

## SOMAH Public Forum Notes

**Date:** Thursday, February 18, 2021

**Time:** 1-2:00pm

### **Purpose:**

*The purpose of the SOMAH Public Forum is to share program progress and updates while creating an opportunity for program stakeholders and participants to ask questions, share concerns and provide feedback. This forum will provide an update on key program stats and an overview of the recently approved progress payment application pathway.*

*The forum is suited for multifamily affordable housing property owners, solar contractors, community-based organizations (affordable housing, environmental justice, tenants' rights, etc.), investor-owned utilities, community choice aggregators and job training organizations interested in getting program updates and providing feedback to the SOMAH Program Administrator.*

### **Welcome & Introductions**

Kajsa Hendrickson, SOMAH Marketing, Education and Outreach Manager, gave an overview of the purpose of the forum, agenda, and introduced members of the SOMAH Program Administrator Team (SOMAH PA). Kajsa began by stating that SOMAH stands in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and with all who are fighting for a just and equitable future. Further acknowledgements continued for standing in solidarity with SOMAH's CBO partners like Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), condemning the violence against California's Asian communities and the Chevron Oil Spill in Richmond, CA on February 9. The introduction concluded with honoring Black History and Black Futures Month, encouraging everyone to reflect on the history and contribution of the Black community beyond the month of February.

### **Session 1: Program Update**

Jae Berg, SOMAH Program Manager, gave a rundown of program updates and general announcements. Application statistics are listed in the table below:

<b>Utility Territory</b>	<b># of Active Applications</b>	<b># of Waitlist Applications</b>
Pacific Gas & Electric	202	0
Southern California Edison	123	0
San Diego Gas & Electric	58	0

Liberty	1	0
PacifiCorps	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>0</b>

The PA is proud to report 30% active applications are located in DACs, which continues to be a targeted focus of the SOMAH Program's Marketing, Education and Outreach efforts. Additionally, tenants are slated to receive 88% of the electricity generated from SOMAH installations. Both of these metrics have held steady through 2020 and into 2021.

Funding is currently available in all five program territories with no waitlists. Additional funding for SCE, PG&E and SDG&E has been approved through the Energy Resource Recovery Account or ERRA proceedings for the 2021 collections year, and will be announced via the [calsomah.org](mailto:calsomah.org) email listserv shortly.

Regulatory updates were also highlighted in this session, and included the finalization of the second SOMAH Handbook in June 2020 (with a MASH/SOMAH "stacking" resolution, the filing of an Advice Letter for modification of pipeline management), and the filing of an Advice Letter regarding progress payments in mid-September.

SOMAH PA also provided up dates on the following areas:

- Regulatory Updates
  - Program Handbook (AL#114): Substitute sheets filed on February 5 to integrate AL-114 Handbook with Progress Payments Handbook
  - Progress Payment Pathway (AL#118): Overview in Session 2
- Job Training Resources and Expectations
  - Jobsite safety: New safety resources and training coming in 2021
  - COVID-19 safety
  - Job trainee and contractor events
    - Q1 Interview Workshop on March 10
    - Job Training Webinar for Contractors coming in May
- New CBO Partnership with Self-Help Enterprises (SHE)
- Tenant Education Service Pilot Project: apply [here](#)

### Session 1 Q&A:

**Q:** Edward McLaughlin: On the website where it shows eligible properties, what does the kilowatts available entail? Some properties show a large kilowatt available and I am not sure if that is tied to usage of the number of units or available roof space.

**A:** The max kW on the eligible SOMAH properties map references Google Project Sunroof data from available rooftop areas and does not take into account other installation spaces at the property. The SOMAH PA is currently ongoing revision to the

eligible SOMAH properties map tool with intention to remove this data as it is often confusing and not entirely representative of each property's solar potential.

**Q:** Scott Sarem (Sunrun): How much rebate money will be released for SDG&E, SCE and PG&E as a result of the 2021 ERRRA decisions?

**A:** The PA is currently finalizing the final figures and will be sending out a program announcement with the exact funding amounts and updating the incentive budget table on DGstats shortly. PG&E will release funds on a quarterly basis based on the approved ERRRA amounts SCE and SDG&E releasing the full approved annual amount at the beginning of the year.

**Q:** Sarah Harmony (Sunworks): The link listed on the webinar for the pilot program is not working for me.

**A:** You can apply for the tenant education services pilot [here](#) or go to the [Community-based organizations page](#) on CalSOMAH.org where you can the Request Tenant Education Services at the bottom of the page. Ideally, requests should be made at least 30 days before project installation and the application should have received Proof of Project Milestone Approval.

**Q:** Kimberly Beltran (Gilleran Energy Management, Inc): Is there a resource for raters to understand the verification requirements must be met to qualify for the incentive?

**A:** There is a helpful [checklist](#) on the CalSOMAH website which outlines the whole-building audit requirements for energy efficiency as well as guiding information for Energy Auditors.

**Q:** Scott Sarem (Sunrun), Does PGE's bankruptcy put any PGE SOMAH funds at risk?

**A:** At this time the SOMAH PA does not believe PG&E bankruptcy will have any impact on current SOMAH funds. This is something the PA is watching closely and will notify the public if that changes in the future.

## **Session 2: New Payment Pathway: Progress Payments**

Jae Berg, SOMAH Program Manager, shared information on the background and development of the Progress Payments Pathway. She explained that while a primary goal of Progress Payments is to alleviate cash flow issues reported by participating contractors, Progress Payments will provide additional benefits to the program like dismantling barriers to increase contractor diversity.

She further outlined the development process of PA consultation with program participants and stakeholders to develop the two-payment pathway for Progress Payments with Advice Letter-118 submission in September 2020. Energy Division approval later granted in December 2020. High level program requirements were covered, including a summary of future program reporting and upcoming resources. A

Progress Payments Pathway webinar will be held at 10 a.m. on February 25 with registration available [here](#).

### **Session 2 Q&A:**

**Q:** Scott Sarem (Sunrun): Have the investor-owned utilities been cooperative in updating the incentive contracts with the SOMAH PA?

**A:** Yes, the IOUs have been cooperative with the contracting updates and fully understand the sensitivities around the timing for offering Progress Payments. Energy Division has also made this timeline clear to the IOUs. A significant amount of progress has already been made and the PA is hopeful to wrap up the contracting step and launch Progress Payments very soon.

**Q:** Christine (AmGreen Solutions): Where is the "Affidavit Ensuring Tenant Education" document found / does SOMAH provide this?

**A:** The affidavit can be found on [CalSOMAH.org/apply](https://CalSOMAH.org/apply) under the Progress Payment Pathway or Incentive Claim Milestone and can be referenced in the [Program Handbook](#). Anyone participating in the program should also keep additional forms of documentation proving Tenant Education in order to ensure the requirements have been met.

### **Looking Ahead & Next Steps**

Kajsa Hendrickson provided an overview of next steps, noting the Public Forum slide deck would be emailed to registered participants on CalSOMAH.org. Public Forum notes would follow in a week's time.

The following dates were shared for future events:

- Progress Payment Pathway: February 25 at 10 a.m.
- Tenant Education Webinar: March 2 at 12 p.m.
- Applicant and Contractor Eligibility Training: March 16 at 10 a.m.
- Applicant and Contractor Eligibility Training: May 12 at 10 a.m. PST
- Q2 Public Forum: June 2, timing TBA

For additional questions and feedback, please contact the SOMAH PA:

**Email:** [contact@CalSOMAH.org](mailto:contact@CalSOMAH.org)

**Web form:** [CalSOMAH.org/contact-us](https://CalSOMAH.org/contact-us)

**General hotline:** 858-244-1177 ext. 5

**Tenant hotline:** 800-843-9728