

# REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

## SOMAH Advisory Council

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## 1. Background

The Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing Program Administrator (SOMAH PA) is seeking applications from interested professionals to serve in the second cohort of SOMAH's Advisory Council.

### About SOMAH

The [Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing \(SOMAH\)](http://Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH)) program provides financial incentives for installing photovoltaic (PV) energy systems on qualified multifamily affordable housing. The program will deliver clean power and credits on energy bills to hundreds of thousands of California's affordable housing residents. SOMAH'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 through local hiring initiatives and job training opportunities on each SOMAH installation project. The SOMAH program is overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission

### Advisory Council Purpose

The purpose of the SOMAH Advisory Council (SOMAH AC) is to ensure equity focused community advocates' and key stakeholders' voices and interests remain at the center of the SOMAH program for its duration, and that SOMAH maximizes benefits to low-

income tenants and impacted, disadvantaged communities by advising the SOMAH Program Administrator on program development and implementation.

### **Advisory Council Role**

The primary roles of the SOMAH Advisory Council are to:

- Liaise with the SOMAH PA through regular quarterly meetings and on an ad hoc basis
- Monitor program performance in relation to the program's goals
- Provide recommendations to the SOMAH PA on program implementation, development, and evaluation.

Below are program areas the SOMAH AC may address:

- SOMAH's job training requirements, local hiring initiatives, and job placement outcomes
- Tenant engagement and education about SOMAH and related renewable energy programs
- Contractor participation and diversity, barriers to entry
- Property owner diversity and barriers to entry
- Marketing, education, and outreach goals and strategies
- Consumer protection, ensuring bill savings for tenants and applicant issues
- Program incentives
- Overall community impact and engagement, including disadvantaged community (DACs)<sup>1</sup> participation and representation
- Equity is considered and upheld across all program areas

See the SOMAH [Advisory Council webpage](#) and [Advisory Council Bylaws](#) for additional information

## **2. Members.**

The SOMAH Advisory Council is composed of 11 members representing environmental justice; affordable housing; tenants; labor and workforce development; Tribal communities; government and industries related to SOMAH implementation, such as solar photovoltaics or energy efficiency.

## **3. Term.**

Members will serve a two-year term, with an option to apply to a second term. No member will serve more than two (2) full terms (four (4) years). Any current Advisory

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<sup>1</sup> "Disadvantaged Communities" are defined by CalEnviroScreen 3.0 as the most burdened census tracts in California. Burden scoring is determined by 20 pollution/health and socio-economic factors.

Council member eligible for and seeking a second term will not need to reapply, but will still participate in a competitive interview process. The majority of the current SOMAH AC members have notified the SOMAH PA that they will be seeking a second term.

## 4. Qualifications

- Represent sectors and geographic areas as outlined in the selection criteria (see Section 8);
- Be informed of the SOMAH Program and its relation to the communities represented;
- Extensive expertise in a SOMAH topical area, e.g. solar energy, affordable housing, environmental justice, economic justice, tenants' rights, solar and/or energy efficiency, Tribal communities, workforce development and community development;
- Commitment to participate fully on the SOMAH AC and attend quarterly meetings;
- Experience with solar and energy efficiency incentive programs, at a national, statewide, regional, and/or local level (preferred);
- Experience serving in a leadership position, such as a Board of Directors or a coalition steering committee (preferred).

## 5. Expectations & Benefits

- Be a leader in the effort to ensure that the SOMAH program brings solar energy and its benefits to low income multifamily properties including properties in disadvantaged communities (DACs)<sup>2</sup>;
- Commitment to elevate and promote a program seeking improvements in environmental justice and financial benefits to low income tenants;
- Engage with other industry and community leaders to generally raise awareness about SOMAH;
- Be able to participate in remote and in-person (when deemed safe) half- to full-day quarterly meetings throughout California;
- Be compensated for quarterly meetings and travel expenses for in-person meetings.

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<sup>2</sup> "Disadvantaged Communities" are defined by CalEnviroScreen 3.0 as the most burdened census tracts in California. Burden scoring is determined by 20 pollution/health and socio-economic factors.

## 6. Selection process, timeline & criteria

Members are selected through a competitive application and interview process<sup>3</sup>, led by an independent third-party selection committee (not composed of members of the SOMAH PA). The selection committee will be composed of individuals/organizations who are not applying to be on the council. The selection process will include the following steps and key dates:

- The application period will begin on **April 21, 2021** and will remain open until **June 2, 2021**
- All applications, including all required documents are due by **June 2, 2021** at 11:59 pm PT.
- Step 1: Selection Committee reviews applications, selects candidates to interview, and begins reaching out to references (June, 2021)
- Step 2: Selection Committee interviews applicants (June, 2021)
- Step 3: Selection Committee deliberates and selects members (June 2021)
- Step 4: SOMAH PA notifies members of their selection (July, 2021)
- The first Advisory Council meeting of the new cohort is expected to be held in September 2021.

### Selection Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated on a predetermined set of criteria, which will include three tiers:

Tier 1: Diverse Sectoral representation:

- The 11 council members will be represented by various sectors that have expertise and experience with community engagement, affordable multifamily housing, and renewable energy. The following sectors will have the number of allotted seats:

Industry perspectives	Community perspectives
Total of 4 seats (2 each)	Total of 7 seats (flexible composition)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable housing               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ No more than one for-profit entity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Contractors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EJ</li> <li>• Economic justice, tenants rights</li> <li>• Tribal</li> <li>• Gov't/public sector</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Any Advisory Council member eligible for and seeking a second term will not need to reapply, but will still participate in a competitive interview process

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One entity with fewer than 50 staff</li> <li>○ One larger entity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Labor/WFD</li> </ul>
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Tier 2: Committee Representation must ensure the following geographies:

- The 11 members will be represented from the following regions: Bay Area, Central Valley, Central Coast, Los Angeles, Inland Empire, San Diego, and Far Northern California
- There shall be **no less than six** representatives of Disadvantaged Communities as defined by the CalEnviroScreen.

Tier 3: Diversity and Inclusion Representation:

- The Selection Committee should prioritize the inclusion of participants from disadvantaged backgrounds and other historically marginalized populations as defined by CalEnviroScreen.
- The Selection Committee should follow California state guidelines on hiring practices, inclusive of women, people of color, LGBTQ, and other under-represented populations

### Scoring

- Participants will be scored by a 13 point matrix, and the top 15-16 candidates will be interviewed by the selection committee for final selection.
- The 14 point matrix includes the following areas of assessment:

Possible Points	Category	Rubric
3	<i>Disadvantaged community</i>	0: No connection to DAC 1: Have experience working in a DAC, but does not live or work for an organization that represents DAC 2: Works at an organization that represents DAC 3: Works at an organization that represents DAC and has had lived experiences within a DAC
3	<i>Geography</i>	1: Statewide representative 2: Representative from coastal or urban low-income community 3: Representative from sub-rural, rural, or tribal community
2	<i>Letter of Interest</i>	0: Does not express any knowledge of the sectors that are targeted by SOMAH implementation 1: Expresses some knowledge of sectors targeted by

		SOMAH implementation, but letters of support do not sufficiently reflect person's work 2: Expresses knowledge of sectors and deep enthusiasm about SOMAH, backed by letters or support or references
2	<i>Experience on Boards, Advisory Committees, or other community program oversight roles such</i>	0: Does not express any knowledge of the sectors that are targeted by SOMAH implementation 1: Expresses some knowledge of sectors targeted by SOMAH implementation, but letters of support do not sufficiently reflect person's work 2: Expresses knowledge of sectors and deep enthusiasm about SOMAH, backed by letters or support or references
2	<i>Subject-Matter Expertise</i>	0: No experience on any of the issues laid out in SOMAH AC criteria 1: Technical expertise on development, housing, and solar implementation, but no community-level expertise 2: Community-level expertise on any of the sectors laid out
2	<i>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</i>	0: Does not represent an organization or business that is a women, minority-owned, or LGBTQ-led agency 1: Represents an organization or business that is a women, minority-owned, or LGBTQ-led agency 2: Represents an organization or business that is a women, minority-owned, or LGBTQ-led agency <u>and</u> the organization, business, or agency is directly committed to serving low-income or environmental justice communities.

## 7. How to apply

Please submit your application through our online SurveyMonkey Application Portal:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SOMAHAC>

As part of your application, you will need to submit the following application materials:

- Resume or curriculum vitae demonstrating relevant experience and subject matter expertise
- Letter of interest or cover letter (maximum 2 pages) that demonstrates area of knowledge and expertise.
- Any combination of (2) two of the following:
  - References to be contacted by the SOMAH PA on behalf of the selection committee
  - Letter of support



The application period will begin on **April 21, 2021** and will remain open until **June 2, 2021**. The deadline for all applications is 11:59pm PT on June 2, 2021