



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 third cohort of SOMAH's Advisory Council.

About SOMAH

The [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 the voices and interests of equity-focused community advocates and key stakeholders remain at the center of the SOMAH Program for its duration. The SOMAH AC also aims to ensure SOMAH maximizes benefits to low-income tenants and impacted disadvantaged communities (DACs) by advising the SOMAH PA 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 diversity and barriers to participation in the program

- 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 DAC¹ participation and representation
- Equity consideration and fulfillment 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. Any current Advisory Council member eligible for and seeking a second term will not need to reapply, but will be required to fill out a questionnaire expressing their goals and interest in serving another term.

4. Qualifications

- Representative of sectors and geographic areas as outlined in the selection criteria (see Section 6)
- 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

- Leadership in the effort to ensure that the SOMAH Program brings solar energy and its benefits to low-income multifamily properties including properties in DACs
- Commitment to elevate and promote a program seeking improvements in environmental justice and financial benefits to low income tenants
- Engagement with other industry and community leaders to raise general awareness of SOMAH
- Ability to participate in remote and in-person (when deemed safe) half- to full- day quarterly meetings throughout California
- Compensation for quarterly meetings and travel expenses for in-person meetings

1. "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 process² 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 **September 18, 2023** and will remain open until **December 21, 2023**.
- All applications, including all required documents are due by **December 21, 2023** at 11:59 pm PT.

Application Timeline

- Step 1: Selection Committee reviews applications, selects candidates to interview and begins reaching out to references (January 2024)
- Step 2: Selection Committee interviews applicants (January - February 2024)
- Step 3: Selection Committee deliberates and selects members (March 2024)
- Step 4: SOMAH PA notifies members of their selection (March 2024)
- Step 5: Orientation session (March/April 2024)

The first Advisory Council meeting of the new cohort is expected to be held in April or May 2024.

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.

Industry perspectives	Community perspectives
Total of 4 seats (2 each) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Affordable housing<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No more than one for-profit entity• Contractors<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One entity with fewer than 50 staff• One larger entity	Total of 7 seats (flexible composition) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EJ• Economic justice, tenants rights• Tribal• Gov't/public sector• Labor/WFD

² 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

Tier 2: Geographical Representation

- The Selection Committee will try to ensure the following geographies are represented: 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 14-point matrix, and the top 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	Disadvantaged community	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	Geography	1: Statewide representative 2: Representative from coastal or urban low-income community 3: Representative from sub-rural, rural or tribal community
2	Letter of Interest	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

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

7. How to apply

Please submit your application through our online SurveyMonkey Application Portal: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SOMAHAC2024>

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

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