

Q3 2025 SOMAH Public Forum Notes

Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Time: 1:00 - 2:50pm

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 covered the latest program stats and developments, including updates to the program handbook, storage integration and the tenant education requirement. This forum was held remotely.

The forum is ideally suited for multifamily affordable housing property owners, solar contractors, community-based organizations or CBOs (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

Sabryna Barrios, SOMAH Program Coordinator, kicked off the meeting by welcoming attendees and explaining the purpose of the forum. Sabryna stated the SOMAH Program Administrator (PA) team's commitment to equity, energy and environmental justice. Sabryna ended by reviewing the forum agenda, SOMAH's current list of staff and meeting guidelines.

Session 1: SOMAH Program Update

Valery Franco, SOMAH Program Coordinator, presented the latest program statistics and developments, including a ribbon-cutting for a SOMAH project in Mission Viejo and a case study of increased SOMAH incentive levels with the removal of the Expected Performance Buy Back (EPBB) calculator. Valery provided an overview of SOMAH's resources, including the newest affordability requirement prescreen service, the suite of technical assistance (TA) and support services such as job training support and tenant education, and the eligible properties map.

Session 1 Q&A:

Q, John Whitfield: How much funding is available for the rest of the year?

A: We have funding available in all five of the participating investor-owned utilities for the rest of this year and onwards. There is a funding table on the [CalDGStats website](#) where you can view remaining funds for each territory.

Q, Carlos Limon-Rivera: The new handbook says there is an incentive for storage. Is that in addition to the solar incentive?

A: Yes, there is an additional incentive available for storage integrated with the SOMAH system. This storage incentive can be received on top of the solar incentive.

Q, Carlos Limon-Rivera: Is the EPBB a one-time payment separate from the incentive payment offered?

A: Clarification that the EPBB is part of the incentive calculation and not a payment installment. The EPBB was modified for the northern most projects in the SOMAH territory and that modification will increase the possible incentive amount for those properties.

Q, Kit Huynh: Can we get a breakdown of the 333 progress payments and incentive claims and how many were for PGE, SCE and SDGE?

A: Final incentive payments: 211 for PGE, 83 for SCE and 39 for SDGE. Approved progress payments: 70 for PGE, 42 for SCE and 12 for SDGE.

Q, Kit Huynh: Is the total of 812 applications since the SOMAH program went live?

A: Yes, that is correct.

Session 2: Program Handbook & Storage Updates

SOMAH Program Managers Luke Ballweber and Staci Rivas provided an overview of Handbook version 9, which was publicly released on July 30, 2025. Luke shared a brief history of D.24-11-006 and what is new in the handbook—both storage and non-storage related. Staci shared requirements for the integrated energy storage incentive, as well as how to claim the incentives. Luke closed out by covering non-handbook-related program modifications contained in D.24-11-006.

Session 2 Q&A:

Q, Patrick Beane: When can the integrated storage incentive be claimed? The presentation slide stated it can be prior to the Incentive Claim Milestone, but the

handbook says the storage can be claimed prior to the incentive claim being submitted.

A: The intent of both references is to convey that storage needs to be claimed before the IC milestone. It is necessary for the SOMAH PA to decouple the storage part of the project from the solar part of the project when the solar is already claiming its final payment and storage is just being added to ensure timing of the solar project's close out does not get negatively impacted by the late addition of the new project scope.

Q, Jim Stevens: Are SOMAH projects subject to NEM 2.0 or NEM 3.0 for Disadvantaged Community (DAC) properties?

A: The SOMAH tariff is exempt from NEM Proceedings. Any project eligible to utilize the SOMAH tariff is subject to NEM 2.0.

Q, Carlos Limon-Rivera: At \$2.45 for solar and \$1.10 for storage, the total is \$3.55/kWh for incentives. Can we request funding for roof repairs on top of the \$2.45 per kWh and \$1.10 per kWh for solar and storage? Or are roof repair costs tied into that pricing?

A: SOMAH cannot incentivize roof repairs. SOMAH only provides incentives for PV and storage. Roof repairs costs are now considered an expanded eligible project cost. Expanding the eligible project costs reduces the chances of capping the incentive in instances where the incentive exceeded the total eligible project costs.

Session 3: Tenant Education Update

Nic Muñoz-Proulx, SOMAH Tenant Engagement Manager, provided an overview of the Tenant Education (TE) workshops hosted so far this year and changes to the program's Tenant Education requirement. As of July 1, 2025, Tenant Education is no longer a requirement in the SOMAH program. All applications submitted before July 1, 2025, are still subject to the TE requirement. Applications submitted on or after 7/1/25 are no longer required to meet the requirement. However, tenant education materials and support will continue to be available and encouraged. TE materials have been simplified and revamped based on feedback collected from tenants, CBO partners and a focus group, and will be released in Q4 of this year.

Looking Ahead & Next Steps

Sabryna Barrios wrapped up the forum by asking attendees to share their SOMAH

experience and links to SOMAH's social media accounts to stay updated on the program. Upcoming SOMAH events include:

- **September 11, 2025:** Job Training Requirements Overview Webinar
- **October 9, 2025:** Applicant & Contractor Eligibility Training

Register at calsomah.org/events.

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

Email: contact@CalSOMAH.org

Web form: CalSOMAH.org/contact-us

General hotline: 858-244-1177 ext. 5

Tenant hotline: 800-843-9728