy measures by providing estimated project costs, energy bill savings, available incentives, and financing solutions for the package of measures. The DER DAC Program team prepares and submits an incentive application package to reserve applicable incentives and financing. For DER-only measures, the project proposal will include a comprehensive list of financing and program resources, as well as potential next steps for the agency to pursue. Program services for each DER strategy are described below.

Table 4. DER Strategies

Strategies	Program Services
Demand Response (DR)	Analyze savings, benefits and costs for potential DR measures and available SCE DR programs, support accessing SCE rebates, provide advisory services, and provide technical and implementation support services
Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations	Provide information on general cost estimates for charging stations, supporting with accessing SCE rebates, advisory services, and provide technical and implementation support services
Solar Water Heating	Analyze savings, benefits, costs, and rebates for SoCalGas and SCE solar water heating systems, and provide technical and implementation support services
Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Storage Systems	Analyze savings, benefits, costs, and rebates for solar PV and battery storage, provide information and support for participation in SCE pilots and programs, and provide technical and implementation support services
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Reduction Options	Educate customers on their options to reduce GHG through SCE or local Community Choice Aggregation provider renewable energy tariff programs, and provide technical and implementation support services
Permanent Load Shifting via Energy Storage	Analyze savings, benefits, costs, and rebates for facility peak demand and possible load shifting benefits, and provide technical and implementation support services
Water Efficiency	Analyze savings, benefits, costs, and rebates for water efficiency measures, and provide technical and implementation support services

When possible, the audit phase is completed in coordination with applicable program partners, such as Regional Partners, IOUs, and third-party programs. Coordination among partners ensures that the agency receives a comprehensive array of service offerings while improving cost-effectiveness across programs and avoiding duplication of efforts. Other SoCalREN Public Sector program offerings are integrated during this phase, if applicable.

Design and Procurement: The engineer completes technical performance specifications for the selected energy efficiency measures. If the agency releases a bid for construction services, the DER DAC Program can provide supplementary bid package materials and sample language to support procurement. The DER DAC program can also provide supplementary language (or checklists) that can be included in the bid to ensure the agency qualifies and can leverage identified funding/financing programs. If the agency uses the DER DAC Program's simplified procurement, SoCalREN will schedule a joint scope walk at the site with the pre-qualified contractor, agency representative, and SoCalREN's DER DAC project team. The contractor will provide feedback on the draft technical specifications and, if necessary, revise and finalize them before SoCalREN presents a cost proposal to the agency.

Agency Approval: The DER DAC Project Manager prepares a detailed project proposal to help agency staff obtain approval for the EE and DER projects. The proposal package may include a staff report and draft resolution, scope of work, cost proposal, and utility incentives and/or financing documents. Once the agency's relevant approval authority approves the project, the agency submits the necessary signed documentation and issues a purchase order to the contractor for construction services.

Construction: During construction, the agency serves as the "project owner of record," responsible for all construction contracts and costs, as well as for designating a construction manager. SoCalREN's DER DAC project management team provides construction management support throughout the process, including review of contractor submittals and verifying that work is performed in accordance with the design specifications to ensure energy savings are achieved and incentives are captured.

Completion: Once the project is installed and verified, the DER DAC team will work with the agency and contractor to collect project close-out information for the applicable resource program. This allows the agency to receive incentives and enables the Program Administrator to accrue savings (if applicable). The contractor transfers all appropriate documentation, knowledge, and training to the agency and the facility management personnel for new equipment and/or operational changes. After project completion, the agency will receive a survey to provide feedback on the program.

Capacity Building: Enrolled agencies can tap into the collective expertise, resources, shared procurement strategies, best practices, and lessons learned from the SoCalREN network to reduce costs and address common barriers. The DER DAC Program provides access to resources, including project managers, technical advisors, engineering firms, contractors, financial advisory services, utilities, other industry participants, and peer-to-peer sharing through workshops, newsletters, and other outreach.

4. Program Design and Best Practices

Market Barriers

The current fragmentation in how the energy industry delivers services and incentives creates significant challenges in achieving deep energy retrofits and clean energy self-reliance, leading to barriers in whole-

building energy retrofits and a "project delivery gap" for the customers. Public agencies may have trouble recognizing the benefits of energy projects on a comprehensive scale and often lack in-house expertise and financial resources. These challenges are important to address because public agencies play a significant role in the energy field, both as consumers and as leaders of their communities. SoCalREN's DER DAC Program addresses these barriers by providing services to streamline energy efficiency and DER project implementation and support accessing project funding.

While the existing SoCalREN Project Delivery Program supports energy efficiency, it lacks assistance for complementary technologies. As a result, public agencies must either navigate these projects on their own or pay for services, both of which hinder project completion. The DER DAC Program overcomes these barriers by providing information on DER technologies, supporting agencies in securing financial and technical resources for project implementation. The SoCalREN DER DAC Program's comprehensive support educates and assists the agency as it pursues EE and DER projects and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals. The Program works closely with the agency and industry partners to support EE and DER project development and implementation through combined EE and DER audits.

Best Practices

SoCalREN's DER DAC Program helps public agencies overcome key challenges by identifying and integrating best practices into the project delivery process. The DER DAC Program addresses the unique needs of the public agency customers and mitigates the need for agencies to acquire their own in-house expertise and resources. Through a "one-stop" approach, SoCalREN's DER DAC Program delivers comprehensive, customizable energy retrofit services for the agency. Participating public agencies can access the full suite of offerings or select only the services that meet their needs.

The DER DAC Program strives for continuous improvement in implementation practices and systems. Since its inception, the DER DAC Program has leveraged best practices from the SoCalREN Project Delivery Program's on-the-ground experience to design more effective systems, tools, and techniques for project delivery. To improve cost-effectiveness, SoCalREN develops and evaluates program strategies to control costs and ensure that the most efficient methods are deployed for project implementation. Examples of cost-effective program strategies include the following:

- A Project Budget Tool that ensures appropriate allocation of program resources based on project and agency characteristics
- Development of a streamlined pathway for engineers to enter project budgets for approval to ensure alignment on project scope and deliverables
- Project Commitment forms integrated into the program process to confirm agency buy-in more frequently as a project progresses and to ensure that DER DAC resources are carefully managed and delivered

Furthermore, the DER DAC Program has incorporated the following best practices into the program design:

- *Utility Coordination and Stakeholder Collaboration:* SoCalREN's DER DAC Program promotes early and ongoing collaboration with utility partners, third-party program implementers, and stakeholders based on an agreed-upon protocol. Coordination among partners ensures that a robust array of service offerings is provided to the agency, while also improving cost-

effectiveness across programs and avoiding duplication of efforts. A collaborative approach also enhances the customer's experience and helps avoid confusion between programs.

- *Standardized Tools and Templates:* The DER DAC Program develops and implements standardized tools and templates, including a comprehensive Project Delivery Manual (PDM) and a clean energy project application checklist. The PDM guides Project Managers and engineers to ensure quality control and the application of best practices throughout the project delivery process.
- *Procurement Assistance:* Assistance during the procurement process helps public agencies move projects into construction sooner and ensures the achievement and persistence of expected energy savings. SoCalREN's DER DAC Program provides access to a pool of highly qualified specialty contractors selected through a competitive process, further driving down project costs. The Program will help agencies find procurement support for DER projects or EE and DER combined projects.
- *Financing Support:* To overcome the significant hurdle of project funding, SoCalREN's project team helps identify and secure incentives, grant funding and project financing. The DER DAC Program helps agencies apply for a variety of funding and financing sources, including Energy Lease Financing (ELF), IOU on-bill financing (OBF), the California Energy Commission (CEC) low interest loan program, local self-funded financing opportunities, and the SoCalREN's Revolving Savings Fund (RSF). Enrolled agencies also have access to a financial advisor for additional expertise if needed. Financing support is only available for EE projects or EE and DER combined projects.
- *Marketing and Communications:* SoCalREN uses proven marketing and communications strategies to drive program activities, encourage enrollment, and build agency capacity and expertise.
- *Evaluation and Reporting:* SoCalREN's DER DAC Program completes ongoing evaluation to ensure goals and targets are met, while keeping stakeholders fully informed of program operations and outcomes.
- *Workforce Development:* The DER DAC Program supports workforce development initiatives by measuring and reporting on job creation metrics.
- *Outreach to Eligible Public Agencies:* The DER DAC Program has identified and enrolled agencies serving underserved and/or hard-to-reach communities, providing them with specialized services and deliverables.
- *Customer Satisfaction:* SoCalREN's DER DAC Program monitors customer feedback to identify program enhancements and ensure customer satisfaction. Since the inception of the SoCalREN Public Sector Program, annual customer satisfaction ratings have consistently been 90% or higher.
- *Peer-to-Peer Learning:* The DER DAC Program enhances agency capacity and expertise in energy efficiency by providing customized tools and resources that agencies would otherwise need to develop themselves, saving time, money, and staff resources. The DER DAC Program shares strategies and best practices to help enrolled agencies overcome common barriers by

hosting webinars, leveraging Regional Partnership educational venues, and presenting at conferences and workshops.

SoCalREN's DER DAC Program will implement the following best practices, consistent with the CPUC's DER Action Plan[4] which highlights the importance of performing energy efficiency in conjunction with DERs to avoid unnecessary and costly grid infrastructure upgrades:

- Gather and ensure the accuracy of available resources and programs to support project performance and savings persistence;
- Coordinate with IOU customer representatives to communicate the benefits of non-energy efficiency IOU programs for maximum impact;
- Create and leverage tools and templates to streamline program efficiency;
- Support public agencies to leverage external funding while they pursue clean energy projects to further demonstrate a public agency's commitment to sustainability, local clean air, and providing services to the community; and
- Lead training and development workshops for public agencies to learn about DER topics and build expertise for EE and DER projects.

5. Innovation

SoCalREN aims to maximize energy savings while reducing implementation costs. Innovative program elements include support for DER and sustainability measures, start-to-finish customized energy project management, streamlined data analytics, partnerships, and continuous improvement procedures.

DER and Sustainability Measure Support: Ratepayer funds are used to provide underserved and/or hard-to-reach public agencies with technical assistance for DER and sustainability audits, design, and implementation, as well as educational information and resources on DER and sustainability measures at sites developing energy efficiency projects. These resources help drive comprehensive energy solutions at public agency sites.

Start-to-Finish Project Management Service Delivery: Public agencies face unique barriers across all stages of an energy efficiency project's lifecycle. SoCalREN offers comprehensive, customized project management support to overcome barriers at every phase of the project. SoCalREN integrates and coordinates with all applicable energy efficiency programs and services to avoid duplication and customer confusion. This integrated approach reduces customer touchpoints and enables public agencies to complete deeper and more comprehensive energy efficiency projects.

Partner with other Program Administrators and Third-Parties: SoCalREN will partner with Program Administrators, Regional Partners, and third-party programs operating locally to coordinate program services that provide value to public agencies. These may include Regional Energy Networks (RENs), Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs), Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs), and Municipally-Owned Utilities (MOUs).

Continuous Improvement Procedures: SoCalREN will employ a continuous improvement approach to all aspects of program implementation. This approach will include the evaluation and development of program strategies to control costs and ensure deployment of the most efficient methods for implementing

[4] www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=6442458159

projects. Regular evaluation of feedback and lessons learned from program staff, subconsultants (i.e., Regional Partners), agency participants, and stakeholders will ensure SoCalREN operates as cost-effectively as possible.

6. Pilots

This section is not applicable.

7. Workforce Standards[5]

DER DAC does not directly install energy efficiency equipment. However, the program will provide due diligence to ensure that energy efficiency projects it supports adhere to workforce standards for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and advanced lighting control programs, as applicable. The program will integrate messaging and direction to public agencies throughout the project lifecycle to ensure that installed projects comply with CPUC Workforce Standards as stipulated in D.18-10-008. These standards will be referenced and reiterated during various program services, including the following touchpoints:

- Project proposal will highlight the importance and purpose of the standards.
- Technical specifications will include language that program participants will reference prior to project installation.
- The Procurement kickoff meeting will include an agenda item to highlight the significance of the standards and requirements, including the submission of applicable documentation and confirmation of adherence to the guidelines at project closeout.

8. Disadvantaged Worker Plan[6]

DER DAC coordinates with SoCalREN's Workforce, Education, and Training programs to present information on career opportunities for disadvantaged workers in the energy efficiency industry.

9. Additional Information

This section is not applicable.

[5] D.18-10-008, Ordering Paragraph 1-2 and Attachment B, Section A-B, page B-1.
[6] D.18-10-008, Attachment B, Section D, page B-9.

Supporting Documents

1. Program Manual and Program Rules

A short description of supporting materials is provided below. Greater detail is provided in the Program Manual.

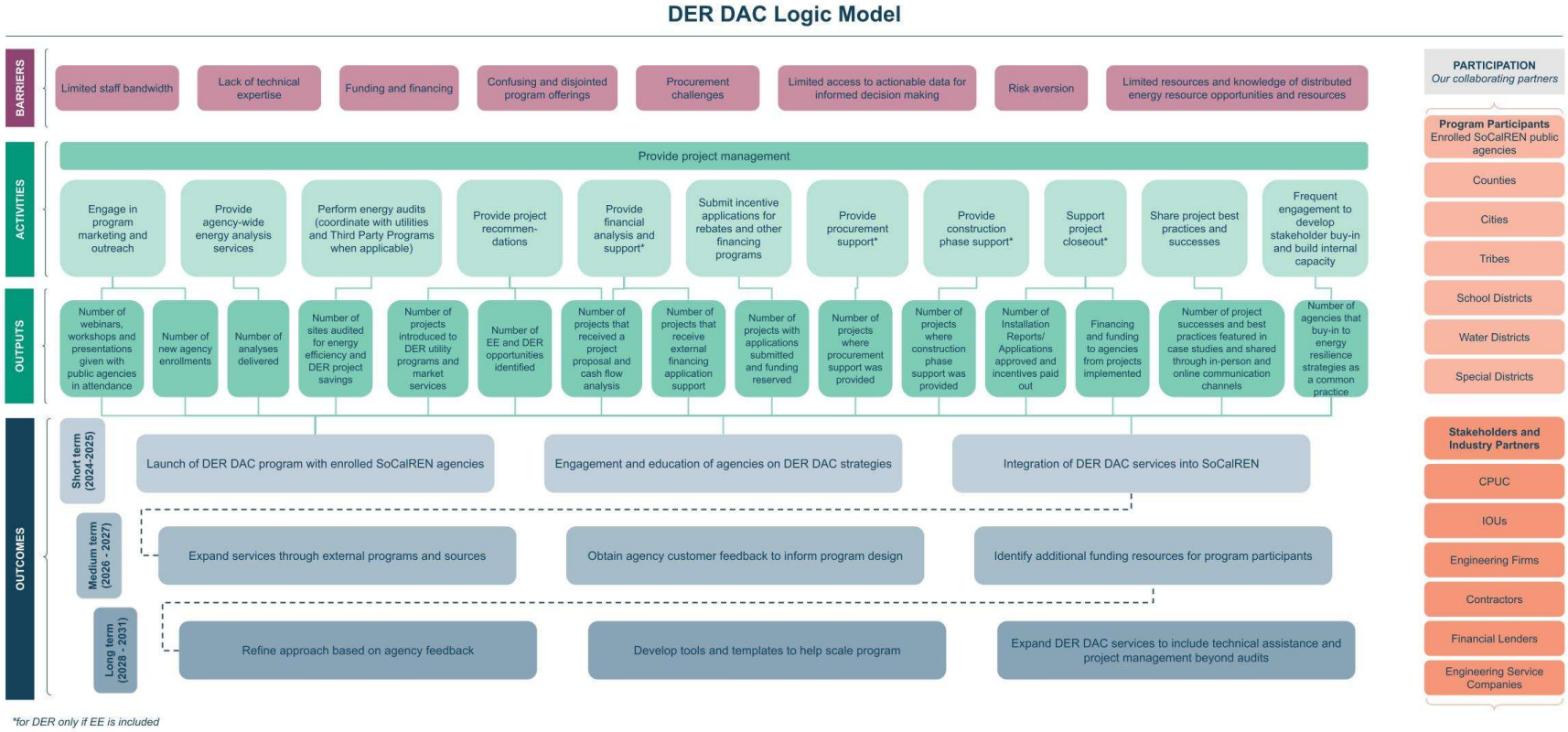
Table 5. Program Manual Required Information Summary

#	Information Required	Short Description
1	**Eligible Measures or Measure Eligibility**	Eligible measures pursued by public agencies through SoCalREN's DER DAC Program will adhere to Program Administrators' rules regarding measure eligibility. All savings will be transparent in supporting calculations as submitted to the Program Administrators.
2	**Customer Eligibility Requirements**	The DER DAC Program will work with public agency projects in underserved and hard-to-reach communities (e.g., cities, counties, school districts, tribes and special districts) serviced by SCE and/or SoCalGas that pay Public Purpose Program charges.
3	**Contractor Eligibility Requirements**	The DER DAC Program will work with the contractor selected by the agency to ensure all incentive eligibility requirements are addressed and met.
4	**Participating Contractors, Manufacturers, Retailers, Distributors**	This is a downstream program offering project development and project implementation services, with post-installation incentives offered through Ag-HTR-DI, an equity program, or Ag-Retrofit, which is a resource program.
5	**Additional Services**	Descriptions of any additional sub-program delivery, measure installation, marketing and outreach, training, and/or other services provided, if not yet described above.
6	**Audits**	Pre and post installation audits will be conducted in a manner that aligns with SoCalREN incentive eligibility requirements by both the Rural-HTR Ag DI and Ag-Retrofit Programs.
7	**Sub-Program Quality Assurance Provisions**	Quality assurance checks will be implemented throughout the process at various milestones to maintain data accuracy and customer satisfaction.

#	Information Required	Short Description
8	**Eligible DER DAC Programs and Resources**	Description of eligible IOU and State programs and resources on various EE and DER topics covered by the DER DAC Program.
9	**Inputs and Assumptions for DER Strategy Assessments**	Detailed description on the inputs and assumptions needed to conduct the high-level assessment of PV and battery storage systems and water efficiency measures.

2. Program Theory[7] and Program Logic Model[8]

Figure 1. DER DAC Program Theory and Logic Model

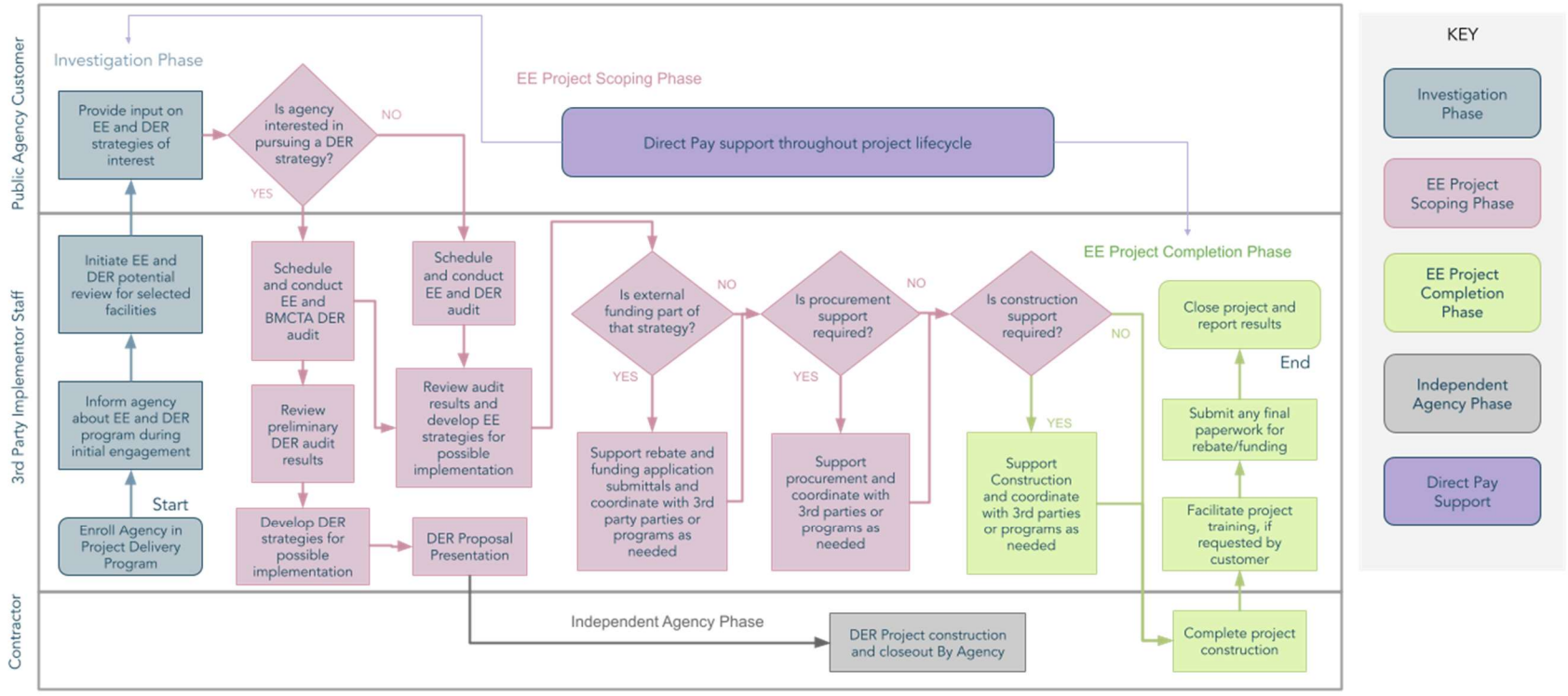


7 The expected causal relationships between program goals and program activities in a way that allows the reader to understand why the proposed program activities are expected to result in the accomplishment of the program goals. A well-developed program theory can (and should) also describe the barriers that will be overcome in order to accomplish the goals and clearly describe how the program activities are expected to overcome those barriers. California Evaluation Framework, June 2004.

8 The graphical representation of the program theory showing the flow between activities, their outputs, and subsequent short-term, intermediate, and long-term outcomes. California Evaluation Framework, June 2004.

3. Process Flow Chart

Figure 2. DER DAC Process Flow Chart



4. Measures and Incentives

All EE measures funnel through existing EE resource programs. The table below describes other tools leveraged to support turnkey project delivery services.

Table 6. Program Tools

#	Tool	Short Description
1	ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager	Online tool used to track energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Allows user to benchmark the performance of one building or a whole portfolio of buildings.
2	GIS	Geographic Information System (GIS) tool allows users to pinpoint exact locations of facilities and tie usage characteristics to those facilities.
3	ezIQC	Provides access to competitively awarded contractors through cooperative purchasing networks, expediting project delivery through a simplified procurement process.

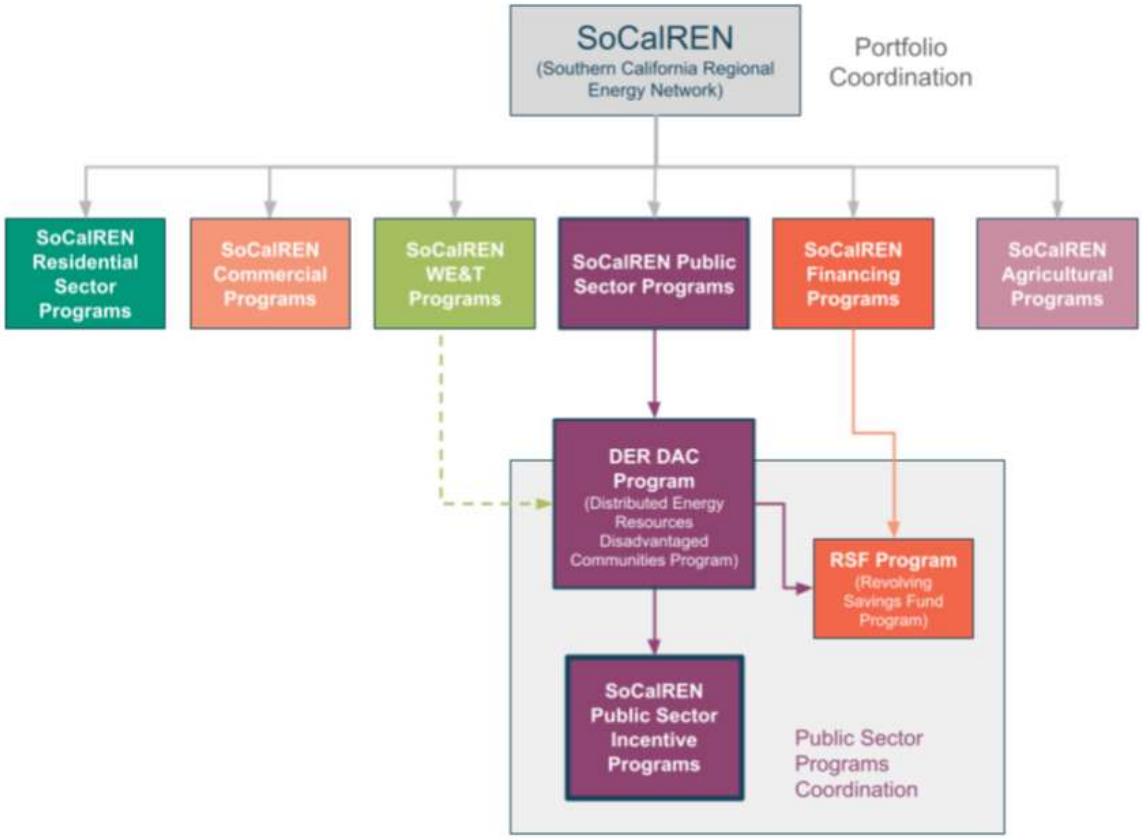
The SoCalREN DER DAC Program will utilize analysis tools to inform public agencies about solar PV, battery storage systems, and water efficiency measures options.

Table 7. Additional Tools

#	Tool	Short Description	URL or Location
1	REopt	REopt is a NREL developed decision support model used to optimize solar PV and battery storage systems for buildings.	reopt.nrel.gov
2	Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Water Project Screening Tool	The FEMP Water Project Screening Tool is an Excel based tool that analyzes Facility water consumption data to identify applicable water efficiency measures.	energy.gov/eere/femp/downloads/water-project-screening-tool
3	Clean Energy Tax Navigator Tool	Provides project decision tree and customized clean energy project support to assist customers in determining their eligibility for Direct Pay.	https://cleanenergytaxnavigator.org/

5. Diagram of Program

Figure 3. Diagram of Program



6. Program Measurement and Verification (M&V)

SoCalREN's DER DAC Program is a non-resource program that channels energy savings through existing resource programs. As such, EM&V for the program focuses on customer energy savings claimed by the IOUs and program performance metrics for services offered in alignment with the CPUC's California Long Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan3. For data related to energy savings projects, the DER DAC Program works closely with the IOUs to collect project measure data on a monthly basis through a data transfer process.

SoCalREN's EM&V team will conduct program-level EM&V activities throughout the program cycle to inform program improvements and future program design. The PDP program will take the following steps to ensure services and data are tracked and quality controlled so that data can be readily accessed for EM&V studies:

1. **Data Management in Secure SoCalREN Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Platform:** agency and project data, along with milestones, are tracked in a centralized cloud-based platform. This centralized data hub allows for the development of detailed reports and dashboards to monitor progress towards program goals and key performance indicators.
2. **Deliverable Quality Control Checks:** all project deliverables and project application/customer agreement materials undergo rigorous internal quality control checks before being delivered to clients or the CPUC.
3. **Quarterly Review of Progress Toward Key Performance Indicators:** using the data stored in the SoCalREN CRM platform, the program will evaluate progress toward key performance indicators (KPIs) and identify areas for improvement at least quarterly.
4. **Project Closeout Surveys and Customer Feedback Solicitation:** customer feedback is collected via a survey upon completion of every project. The survey solicits feedback on the services utilized, the standard of customer service, and recommendations for program improvements. Further, the SoCalREN Public Agency Programs conduct annual customer surveys to collect portfolio-level feedback. This allows for iterative program enhancements to the suite of SoCalREN Public Agency Programs.

Normalized Metered Energy Consumption (NMEC), Multi-DER ISDM Pilot, and SEM Program requirements are not applicable to this program.

Program Manual

1. Program Overview

The SoCalREN Public Agency Distributed Energy Resources Disadvantaged Communities Project Delivery Program, publicly known as Pathway to Zero, provides no-cost project management, technical assistance, and educational resources to underserved and hard-to-reach public agencies. The program helps agencies identify and implement comprehensive energy efficiency and distributed energy resource projects that advance their energy, sustainability, resilience, and economic goals.

Each enrolled agency is assigned a Project Manager and engineering team to provide support from project identification through construction and completion.

2. Eligible Measures

Energy efficiency measures identified through DER DAC are channeled through existing energy efficiency resource programs and must comply with the applicable Program Administrator's measure eligibility requirements. The program also assesses and supports complementary DER and sustainability strategies, including:

- Demand response
- Electric vehicle charging stations
- Solar water heating
- Solar photovoltaic and battery storage systems
- Greenhouse gas emission reduction options
- Permanent load shifting through energy storage
- Water efficiency

Specific services vary by strategy and may include analysis of potential savings, costs, benefits, and rebates, as well as advisory, technical, and implementation support.

3. Customer Eligibility Requirements

DER DAC serves public agencies with eligible projects located in underserved or hard-to-reach communities within SCE and/or SoCalGas service territories. Agencies must enroll in SoCalREN's Project Delivery Program before receiving DER DAC services.

Eligible agency types include cities, counties, tribes, school districts, community colleges, universities, water districts, sanitation districts, state and federal agencies, and other special districts. The program confirms that an agency meets one or more applicable eligibility criteria before assigning a Project Manager and beginning project identification.

4. Contractor Eligibility Requirements

Public agencies may select contractors through their own procurement processes or use the program's simplified procurement pathway and pool of competitively selected, pre-qualified specialty contractors. The program works with the agency and selected contractor to ensure that applicable resource-program eligibility, incentive, and workforce requirements are addressed.

For projects using simplified procurement, the contractor participates in a joint site walk, reviews the draft technical specifications, and provides feedback before the specifications and cost proposal are finalized.

5. Participating Contractors, Manufacturers, Retailers, Distributors, and Partners

DER DAC coordinates with agency-selected or pre-qualified contractors, engineering firms, financial advisors, utilities, Regional Partners, Program Administrators, and third-party programs to support comprehensive project delivery. Coordination during the audit and project development phases helps connect agencies with available services, incentives, financing, and grant support while avoiding duplication among programs.

Potential partners include Regional Energy Networks, Community Choice Aggregators, Investor-Owned Utilities, Municipally-Owned Utilities, and other locally operating programs. The program does not identify specific participating manufacturers, retailers, or distributors.

6. Additional Services

Participating agencies receive customized services based on their project needs, including:

- Agency-wide energy analysis and project identification
- Project management and technical engineering support
- Financial analysis, incentive identification, and financing support
- Technical specifications and procurement assistance
- Agency approval materials, including staff reports and draft resolutions
- Construction management support and project closeout assistance
- Peer learning through workshops, newsletters, and other outreach

Agencies may access the full suite of services or select the services that best address their project needs.

7. Audits

Before the program conducts an audit, the participating agency signs a project commitment form confirming its intention to pursue the project if it is determined to be viable. The assigned Project Manager and engineer then conduct a detailed facility audit or site visit to identify potential energy efficiency, DER, and sustainability measures.

Based on the agency's selected measures, the program prepares audit calculations and a project proposal describing recommended operational and maintenance improvements or upgrades to equipment and controls. The proposal may include estimated project costs, energy bill savings, available incentives, financing options, and potential next steps. Following installation, the DER DAC team works with the agency, contractor, and applicable resource program to verify project completion and collect closeout documentation.

8. Program Quality Assurance Provisions

Quality assurance activities are incorporated throughout project identification, design, procurement, construction, and closeout. These activities include:

- Use of standardized project delivery tools, templates, and checklists
- Internal quality control review of project deliverables and application materials
- Tracking of agency data, project information, and milestones in SoCalREN's secure customer relationship management platform
- Review of contractor submittals and verification that construction complies with design specifications
- Quarterly review of program performance and key performance indicators
- Project closeout surveys and annual customer feedback

The program also coordinates with utilities and applicable resource programs to collect project measure and savings data and support program-level evaluation, measurement, and verification.

9. Eligible DER DAC Programs and Resources

DER DAC helps participating agencies identify and access relevant programs and resources for energy efficiency and DER projects. Depending on project eligibility and scope, these may include:

- IOU upstream, midstream, downstream, direct-install, and third-party programs
- SCE demand response, electric vehicle charging, solar, and battery storage programs
- SoCalGas and SCE solar water heating programs
- Community Choice Aggregator renewable energy tariff programs
- Energy Lease Financing and IOU on-bill financing
- California Energy Commission low-interest loan programs
- SoCalREN's Revolving Savings Fund
- Grants and locally funded financing opportunities

Financing support is available for energy efficiency projects and combined energy efficiency and DER projects. DER-only project proposals receive information regarding relevant financing and program resources and potential next steps for the agency.

10. Inputs and Assumptions for DER Strategy Assessments

The program uses agency and site information to conduct high-level assessments of DER and sustainability opportunities. An agency-wide energy analysis considers energy consumption and costs across facilities and infrastructure, including water and wastewater pumping, street lighting, buildings, and outdoor lighting. It also estimates the potential energy and financial effects of energy efficiency and DER retrofits.

For solar photovoltaic and battery storage systems, the program may use REopt to evaluate potential system configurations and optimization opportunities. Water-efficiency assessments may use facility water-consumption data and the Federal Energy Management Program Water Project Screening Tool to identify applicable measures. Assessments may consider:

- Existing energy or water consumption
- Facility and equipment characteristics
- Potential project costs and utility bill savings
- Available incentives, rebates, and financing
- Potential renewable generation, storage, or load-shifting benefits

- The resulting assessment supports development of recommended measures, project proposals, and potential implementation pathways