



#### BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Investigate and Design Clean Energy Financing Options for Electricity and Natural Gas Customers.

**Rulemaking 20-08-022** 

## ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING SEEKING PARTY FEEDBACK ON TRACK 1 ISSUES RELATED TO CALIFORNIA HUB FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY FINANCING PROGRAMS

#### 1. BACKGROUND

The Commission has historically authorized regulated, investor-owned utilities (IOU) to offer financial support to customers adopting energy efficiency and clean energy technologies in compliance with state and federal legislation. In August 2020, the Commission launched the instant proceeding, Rulemaking (R.) 20-08-022, to evaluate the potential efficiencies of providing financing strategies that allow for larger or broader investments in multiple types of clean energy improvements through a single program. Specifically, this rulemaking aims to ensure that the financing programs backed by ratepayer funding are targeted to attract investment by third-party partners to increase their efficacy and scope. 3

373361068 - 1 -

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A background of the Commission's activities related to clean energy financing was provided as Section 2 of the Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) 20-08-022, as issued by the Commission on September 4, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> R.20-08-022 at 1-2. The Rulemaking was launched during the August 27, 2020 Commission meeting, and the OIR was formally issued on September 4, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> R.20-08-022 at 2.

The preliminary scope provided in the OIR was purposefully very open-ended and broad, with the intent of building a procedural record that defines priorities and establishes new targets that will provide maximum benefits to IOU customers in California.

Comments on the OIR were filed in September 2020, and a workshop was held on January 28-29, 2021, to further define the procedural scope.<sup>4</sup> During the workshop, parties learned from and provided comment on panels that gave information on financing programs offered by other California state agencies as well as programs available in other states across the country. The workshop aimed to identify some best practices from existing financing programs and priorities to narrow the procedural scope.

Following the workshop, a prehearing conference (PHC) was held on February 5, 2021, to address the issues of law and fact, determine the need for hearing, set the schedule for resolving the matter, and address other matters, as necessary.

The Scoping Memo issued on March 5, 2021, included a list of initial issues that must be resolved no later than July 2021 to enable the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA) to continue operating its already-approved California Hub for Energy Efficiency Financing (CHEEF) programs.<sup>5</sup> Specifically, CAEATFA requires an extension of its operational budget to continue implementing the programs and seeks

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The presentations from the workshop are available at <a href="https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=6442467601">https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=6442467601</a>. The first day's recording can be accessed at <a href="http://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/workshop/20210128/">https://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/workshop/20210128/</a>; the second day's recording is at <a href="http://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/workshop/20210129/">https://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/workshop/20210128/</a>; the second day's recording is at <a href="http://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/workshop/20210129/">https://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/workshop/20210128/</a>; the second day's recording is at <a href="http://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/workshop/20210129/">https://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/workshop/20210128/</a>; the second day's recording is at <a href="http://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/workshop/20210129/">https://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/workshop/20210129/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> CAEATFA has provided a full status update on its CHEEF programs, which is included as Attachment A to this ruling.

authority to leverage its existing program platforms to use non-IOU funding resources to expand access to the CHEEF programs and operate them more efficiently.

To facilitate the Commission's consideration of these issues, Attachment A contains a program update produced by CAEATFA of the CHEEF programs to date. Attachment B is a proposed cost-sharing methodology proposed by CAEATFA to leverage additional funding sources, other than the existing ratepayer funding, if such sources are identified.

#### 2. Questions to Parties

This ruling requests parties' feedback on the following questions, which are directly related to, but expand upon, the issues identified for Track 1 of this Rulemaking in the March 5, 2021 Scoping Memo:

- 1. What are the potential costs and benefits of authorizing CAEATFA to leverage its existing CHEEF operations and platforms, which were built largely with IOU ratepayer funds, if any, to ensure their programs are available to customers that may switch fuel providers, with incremental costs allocated to non-ratepayer funds CAEATFA identifies?<sup>6</sup>
  - a. If a clean energy project occurs that transitions a customer from an IOU fuel source (for example, natural gas) to a separately-provided fuel source (such as municipally-offered electricity), which entity should fund the cost of financing that project? Explain any legal considerations associated with your answer.
  - b. Does the cost-sharing methodology proposed by CAEATFA (Attachment B) adequately track and report

<sup>6</sup> The examples provided in this ruling are illustrative and clean energy projects could result in a transition from municipally-provided fuel to an IOU-provided fuel, or vice versa. Parties' responses should focus on whether and/or how the cost of financing programs should be split if a customer is transitioning between fuel sources (IOU to/from non-IOU) to improve efficiency and support increased adoption of cleaner technologies.

- the cost sharing between IOU and non-IOU funding resources supporting the CHEEF programs? If not, please describe what you would change and provide proposed modifications to the tables provided in Attachment B.
- c. Should incremental costs to expand the CHEEF programs to non-utility customers be covered solely by non-IOU funding sources? Why or why not?
- d. Should CAEATFA be authorized to extend its credit enhancement to cover total eligible outstanding loans, or should the credit enhancement only cover that portion of the loans that supports measures/projects funded by IOU ratepayers?
- 2. CAEATFA's program and operating costs vary considerably depending on whether they are supporting the administration of ongoing financing programs or simply servicing loans already issued. For what period of time should the Commission authorize CAEATFA's operating costs to support administration of ongoing and potentially new programs? When developing your response, recognize that Decision (D.) 17-03-026 clarified that the Commission intends to provide energy efficiency funding to support the "full lifecycle" of the loan programs.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> "Full lifecycle must entail any applicable on-bill payment remittance structures and credit enhancement support mechanisms for the full duration (*e.g.,* 10, 15, or 20 years) agreed to in CAEATFA's CHEEF regulations and participation agreements with financial institutions." D.17-03-026 at 11.

- a. If you recommend CAEATFA be authorized to administer programs on an ongoing basis, should the previously approved budget be re-authorized, granting another ~\$75 million to support all expenditures needed to operate the CHEEF programs over the next three, five, or 10 years?<sup>8</sup>
- b. Explain your rationale.
- 3. Would authorizing the use of existing, already-approved funding to provide subordinate debt or co-lending options in CAEATFA's Affordable Multi-Family (AMF) program be appropriate under CAEATFA's existing authority?<sup>9</sup>
  - a. If so, does it have the potential to reduce participants' interest rates?
  - b. If not, why not?
  - c. Should the Commission authorize additional funding for this purpose, and if so, how much and why?
- 4. Does subordinate debt or engaging in co-lending result in interest rate reductions for the CHEEF's program customers? Does subordinate debt or engaging in co-lending lower or raise the risk of default or affect the affordability of participating in CHEEF programs?
  - a. Are there examples of programs in which offering a subordinate debt or co-lending mechanism led financial institutions to lower interest rates significantly enough to make monthly customers loan payments more affordable?
    - i. Are there reliable data confirming the viability of a subordinate debt or co-lending mechanism? If so, what are the risks to participating and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> D.13-09-044, as later modified by D.15-06-008, D.15-12-002, and D.17-03-026, defines the previously approved budgets and parameters for the CAEATFA CHEEF programs. CAEATFA's CHEEF budget and expenditures are detailed on page 19 of Attachment A to this ruling.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Details about the AMF program history and its current status are included in Attachment A to this ruling, at 15.

- non-participating ratepayers and what are the safeguards that financial institutions would have in place to mitigate that risk?
- ii. If co-lending and subordinate debt financing proved to be viable options, should they be made available to all financing programs including small business and residential?
- b. Are there any other financing options (such as interest rate buy-downs) CAEATFA should consider offering to better implement its AMF or other CHEEF programs?
- 5. D.17-03-026 addressed a number of issues related to the energy efficiency pilot programs, including providing CAEATFA full authority as the decision maker for the CHEEF pilots, and to utilize its own public input and rulemaking processes, as needed, to develop implementation details. <sup>10</sup> Do you think D.17-03-026 provided a broad authority for CAEATFA to modify its CHEEF programs, including those that are no longer pilots, as necessary to improve implementation and program success, or is additional authority or guidance necessary on this issue?
  - a. How would program implementation changes affect the existing contracts administered by the IOUs (specifically, SoCalGas), if at all?<sup>11</sup>
  - b. Should the same level of autonomy be provided for CAEATFA to expand its programs to accommodate non-utility ratepayer funding and participation?
- 6. Should CAEATFA be authorized to expand its list of eligible measures for which its CHEEF financing mechanisms can be used, to other non-energy-efficiency clean energy and/or distributed energy resource measures,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> D.17-03-026, at 10 and Ordering Paragraph 12.

 $<sup>^{11}</sup>$  The contract for the statewide CHEFF marketing implementer is held by SoCalGas. Resolution E-5072 authorized the execution of a new contract with spending capped at previously-authorized levels.

in advance of a Commission decision on additional funding sources?

- a. If so, how?
- b. And with what limits, if any?
- 7. How could existing administrative contracts be expanded to allow for incorporation of non-ratepayer funds?
  - a. What metrics, key performance indicators, and evaluation efforts should be adopted to ensure adequate tracking of IOU and non-IOU funding for CAEATFA's CHEEF program infrastructure?
  - b. How should the administrative costs be shared? Parties are encouraged to provide comments on this question that directly refer to the proposed CAEATFA methodology included in Attachment B.
  - c. How often should a formal evaluation of CAEATFA's ongoing CHEEF programs occur?
    - i. Should CAEATFA be required to host annual workshops providing parties to this proceeding an opportunity to receive updates about the program status and provide feedback on potential implementation changes?
    - ii. Should a cost-sharing mechanism for evaluation costs be instituted based on CAEATFA's proposed methodology included in Attachment B? Or is there another preferable method for sharing specific evaluation costs?
    - iii. Should an evaluation or workshop noticed to this Rulemaking's service list be required before CAEATFA is able to propose CHEEF program modifications? Why or why not?
- 8. Should a budgetary cap or time limit be set on the program administration role CAEATFA plays?
  - a. Which, if any, of the CHEEF program designs could eventually operate through lenders and contractors without a third-party administrator?

- b. How long should the administrative contracts continue to be held by IOUs?
- 9. Are any additional customer protections needed for CHEEF pilots or programs? Describe in detail.

#### 3. Revised Schedule for Track 1

Opening Comments on Track 1 issues, filed and served	April 16, 2021
Reply Comments on Track 1 issues due, filed and served	April 30, 2021
Proposed Decision, issued	June/July 2021
Commission Decision on Track 1 Issues, issued	July/August 2021

#### IT IS RULED that:

- 1. Parties shall review Attachments A and B to this ruling, offered by the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority, as background and proposals prior to submitting comments.
- 2. Parties shall provide comments that address the questions specified in Section 2 above.
- 3. Opening comments on the questions related to Track 1 issues, as defined in Section 2 above, are due to be filed and served on April 16, 2021, and reply comments are due to be filed and served no later than April 30, 2021.
- 4. Proposed modifications to the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority's proposed cost sharing methodology (Attachment B) should be provided as direct references to and/or redlines to the attached document.

5. The California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority may provide reply comments to parties' opening responses on or before April 30, 2021, either by issuing a letter to the Energy Division's executive director or attaching them to comments filed by a party to this proceeding.

Dated April 1, 2021, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ GENEVIEVE SHIROMA
Genevieve Shiroma
Assigned Commissioner

# ATTACHMENT A



# California Hub for Energy Efficiency Financing Status Update, March 2021



The California Alternative Energy & Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA) appreciates the opportunity to provide this update on the status of the California Hub for Energy Efficiency Financing (CHEEF) programs. CAEATFA has administered the CHEEF on behalf of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) since receiving budgetary authority in October 2014. While CAEATFA is not a formal party to the Clean Energy Financing Proceeding (the Proceeding), we are submitting this update on the CHEEF programs in order to provide a snapshot of the current status of each program, convey key program design criteria, describe planned modifications to each program anticipated within the next several months, and to share challenges and lessons learned through program implementation.

# **Table of Contents**

l.	Introduction and Background on the CHEEF	3
	CAEATFA and the CHEEF	3
	CPUC Policy Guidelines	3
	Key Program Features	4
	Financing is distinct from rebates and incentives	4
	Approach to savings and project eligibility	4
	Complement existing IOU/REN/CCA programs	4
	Unsecured financing products	5
	Finance companies have "skin in the game"	5
	Benefits to borrowers	5
II.	Program Status	6
	The Residential Energy Efficiency Loan Program (REEL)	6
	Status Snapshot	6
	REEL Program Design Considerations	6
	Program Metrics	8
	Current Plans and Next Steps	9
	Program Challenges and Lessons Learned	11
	The Small Business Energy Efficiency Financing Program (SBF)	11
	Status Snapshot	11
	SBF Program Design Considerations	12
	Benefits to Customers	13
	Activity	13
	Current Plans and Next Steps	14
	Program-Specific Challenges	14
	The Affordable Multifamily Energy Efficiency Financing Program (AMF)	15
	Status Snapshot	15
	Design Considerations	15
	Current Plans and Next Steps	16
	Program-Specific Challenges	16
	On-Bill Repayment (OBR)	17
	Status Snapshot	17
	Program Design Considerations	17
	OBR Infrastructure	17
III.	CHEEF Budget and Expenditures: September 2014 - December 31, 2020	19

# I. Introduction and Background on the CHEEF

#### CAEATFA and the CHEEF

CAEATFA is a state agency housed in the California State Treasurer's Office that strategically leverages private capital to advance the state's goals of reducing greenhouse gas (GhG) emissions, increasing deployment of sustainable energy resources, and fostering energy efficiency. As a rulemaking agency, CAEATFA adheres to the Administrative Procedures Act, which provides a public process through which regulations are enacted. This means that all regulations for programs administered by the CHEEF are developed with thorough stakeholder and public input. CAEATFA's Executive Director was recently appointed to also direct its sister agency in the Treasurer's Office, the California Pollution Control Financing Authority (CPCFA), which leverages private capital to support small businesses, including with sustainable infrastructure like EV charging.

The CHEEF and a corresponding series of pilot programs was authorized by the CPUC in recognition that California won't meet its energy savings goals without extensive private investment in energy efficiency. The CHEEF currently operates three financing programs for behind-the-meter customer investments: the Residential Energy Efficiency Loan Assistance Program (REEL), the Small Business Energy Efficiency Financing Program (SBF) and the Affordable Multifamily Energy Efficiency Financing Program (AMF) (collectively, the Programs). On-Bill Repayment (OBR) is being developed for the Small Business Program.

The customer-facing platform for the CHEEF Programs is GoGreenFinancing.com.

GoGreenFinancing.com and customer-facing marketing for the CHEEF is handled by a marketing implementer, contracted with Southern California Gas Company, per CPUC direction. CAEATFA is responsible for lender and contractor outreach. More information on CAEATFA's implementation of the CHEEF beyond what is included in this status update, including quarterly reports and data summaries, can be found at treasurer.ca.gov/caeatfa/cheef.

#### **CPUC Policy Guidelines**

D.13-09-044, D.15.06.008, D.17.03.026, and Resolution E-4900 set certain policy guidance for the Programs. Primary among those guidelines are that the Programs were to:

#### 1) Leverage third-party capital with a credit enhancement

- A loan loss reserve model would allow participating private lenders to provide better terms and broader approvals through the Programs than their standard products.
- Finance companies<sup>1</sup> apply to participate in the Programs and offer financing for energy efficiency upgrades.

#### 2) Provide a debt product not secured by real estate

Customers should not be at risk of losing their property in the event of default.

#### 3) Test financing as a strategy to generate energy savings

- Financing should complement available rebate and incentive offerings, but rebates and incentives would not be required.
- Bill neutrality would not be required.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Throughout the document, the terms "lender" and "finance companies" are used interchangeably. "Finance company" is generally a more inclusive term, since "lender" tends to be associated with "loans."

#### 4) Reach underserved borrowers

 At least one third of credit enhancement dollars should support loans to Low to Moderate Income (LMI) customers; borrowers with low credit scores may also be considered underserved.

#### 5) Undergo an evaluation after a two-year pilot phase

 A CPUC-contracted evaluator would assess the Programs' effectiveness, including ability to leverage private capital, scalability, reaching underserved customers, and energy savings.

#### **Key Program Features**

Stemming from this guidance, there are certain features common to each of the three current CHEEF Programs:

#### Financing is distinct from rebates and incentives

Third-party private financing is distinct from traditional rebate or incentive programs in several ways. First, ratepayer funds are used to leverage private capital in the form of a credit enhancement but are recaptured once the financing is paid off, unlike rebates and incentives, which are expensed as cash payouts and not recoverable. Second, customers repay 100% of the cost of the financed energy upgrade with interest. What the customer receives through a financing program is not an "incentive" in the form of a subsidy on their equipment or installation, but access to capital at better rates and terms than they otherwise would receive, or a credit approval where they would otherwise not qualify.

#### Approach to savings and project eligibility

Because rebate and incentive programs are direct expenses to ratepayers, they generally require projects with measures beyond those that are legally required. Rebate and incentive programs also limit measures based on strict cost effectiveness rules. In contrast, the use of private capital allows customers to make the types of energy efficiency investments (such as double-pane windows, HVAC systems with long paybacks, or heat pump conversions) that may only bring a building up to code or won't meet conventional Total Resource Cost (TRC) metrics, but still contribute to the state's GHG reduction goals. The CHEEF Programs allow financing for projects at code, recognizing that most California buildings were built prior to the establishment of Title 24.

The Programs also allow for projects with both comprehensive or single measure upgrades. The Programs take a portfolio approach to energy savings as opposed to ensuring savings on every project. A simple set of guidelines for energy efficiency upgrades, without complicated eligibility rules around measures, is also critical for scalability for third-party capital programs.

CAEATFA, as a financing Authority, has not been directed to calculate energy savings for the Programs. The CPUC also has not approved a mechanism for the IOUs to claim savings for a "finance-only" project that does not go through one of their core or third-party programs. Energy savings thus far have only been determined by the CPUC evaluator for a limited set of early loans as part of the REEL Program.

#### Complement existing IOU/REN/CCA programs

The Programs are designed to complement other ratepayer-funded programs. Customers often choose to finance an upgrade without a rebate or incentive. Financing can also help customers pay for the portion of measures that are not covered by a rebate or incentive, leveraging the efforts of the IOUs,

RENs and CCAs to encourage energy efficiency upgrades. CAEATFA has designed the Programs such that any measure that is part of an IOU, REN or CCA program is eligible to be financed.

#### *Unsecured financing products*

Finance companies may offer unsecured loans or loans secured by the energy efficiency equipment itself. Financial products available through the CHEEF are distinct from real estate loans, home equity loans, or PACE in this regard, and work well for customers who do not want a lien placed on their property. Property renters and tenants are also eligible.

#### Finance companies have "skin in the game"

For each loan or lease that is enrolled in one of the Programs, CAEATFA deposits an amount of ratepayer funds into the finance company's loss reserve account, held at a trustee bank. The credit enhancement provided through the loan loss reserve pool allows finance companies to approve loans or leases that carry more risk than they would otherwise accept. However, lenders share in losses on defaults. This helps lenders align their financial interest with that of preserving ratepayer funds and issue loans where the borrower has the means to repay.

- Shared loss on every default: Lenders are able to recover up to 90% of the outstanding claimeligible financed amount on any given loan in the event of a default. Lenders will absorb at least a 10% loss on any charged off loan.
- Shared loss on the portfolio: Lenders are only eligible to receive claim payments up to the amount of funds available in their loss reserve accounts. Even if a lender received a 20% loss reserve contribution for every loan, they would only have coverage for a fifth of their total portfolio.

#### Benefits to borrowers

Finance companies who wish to participate in the Programs must demonstrate how access to the loss reserve will provide benefits to customers. The benefits that customers receive through the Programs vary between Program and finance company but, in general, finance companies are able to offer some combination of:

- Broader credit approval allowing for customers with lower credit scores, early-stage businesses, or businesses in industries traditionally perceived as carrying too much risk.
- Lower interest rates.
- Extended repayment terms, which keep monthly payments low.
- Access to smaller or larger amounts of credit.
- Financing for 100% of the cost of the energy upgrade, which removes upfront cost barriers for borrowers.

## II. Program Status

The Residential Energy Efficiency Loan Program (REEL)

Status Snapshot

- 1,125 loans comprising \$18.7 million of private capital have been leveraged with \$2.8 million of credit enhancement as of Feb. 28, 2021<sup>2</sup>.
- **8 participating** credit union **lenders**<sup>3</sup> and **501 participating contractors**; 133 contractors have completed more than one project financed through REEL.
- **Open to homeowners and renters** of properties 1-4 units, including single-family homes, townhomes, condos, and manufactured and mobile homes with site-built foundations.
- Customers with a credit score of 580 can access unsecured loans for 5, 10, and 15 years at rates of 3.49%, 4.49% and 5.49% respectively.
- CAEATFA is currently planning modifications to the REEL regulations to take effect in May 2021 that, among other changes, will streamline operations, support scaling, and create a microloan pathway.

**REEL Program Design Considerations** 

CEAETFA has incorporated the following key design considerations into the Program:

#### 1. Reaching underserved populations:

- LMI borrowers: In order to implement CPUC guidance that at least one third of credit enhancement funds should support loans to LMI borrowers, the loss reserve contribution rates for REEL were developed to incentivize lenders to make loans to LMI borrowers. REEL launched with a larger loss reserve contribution for loans made to LMI customers (20% of loan principal, compared to 11%), based on household income. CAEATFA learned during the initial years of implementation that lenders could not consistently calculate household income because they only obtained income data for the borrower, which was often only one member of the household. Therefore, in 2018, CAEATFA modified the Program to allow lenders to determine LMI status by census tract of the property.
- "Credit Challenged" borrowers: In early implementation, it was also found that lenders
  are much more sensitive to credit scores than income levels in their underwriting
  criteria. In 2018, to help lenders approve more customers with lower credit scores,
  CAEATFA added a "credit challenged" facility, offering the 20% loss reserve contribution
  if the borrower has a credit score below 640 for credit unions who needed the
  additional incentive.
- *Manufactured homes:* Manufactured homes are eligible properties as long as they have a site-built foundation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> \$127,841 of the credit enhancement has been recaptured for loans that had fully paid off as of June 30, 2020. The next rebalance of lender's loss reserve accounts to recapture funds will take place in Q3 of 2021 for loans paid off during the previous year. Those credit enhancement funds are returned to a Program account and can be used as future credit enhancements.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Travis Credit Union was approved to join the REEL Program on March 5, 2021. Offerings from the other 7 lenders can be viewed at: https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/caeatfa/cheef/reel/resources/ggflender.pdf

- Renters: Renters are eligible for REEL financing, as long as they have owner permission
  to make renovations. (Appliances do not require owner permission.) Not surprisingly,
  however, only a small percentage of REEL loans have been made to renters to date.
- Non-English Speakers: The GoGreenFinancing.com website underwent a site-wide translation into Spanish in November 2020 to help give monolingual Spanish speakers, or those more comfortable with Spanish, access to financing information. Spanishlanguage flyers on REEL had previously been available.

#### 2. Consumer financial protections:

- Interest rate caps: Interest rates are capped at the 10-year treasury bonds rate plus seven hundred fifty (750) basis points. As of January, 2021, rates are capped at 8.43%.
- *Debt to income ratio:* To help determine that customers have the cash flow to repay loans, the Program requires the borrower's debt to income ratio to be 55% or less.
- Benefits to customers: Because of the mitigated risk that the loss reserve provides to lenders, when each lender enrolls in the Program, they must articulate benefits they will provide to customers in exchange for access to the loss reserve.

#### 3. Project requirements include flexibility for broad uptake:

- Broad list of eligible efficiency measures: CAEATFA's regulations include a broad list of
  energy efficiency and demand response measures.<sup>4</sup> In addition to these measures,
  customers can include legally and practically required measures, like electric panel
  upgrades in the case of a heat pump. Financing for distributed generation is not eligible
  for a credit enhancement. The Program allows for financing of single measures as well
  as comprehensive retrofits, as explained in the Key Program Features section above.
- Non-energy improvements included: In accordance with D.13-09-044, up to 30% of the
  claim-eligible financed amount of each REEL loan may include non-energy efficiency
  improvements, such as landscaping, or energy measures that utilize fuel from a non-IOU
  source, such as a refrigerator in the case that the customer has a publicly-owned utility
  (POU) electric provider.
- Bill neutrality not required: REEL does not require bill neutrality, and currently, participating lenders do not underwrite to energy savings. This flexibility allows borrowers to make upgrades for reasons that extend beyond energy savings, such as installing double-pane windows for noise reduction or to keep out dust or wildfire smoke. Customers are often motivated to make these investments even without utility bill savings.
- *Pre-project audits are not required* and the Program allows financing for the replacement of broken or existing equipment and appliances.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A list of eligible measures can be found at https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/caeatfa/cheef/reel/resources/reel\_eeemsList.pdf

#### Program Metrics<sup>5</sup>

#### 1. Benefits to borrowers:

The loss reserve has been a highly effective tool in facilitating credit unions to offer financing at terms simply not available without it<sup>6</sup>. Benefits that borrowers receive include:

- **Broader approvals:** Lenders have lowered their credit score minimums from 660 or 640 to 600 or 580. Borrowers with credit scores as low as 580 can currently access an unsecured loan for terms of 5, 10 or 15 years at rates of 3.49%, 4.49% or 5.49%, respectively<sup>7</sup>.
- Extended repayment terms: Terms to up to 15 years are available, making monthly payments affordable. Typically, banks and credit unions do not provide personal, unsecured loans for terms beyond five years. The average REEL term length is 109 months.
- **Reduction of interest rates:** Interest rates are reduced from APRs of 14-20%, for example, for borrowers with credit scores of 600 for a 5-year term, to APRs of 3.49-8.43% with REEL.
- Larger amounts available: Borrowers are able to access up to \$50,000 compared to a maximum of \$15,000-\$20,000 without REEL.

CAEATFA estimates that the 412 REEL borrowers who took loans with terms of 60 months or less saved, on average, over \$2,000 in interest, compared with what they would have paid for the same credit union's non-REEL product, based on their credit score.<sup>8</sup>

#### 2. Activity

- **Leverage:** \$2.8 million in credit enhancement has leveraged \$18.7 million in private capital, or in \$6.59 leveraged for each \$1 of credit enhancement.
- "Finance-only": 86% of loans enrolled had no associated IOU rebate or incentive.
- **Growth:** Most of REEL's growth has taken place after its evaluation. 212 loans were enrolled during the official two-year "pilot" phase (July 2016 July 2018); 447 loans were enrolled in 2020 alone.
- **Defaults:** Lenders have charged off \$281,330, or 1.5% of loan principal (1.3% of total loans enrolled). The Program has paid \$210,672 in claim payments, net of recoveries.

#### 3. Reaching underserved customers

- 57% of total loans and 53% of loan dollars have been made to upgrade properties in LMI census tracts, of which:
  - 22% of loans financed upgrades in low income census tracts (income below 80% of AMI)<sup>9</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> More statistics on REEL can be found through the Monthly Data Summaries, published at: https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/caeatfa/cheef/cheef-reports-and-additional-materials.asp

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> All 8 of the current REEL participating lenders are credit unions. Recruitment of additional types of finance companies is planned, after making some of the regulatory and operational improvements mentioned below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Rates based on Matadors Community Credit Union's current offering for REEL:

https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/caeatfa/cheef/reel/resources/ggflender.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Comparing interest rates between REEL loans and the equivalent non-REEL signature loan products offered by the Program's participating lenders, using a data set for loans with terms up to 60 months for borrowers who would have qualified for non-REEL loans. Data is current through the end of February 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> CAEATFA relies on the FFIEC geocoding search tool for census income data and uses the most recently available data at the time of search.

- 17% financed upgrades in median income tracts (income between 80 and 100% of AMI).
- 18% financed upgrades in moderate income tracts (income between 100 and 120% of AMI).
- 18% of loans went to finance upgrades on properties in Disadvantaged Communities per CalEnviroScreen.
- 28% of borrowers had a credit score of 700 or below.

While over half of REEL loans to date have been made to upgrade properties in LMI census tracts, as a debt-based program that does not guarantee bill savings, REEL is not the right financing vehicle to reach very low-income customers or those without income for debt repayments. There may be room for REEL to further extend its reach to underserved customers, particularly to those who have lower credit scores, but only to the extent that any particular customer has the cash flow to repay their loan. Additionally, data from REEL lenders shows that about half of applications are approved, indicating the need for a complementary, non-debt financing option to serve disadvantaged populations.

#### 4. Measures installed:

- The top 5 measures installed through REEL include:
  - 1. 710 HVAC projects
  - 2. 317 Windows projects
  - 3. 250 Duct Work projects
  - 4. 213 Insulation projects
  - 5. 168 Cool Roof projects
- Project composition includes:
  - 214 "comprehensive" projects that included HVAC or water heating equipment + an envelope measure (but excluding duct work).
  - o 587 single measure projects
  - o 324 other multi-measure projects
  - 21% of customers have taken advantage of the option to finance non-energy or non-IOU fuel measures, which can comprise up to 30% of their loan principal.

#### Current plans and next steps

In April 2020, E-5072 approved REEL's transition from a pilot to a full program and provided short-term funding for REEL's continued operations until long-term funding needs and sources are determined as a part of this Proceeding. E-5072 permits CAEATFA to improve REEL in order to facilitate scaling, including streamlining operations for lenders, making planned IT improvements, and continuing with marketing, education and outreach (MEO) efforts.

**Regulatory Improvements:** CAEATFA is currently engaged in the public rulemaking process to modify the REEL regulations, with changes anticipated to take effect in May 2021<sup>10</sup>. Among various clarifications and updates, the modifications will:

 Add new eligible measures, including insulated siding, ECM motors for HVAC equipment, and pipe insulation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Current regulations and details on the rulemaking can be found at https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/caeatfa/cheef/reel/regulations/

- Facilitate point of sale (POS) financing, by which customers can access REEL financing when purchasing energy efficient appliances through IOU marketplaces.
- Allow for residential equipment leases and service agreements, with appropriate consumer protections to provide customers more financing options.
- Improve the loan enrollment and reporting process for existing credit union lenders.
- Allow for "batch" loan enrollment to enable high-volume lenders to participate.
- Allow for expanded measure eligibility (e.g., non-IOU fuel-saving measures or fuel substitution
  when the electricity is provided by a POU), conditional upon CAEATFA securing non-ratepayer
  funding for the CHEEF and CPUC approval of the methodology to allocate costs to non-ratepayer
  funds.

**Operations:** The regulatory modifications will enable CAEATFA to make operational adjustments to REEL to allow the Program to scale and become more cost-effective as fixed program costs are spread over a larger base of loans. Critical planned operational improvements for 2021 include facilitating "batch" enrollment of loans, a web-based solution for contractors and credit union lenders to supply data, and solutions for more participating REEL contractors to become proficient in combustion safety testing. CAEATFA is also considering best practices for providing a functional pre-approval system to remove lenders' need to evaluate project eligibility, including potentially utilizing a "single originator" model, in which lenders have the option to buy loans after they have been originated.

**Outreach and Partnership Opportunities:** CAEATFA sees ample opportunity to connect REEL with local governments, as well as RENs and CCAs, as those entities increasingly offer residential energy efficiency programs and are looking for financing opportunities for their constituents. Financing for efficient appliances offered through the utility marketplaces has the opportunity to reach renters who need financing for distressed purchases. For this effort, CAEATFA plans to enroll a fin-tech company with the ability to provide instant approvals and serve a very large volume of customers. REEL is also ideally suited to help with heat pump technology adoption, since customers can finance the additional costs of electric panel upgrades as well as water heater relocations through the Program. CAEATFA plans to coordinate with the implementers of the TECH Program as well as other decarbonization efforts for this purpose.

**Expansion to Distributed Generation, Decarbonization and Storage:** Pending discussions as part of the Proceeding on finding the right funding source to expand existing Programs to offer other types of technologies, there is an opportunity to expand REEL to provide a credit enhancement for residential solar, solar thermal water heating, battery storage, and EV charging. While there are existing market mechanisms to finance residential solar, REEL lenders report that customers frequently ask to install these systems along with energy efficiency upgrades. Several have indicated that a credit enhancement for solar would allow them to offer an attractive solar loan product beyond their current capacity. From an administrative perspective, expanding the list of eligible measures to be financed to include other technologies would be a relatively straightforward Program expansion.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> EV charging is currently allowable as part of REEL financing, but it must not comprise more than 30% of the loan for which lenders get a credit enhancement. Because REEL does not support solar PV, this measure is rarely installed.

Program challenges and lessons learned

CAEATFA has learned critical lessons through its implementation of the REEL Program. Consideration of REEL's future should take the following into account:

**Simplicity is key for contractors and private finance companies.** To the degree we were able to simplify REEL (following authority granted in D.17.03.026) by creating a simple, uniform list of eligible measures across IOU jurisdictions, allowing for single measure projects, and consolidating loss reserve accounts for lenders, we saw enrollment from lenders and uptake by contractors increase.

Even with the allowance of single measure projects, necessary requirements for compliance, such as permitting and safety testing, create operational challenges for lenders who are unfamiliar with the nuances of energy efficiency. CAEATFA is exploring ways, some mentioned above, to lessen the project eligibility screening for lenders.

Geographic complexity. Much of the complexity that remains in REEL and frustrates participants stems from the fact that the Programs are not truly statewide, but available only to IOU ratepayers. This completely logical requirement for a ratepayer-funded program leads to a web of eligibility complexity in practice. For example, financing for a cool roof, as it reduces electricity use, is eligible for a credit enhancement in West Sacramento (where PG&E provides both gas and electric service), but not in Sacramento (where PG&E provides gas service and SMUD provides electric service). One result is a burden on participating lenders who must become familiar with IOU and POU jurisdictional boundaries, as well as technology and its fuel source, and/or rely on CAEATFA to pre-screen loans for their unique combinations of gas and electric service providers, measure costs, and measure fuel source use. The cost of this burden is overall fewer transactions, even in IOU territories.

To engage private capital providers and reach customers at scale, truly statewide financing solutions available to customers regardless of utility service provider are needed. To that end, CAEATFA is seeking CPUC approval of a methodology to incorporate non-ratepayer funding into the CHEEF, which will ultimately realize greater energy savings statewide and more projects within IOU territories.

The Small Business Energy Efficiency Financing Program (SBF)

Status Snapshot

- 4 participating finance companies offer loans, leases, and efficiency service agreements<sup>13</sup>.
- 47 participating contractors and 15 participating project developers enrolled.
- **7 finance agreements comprising \$1.5 million** has been leveraged with **\$116,538** of credit enhancement as of Feb. 28, 2021.
- First lease was enrolled in July 2019.
- Currently operating Off-Bill.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Technically, the REEL and other CHEEF programs allow lenders to finance electric measures in POU territories; that portion of the financing is just not eligible for a credit enhancement nor for a claim unless it is limited to 30% of the total financed amount. REEL lenders have generally required that the entire amount of their loan be claimeligible and receive a credit-enhancement. Therefore, we use the word "permissible" in this paragraph to describe what financing is practically available to customers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> See Finance Companies' current offerings at https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/caeatfa/cheef/sblp/resources/featuresChart.pdf

- CAEATFA anticipates regulatory modifications through the public rulemaking process to add On-Bill Repayment, as well as a streamlined microloan pathway, to take effect in August 2021.
- Open to small businesses 1) with fewer than 100 employees, or 2) whose annual revenue is less than \$15 million, or 3) that qualify as a small business as determined by the U.S. Small Business Administration standards.

#### SBF Program Design Considerations

CAEATFA has incorporated the following key design considerations in the Program:

- 1. The Program should fill a need that is not currently being met:
  - Several financing options exist for small businesses engaged in energy efficiency retrofits: On-Bill Financing (OBF) offered through the IOUs, Commercial PACE (C-PACE), the State Loan Guarantee Program (SLGP) and Small Business Administration loans. SBF is designed to fill in the gaps:
  - **Tenant occupants** can receive SBF financing, unlike with C-PACE. It is also challenging for some tenant occupants to use OBF as they may lack the required bill-pay history.
  - Service agreements and savings-based payment agreements, in which customers
    experience positive cash-flow from day one, are offered in addition to traditional loans and
    leases.
  - Customers can finance upgrades under the OBF threshold of \$5,000 and over the OBF limit of \$100,000-\$250,000 per premise.<sup>14</sup> Customers can also use SBF along with OBF as part of a single project after they have exhausted the OBF limit for their premise, or to finance measures that don't meet OBF requirements. Qualifying for OBF via lists of rebated measures can be challenging due to frequent changes in these lists, and the flexibility of SBF allows a simplified way to qualify measures that have been removed.
  - **Rapid underwriting approvals** through private finance companies accommodate customers who do not want to wait for payment through OBF.
  - No strict payback and no bill neutrality requirements means customers can finance
    measures that typically cannot be financed through OBF such as HVAC equipment,
    windows, or gas measures.
- 2. The Program should support existing ratepayer-funded programs:

Similar to REEL, in addition to a pre-qualified list of measures<sup>15</sup>, SBF is designed to finance any measure that qualifies for an IOU, REN or CCA program, whether implemented by the entity or a third party. Unlike with REEL, where customers initiate projects to make their homes more comfortable or aesthetically pleasing, small business owners are unlikely to take on energy efficiency projects on their own. They tend to require the incentives or education that comes from a customer-facing program. Therefore, SBF will be most effective in spurring energy efficiency projects when it is presented as an option for customers to pay for the portion of measures not covered by rebates or incentives.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Program rules have allowed this since inception and all participating finance companies offer amounts greater than \$250,000. CAEATFA is currently recruiting microlenders to offer loans under \$5,000.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> View a list of Energy-Saving Measures for SBF at https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/caeatfa/cheef/sblp/resources/esmlist.pdf

#### 3. The Program must be streamlined and easy to use:

Business owners, contractors and finance companies expect online tools and smooth digital processes, not paper forms or PDFs. To that end, CAEATFA invested in the development of a user-friendly web-based interface for contractors and finance companies to supply enrollment data to the Program. While the initial investment in this tool was significant, CAEATFA anticipates leveraging it for On-Bill Repayment (OBR) and possibly for REEL.

# 4. The Program should incentivize finance companies to reach underserved businesses: Small dollar loans and leases are very difficult for finance companies to offer, as they require a similar amount of due diligence as larger financing amounts with lower profit and likely increased credit risk posed by the borrower, which is often a very small business. SBF attempts to fill this gap in the market by contributing a higher loss reserve contribution of 20% of the first \$50,000 of the claim-eligible financed amount.

# 5. The Program should accommodate a variety of finance company business models and financial products:

Unlike the residential market, commercial financing can involve numerous entities performing different industry roles such as lead generation, origination, servicing, and investing. SBF is designed to accommodate many different finance company models and support financial products such as loans, leases, and several varieties of service agreements.

#### Benefits to Customers

The credit enhancement has also allowed finance companies to extend benefits to small business customers that are not available without SBF, including:

- Reduced rates and extended payback terms: Interest rates reduced by 50-400 basis points and terms extended from 5 to 10 years, lowering monthly payments so that projects "pencil out" for businesses.
- Broadened eligibility criteria: Finance companies can approve credit for businesses with lower credit scores, industries they typically exclude from commercial lending (such as restaurants, market-rate multifamily buildings, houses of worship, and cannabis growers/operators), and for businesses that have only been in operation for a short time.
- **Expanded measures**: The loss reserve allows for financing of affixed equipment and efficiency measures with longer payback.

#### Activity

The effects of COVID-19 restrictions have been devastating for small businesses. Businesses that have been able to remain open have prioritized financing for basic operations, not for energy efficiency. This and the pause of IOU EE programs in reaching small businesses, first because of COVID and second due to the timing of shifts to third-party implemented programs, has led to very slow uptake of financing through the Program.

That said, the small business market is beginning to show some signs of life. Since February 2021, three projects were submitted for pre-approval in the Program and are anticipated to be completed in the coming months. CAEATFA also held a well-attended virtual "Meet and Greet" with a newly-enrolled

finance company offering efficiency as a service. Several enrolled contractors and project developers are now working with the finance company on potential projects.

Thus far, the Program has been able to leverage \$12.69 in private capital for every \$1 of credit enhancement.

#### Current plans and next steps

#### **Regulatory modifications**

CAEATFA is streamlining certain aspects of the Program and adding new features that will help efforts to reach more small businesses:

- On-Bill Repayment (OBR) as feature of SBF (see section below for more detail)
- Simplifying requirements around self-installation to meet the needs of smaller businesses
- Updating the Energy-Saving Measures List, including addition of large commercial laundry measures, updated HVAC measures, and several measures relating to the agricultural sector, and
- Facilitating a microloan pathway.

CAEATFA plans to hold a regulatory workshop in late June seeking public comments, followed by consideration by the CAEATFA Board at the July Board Meeting, anticipated approval of the regulations by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), and subsequent enactment in early August. As the regulations are considered by both the CAEATFA Board and OAL, CAEATFA will begin working on implementation and launch of OBR.

#### **Outreach and Partnership Opportunities:**

- Microloans: CAEATFA is currently in discussions with a finance company in Southern California
  that would offer loans under \$5,000, in coordination with a third-party implemented IOU small
  business program. CAEATFA has been reaching out to Community Development Finance
  Institutions (CDFIs) that have the capacity to make very small loans, and staff are hopeful that
  after regulatory modifications, there will be microloan options made available via SBF in most
  parts of the state. Multiple IOU third-party implementers are interested in connecting their
  customers with an SBF microloan product.
- Coordination with IOU third-party energy efficiency programs: CAEATFA's relationships with
  implementers and their programs extend through all four IOU territories. CAEATFA staff have
  conducted SBF overviews and training sessions for several program implementers whose energy
  efficiency programs align with a need for financing for small businesses. As contracts awarded in
  2020 move toward launch and activity in 2021, SBF is well-positioned to be support those
  programs.

#### Program Specific Challenges

#### Program growth in both the current and post-COVID economy:

The majority of SBF's two-year pilot timeline, between July 2019-July 2021, will have occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding effects on the economy, particularly for small businesses. SBF was just starting to gain momentum with contractor and project developer enrollments as COVID hit, small businesses shut down and IOUs paused energy efficiency program outreach. As

mentioned above, there are real opportunities for SBF over the next year, particularly as third-party implemented EE programs begin to reach customers. However, any program activity that occurs in the coming months will likely be too little, too late in terms of demonstrating the Program's potential in a formal evaluation, though there will be plenty of lessons learned to share from implementation thus far.

**Post-evaluation timeline and Decision timeline:** SBF is currently in its two-year pilot phase, which runs through July 30, 2021. After the pilot phase, a third party will perform an evaluation of the Program's overall effectiveness. The nature of the evaluation process and subsequent CPUC deliberation means the risk of a long period of uncertainty, inability to make significant modifications to the Program and inability to reassure potential finance companies of the Program's durability. REEL's post-pilot evaluation required 18 months and was completed in January 2020. At its completion, the CPUC processed the evaluation's results and recommendations and determined to transition REEL from a pilot to a full Program in April of 2020. However, direction on REEL's long-term funding source was deferred to this Proceeding, with a Decision expected in July 2021.

CAEATFA acknowledges and appreciates the importance of the EM&V process and welcomes a formal evaluation of the SBF Program. However, this Proceeding presents an opportunity to realize efficiencies and potentially resolve some questions with regard to SBF. CAEATFA is hopeful that this Proceeding can resolve some of the long-term viability and funding questions for SBF, should it be continued, in addition to REEL.

The Affordable Multifamily Energy Efficiency Financing Program (AMF)

Status Snapshot

- 2 participating finance companies offer leases and efficiency service agreements<sup>16</sup>.
- Currently operating Off-Bill.
- Deadline to launch (enroll the first financing agreement) was extended by the CPUC at CAEATFA's request through June 30, 2022, or as determined through this Proceeding.
- Open to affordable multifamily properties with 5+ units, at least 50% of units are income restricted and at least 5 years of deed restriction remaining.

Design Considerations

AMF is designed to:

- Be compatible with the complex financing structure of affordable multifamily properties:
   Affordable multifamily properties have complicated financing structures with multiple
   lienholders and tax equity investors, making it very challenging to assume additional debt. The
   Program facilitates unsecured or equipment secured leases and efficiency service agreements
   that, depending on the circumstance, may be considered off-balance sheet.
- 2. Fill gaps in other state programs and work with rebate and incentive programs, including:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> See AMF Finance Companies' current offerings at https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/caeatfa/cheef/multifamily/resources/amf-finance-company-options.pdf

- Financing any energy-saving measures of a Low-Income Weatherization Program (LIWP) project that are not eligible to be financed through LIWP.
- Financing any identified energy-saving measures prior to installing solar **as part of the** state-administered Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program.
- Allowing energy-saving measure installation in units or tenant-occupied spaces, which
  is not currently allowed with OBF.
- Financing the non-subsidized portion of any measures eligible for an IOU, REN or CCA rebate or incentive.

#### Current plans and next steps

In August 2020, AMF was able to bring on a second finance company, offering "small-ticket" leases from \$10,000-\$250,000. Since that time, CAEATFA staff have worked diligently on outreach to see if the Program's offerings match the needs of the market. CAEATFA held a well-attended virtual "Meet the Lenders" forum in November 2020, in which the participating lenders shared their financing offerings with property owners and program implementers from the IOUs, RENs, CCAs and other State programs.

CAEATFA staff continue to receive inquiries from property owners who have identified preliminary projects in their portfolios for financing. Property owners with projects that meet the Program criteria for financing are in active discussions with lenders and gathering necessary energy data.

Pending guidance through the Proceeding, CAEATFA will explore a subordinate debt or co-lending option in order to bring interest rates down (see Program Specific Challenges below). Staff is also considering changing the Program's regulations to potentially extend the credit enhancement from 10 to 15 years to better support measures with long payback periods. Further considerations include allowing eligibility for community land trust and limited equity properties which retain permanent affordability, but are cooperatively owned and not rented.

#### Program-Specific Challenges

While the AMF Program has been able to mitigate the risk to lenders and remove the need for a secondary source of repayment through a credit enhancement, other challenges still include:

- 1. **Debt structure of properties**: Most affordable multifamily properties have complex capital stacks with creditors who need to provide approval for additional debt. Even with equipment secured through only a UCC-1 filing and no lender need for existing lienholder subordination, the property owner may need to contact each creditor/stakeholder in the capital stack to seek permission to make upgrades, which can be burdensome and take up to 6 months.
- 2. Credit enhancement as an incomplete tool: The credit enhancement enables some lenders to lend to AMF properties, but for this particular market, it is not an effective tool to sufficiently lower interest rates. Because AMF properties have very tight operating margins, cash flow generated from savings usually needs to cover monthly financing repayments. Interest rates can be a major difference as to whether or not projects can "pencil out." To that end, CAEATFA believes that an interest-rate buy-down, subordinate debt, or a co-lending option with belowmarket-capital will be necessary to allow for lower interest rates that will render some projects feasible.
- 3. **Need for technical assistance:** Time-strapped property owners face a heavy upfront administrative lift of navigating rebate and incentive programs, obtaining energy data and an

investment-grade energy audit, agreeing to a scope of work and getting financing approved internally and by lienholders.

#### On-Bill Repayment (OBR)

Status Snapshot

- Loans or leases from private capital providers, repaid through a utility bill.
- Authorized per D.13.09.044 for Small Business, Affordable Multifamily, Non-Residential/Public Buildings and a sub-pilot of REEL in PG&E territory.
  - O No residential disconnection for non-payment.
- CAEATFA has been working with the IOUs and a Master Servicer to develop and test infrastructure.
- Modified OBR tariffs filed with the CPUC for 3 IOUs in February 2021.
- Proposed regulations to add OBR as a feature to the SBF Program will be workshopped in June and take effect in July. OBR will be offered through the SBF Program in August 2021.

#### Program Design Considerations

On-Bill Repayment of loans and leases, not tied to the meter: This Proceeding has featured discussion of potential future "Tariffed On-Bill" (TOB) financing programs. The Tariffed On-Bill concept is unrelated to the CHEEF's OBR Program. OBR allows a utility customer to repay private, third-party capital financing charges when they pay their monthly utility bill. If a building occupant leaves the premises, a new occupant may voluntarily assume the loan or lease; the financing is not tied to the meter.

Statewide consistency for multiple lenders: OBR is designed to provide private finance companies with a centralized hub to receive repayments through bills of all four of the state's IOUs. While other states have implemented OBR programs, the CHEEF will run the first-of-its-kind open market approach to OBR, utilizing multiple finance companies and multiple utilities. The open market nature of the Program, combined with the need to accommodate four unique IOU billing systems, requires a highly complex infrastructure to ensure customer payments are processed and routed quickly and accurately.

**No residential disconnection for non-payment**: CAEATFA is currently working through the rulemaking process to add OBR functionality to the SBF Program. However, if OBR were to be added to the AMF Program or to REEL in PG&E territory, systems have already been designed to remove financing charges from the bill after missed payments, such that missed financing payments do not lead to disconnection.

Balancing finance company and IOU risk tolerance: Some Program design elements have taken a long time to work through to balance finance company business and operational needs and IOU risk management around customer billing. For example, CAEATFA and the IOUs coordinated extensively to develop rules around eligibility, documentation, and authorization required to connect a particular customer's financing agreement to their bill that would be acceptable to both IOUs and finance companies.

#### OBR Infrastructure

OBR infrastructure provides the means to ensure the timely and successful routing of customer payments through an IOU to a finance company, which is an essential requirement of the Program. Complicating the issue, however, is the fact that each of the four IOUs has their own unique billing

system with varying requirements and interfaces. Hence, the buildout of the infrastructure needed to support OBR has been significant and the result of extensive coordination between CAEATFA, its contracted Master Servicer, and the IOUs. Each of the IOUs has successfully performed Data Exchange Protocol (DEP) integration testing, and CAEATFA anticipates each IOU will likewise test operation of Cash Flow Protocol (CFP) systems prior to OBR launch. The OBR infrastructure that has been built includes:

- 1. Data Exchange Protocol (DEP): The Data Exchange Protocol describes a collection of file layout specifications and transmission sequencing protocols used to communicate OBR-related data between the IOUs and the Master Servicer, through specific files, relevant at various stages in the OBR process. The DEP governs the mechanisms by which the Master Servicer and the IOUs communicate information about on-bill loans and leases at all stages of OBR, from enrolling financing agreements in the Program to updating monthly financing charges, communicating delinquencies, and other information relating to ongoing servicing needs. Each IOU has undertaken significant programming of their billing systems to match the DEP.
- 2. Cash Flow Protocol (CFP): The process by which funds and related data are reliably transferred from the IOUs to each respective finance company is referred to as the Cash Flow Protocol (CFP). The CFP was developed by the Master Servicer for CAEATFA and provides for intricate processes and the software to timely and accurately process and remit funds from each IOU to each finance company's bank account and to validate the data corresponding to those remittances.

#### **OBR Tariff updates**

On-Bill Repayment Tariffs (OBR Tariffs) were previously filed as Advice Letters by the IOUs with the California Public Utilities Commission in 2015 and became effective in 2016. The OBR Tariffs were drafted prior to the development of OBR functionality by CAEATFA. Several aspects of the current design of OBR differ from those envisioned in 2015, rendering some language of the OBR Tariffs inaccurate, obsolete, or otherwise out of date. Updated OBR Tariffs were filed in February 2021 by most of the IOUs through Tier 2 Advice Letters and are expected to be approved in the coming weeks.

#### Upcoming OBR timeline

CAEATFA plans to release proposed regulations to modify the SBF Program ahead of a June workshop, in which CAEATFA will present the current OBR design. Vetting of the actual regulations by interested finance companies will provide a crucial check to determine if the Program will be feasible for them from a legal and regulatory standpoint. Following the June workshop and ensuing 10-day public comment period, provided that finance companies have the ability to move forward, CAEATFA plans to submit regulations to OAL for enactment and anticipates the SBF Program to offer OBR functionality in August.

## III. CHEEF Budget and Expenditures

#### **Current Budget Status**

CAEATFA currently has legislative budgetary approval to operate the Programs through June 30, 2022. In April 2020, CPUC Resolution E-5072 provided CAEATFA authorization to repurpose up to \$7.7 million in existing credit enhancement funds for CHEEF administration to operate the programs through June 30, 2022, should additional administrative funds be needed prior to longer-term CPUC direction. Thus far, CAEATFA has not needed to repurpose those funds, but anticipates needing to do so by Q4 2021 unless new direction comes from the CPUC sooner.

D.13-09-044 provided funding for each Program for a two-year period. In D.17-03-026, the CPUC authorized CAEATFA to continue operations of the Pilot Programs while each Pilot undergoes evaluation. This authorization allowed CAEATFA to administer the pilots without interruption for lenders and contractors during the 19 month REEL evaluation process. However, it has also meant that funding originally provided to CAEATFA for two years of Program implementation has had to be stretched to cover additional periods of administration. The budget table below includes expenses related to the operation of SBF and AMF as pilot programs, and of REEL during its 2-year pilot phase, the evaluation process, through CPUC deliberation leading to Resolution E-5072, and until now.

#### **CAEATFA's Budget Timeline**

In order to continue operating the CHEEF Programs beyond June 2022, CAEATFA requires CPUC approval of either additional funding or extended authorization to repurpose credit enhancement funds. Additionally, CAEATFA will need to submit a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) to the state legislature in September 2021 seeking budgetary approval to continue administering the Programs for fiscal year 22/23 and beyond. Therefore, the forthcoming summer Decision (as part of Track One in this Proceeding) needs to resolve the issue of CAEATFA's continued administration of REEL. The Decision also needs to at least partially resolve the funding questions related to the continued administration of SBF and AMF, even though CPUC evaluations will not yet have been completed, in order to prevent a lapse in Program delivery. Receiving clarity on long-term budget will also help provide lenders with confidence that the programs will continue to operate as they contemplate an investment of time and operational integration.

#### **CHEEF Budget Table**

A recap of the original \$75 million authorized for the CHEEF's budget and the spending to date is captured in the table on the next page.

# CHEEF Budget and Expenditures: September 2014 - December 31, 2020

Budget authorization information and end notes follow on the subsequent page.

Budget authorization information and end notes follow on the subsequent page.			
Item	Original Authorized Budget		
CHEEF Administration (CAEATFA)			
Start-up costs, CHEEF admin, direct implementation, outreach and training			
Allocation per D.13.09.044 for CAEATFA implementation	5,000,000		
CAEATFA outreach and training to finance companies and contractors	2,000,000		
Reserve fund allocation to CAEATFA in November 2016 [1]	8,360,000		
Credit Enhancement funds allocated for FYs 20-22, if needed, per Res E-5072	7,700,000		
Subtotal Allocated to CHEEF administration costs (CAEATFA)	23,060,000		
Expended through 12/31/20 [2]	(12,534,522)		
CHEEF Administration funds remaining	10,525,478		
Marketing, Education, Outreach (MEO)			
Statewide MEO plan initial allocation [3]	8,000,000		
Expended through 9/30/20 [4]	(7,954,727)		
ME&O funds remaining	45,273		
Credit Enhancement			
Initial allocation per D.13.09.044	42,900,000		
Earmarked by IOUs for Admin and Direct Implementation per PIPs [5]	(9,863,976)		
Funds allocated to CAEATFA for admin, if needed, for FYs 20-22, per E-5072 [6]	(7,700,000)		
Subtotal Credit Enhancement funds after administration	25,336,024		
Funds expensed as claims payments to lenders (less recoveries)	(175,902)		
Credit enhancement funds remaining in budget	25,160,122		
Currently encumbered as of 12/31/20 [7]	(2,440,864)		
Unencumbered Credit Enhancement funds available	22,719,259		
IOU Administration			
Start-up costs, On Bill Repayment (OBR) build-out, direct implementation			
Admin, general overhead and direct implementation per PIPs	9,863,976		
IT costs	8,000,000		
Subtotal allocated for IOU Administration	17,863,976		
Expended [8]	(17,863,976)		
IOU Administration funds remaining	-		
CHEEF Pilot Reserve			
Initial Allocation	9,344,931		
Allocated to CAEATFA for administration in November 2016	(8,360,000)		
Reserve remaining after administrative allocation	984,931		
Total Crisinal Bilat Budget	75 244 024		
Total Original Pilot Budget Total of Original Budget Expended	75,244,931 (38,529,127)		
Original Budget Expended Original Budget Remaining	36,715,804		
Original budget Remaining	30,713,804		

#### **Budget End Notes**

- Funds were authorized per the Joint Ruling of Assigned Commissioner and Administrative Law Judge on Financing Pilots and Associated Marketing Education and Outreach Activities, November 2016.
- 2. Quarterly expenditures are based on good faith estimates due to a lag in invoice submittals.
- 3. The initial allocation for ME&O also included \$2 million to CAEATFA for outreach to finance companies and contractors, and is depicted in the Subtotal Allocated to Hub Administration Costs (CAEATFA).
- 4. The contract for the statewide Marketing Implementer is administered by SoCalGas, and numbers reflect data reported to CAEATFA. The previous contract for the Marketing Implementer ended on 9/30/20. Resolution E-5072 permitted a new contract to be issued, keeping spending at current levels with funding from energy efficiency funding already approved and unutilized. From October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, the Marketing Implementer spent \$174,582.40.
- 5. Program Implementation Plans (PIPs) were filed by the IOUs and CHEEF in 2014 and 2015.
- 6. Resolution E-5072 allows CAEATFA to re-allocate up to \$7.7 million of Credit Enhancement funds for administrative purposes should funding become exhausted before a new long-term budget is allocated by the CPUC.
- 7. Credit Enhancement funds are allocated to Lender Loss Reserve accounts and recaptured when loans are paid off. They may also be paid out if a lender submits a claim for a default. For more detail, see tables 9-13.
- 8. CAEATFA does not have access to IOU expense details and assumes that all originally allocated administration funds have been spent. Decision 17.03.026 approved additional expenditures of up to \$500,000 per year, per IOU (and \$800,000 for SoCalGas) from 2017 through 2020, using funding from energy efficiency funding already approved or for incremental funding, subject to the Advice Letter process.

(END OF ATTACHMENT A)

# ATTACHMENT B

#### Proposal for Incorporation of Non-Ratepayer Funding into the CHEEF

#### I. Summary:

CAEATFA seeks CPUC approval to incorporate non-ratepayer sources of funding into the California Hub for Energy Efficiency Finance (CHEEF) and the CHEEF Programs and input on the proposed cost accounting methodology below. The purpose of utilizing non-ratepayer funds is to remove complexity for Program participants and to facilitate broader participation by contractors and lenders. Complexity exists because energy measures are only eligible through the CHEEF programs if they utilize an IOU fuel source.¹ However, lenders, contractors and borrowers do not view the world in terms of utility jurisdictions. Requiring these program participants to understand complex geographic eligibility criteria results in a significant burden in learning complicated requirements. CAEATFA believes that removing the eligibility and operational complexities that stem from the IOU/POU split will yield more projects in all territories, including IOU territories, ultimately realizing greater energy savings statewide. The CPUC has asked CAEATFA to provide a cost allocation methodology to ensure that ratepayer funds would not inappropriately subsidize projects for non-ratepayers. This memo presents an initial draft of a cost allocation methodology for feedback.

#### II. Background: Why CAEATFA is seeking this guidance

#### 1. Removing fuel source eligibility checks is key to simplifying the Programs...

In their current design, program rules require an IOU to provide the fuel for energy utilizing measures being upgraded or installed. (For example, for a customer to install a heat pump, the customer must receive electric service from an IOU). Operationally, this means that financing for a cool roof, which reduces electricity use, is eligible for a credit enhancement in West Sacramento (where PG&E provides both gas and electric service) but not in neighboring Sacramento (where PG&E provides gas but SMUD provides electric service). Additionally, while an HVAC package unit, which contains both a gas (furnace) and electric (air conditioning) component is permissible in both territories as it will conserve both fuels, an electric heat pump unit is permissible in West Sacramento, but is not eligible in the city of Sacramento. If you are confused by reading this paragraph, it is because administering measure eligibility by fuel source with overlapping utility jurisdictions is complex. This web of complexity creates frustration and confusion for program participants, including contractors and lenders, and creates implementation challenges leading to fewer projects. There are forty Publicly Owned Utilities (POUs) in the state. Finance companies and contractors know their particular industries well but do not conduct business based on the nuanced distinctions between IOU/POU jurisdictions.

#### 2. ...And, simplicity is key to Program growth

Since 2015, CAEATFA has advocated for program simplification, including a simple, statewide list of eligible measures. D.17.03.026 provided CAEATFA broad discretion over program design, including the ability to standardize measures for IOU customers. This simplification led to significant program growth, but the eligibility complexity related to fuel source remains. Allowing all gas and electric measures on

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Equipment is eligible if it utilizes an IOU fuel source; envelope measures are eligible if they conserve an IOU fuel source

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Technically, the programs allow lenders to finance electric measures in POU territories; that portion of the financing is just not eligible for a credit enhancement nor for a claim unless it is limited to 30% of the total financed amount. REEL lenders have generally required that the entire amount of their loan be claim-eligible and receive a credit-enhancement. Therefore, we use the word "permissible" in this paragraph to describe what financing is practically available to customers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>30% of the financing that is "claim-eligible" and receives a credit enhancement may be used toward electric measures for customers who are served by IOU gas and POU electric utilities. This is usually not enough to allow for the financing of heat pumps.

the Program's list of eligible measures to be financed with a credit enhancement statewide will dramatically simplify the program for contractors and lenders and CAEATFA anticipates the simplification would lead to increased uptake in IOU jurisdictions and program growth.

#### 3. We are leaving millions of customers out of decarbonization efforts

CHEEF Programs are well equipped to support the state's decarbonization goals which will require unprecedented collaboration between entities and the leveraging of private capital. Financing, supported by the CHEEF, can pay for installation of heat pumps for both air and water heating, and any associated costs for electric panel upgrades and water heater relocation. Both are important decarbonization measures that are being promoted heavily statewide through CPUC and CEC efforts and shift energy consumption to electric fuel sources. However, in many cases, electricity is provided by POUs. Currently, even though the overwhelming majority of POU customers are also IOU customers, those customers are excluded from financing decarbonization measures like efficient heat pump technology through the CHEEF.

#### III. Sources of non-ratepayer funds

CAEATFA will independently identify and seek sources of non-ratepayer funds and would not expect the CPUC to devote resources in this effort. Federal and state stimulus dollars present one potential source of funds. The federal government is poised to establish a Clean Energy Accelerator which would fund green banks across the country to support the type of lending that encourages greenhouse gas reduction - which already happens through the CHEEF. In March, the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee included \$100 billion in the CLEAN Future Act to launch the Accelerator. Federal or State agencies disbursing stimulus funds will likely give preference to existing programs that create jobs and can quickly deploy funds. The CHEEF Programs have proven, through the Residential Energy Efficiency Loan (REEL) Program, in particular, to be an effective model in putting local building contractors to work on home energy upgrades and helping customers make their homes more efficient and comfortable. Second, CAEATFA may approach individual POUs that may want to collaborate in offering CHEEF Programs to their customers.

Most significantly and most imminently, the implementer of the TECH pilot program which was established through D.20.03.027, received CPUC approval for their scope of work including providing funds to credit enhance projects for properties with POU-provided electricity through REEL. At current leverage ratios, an initial \$250,000 from just the first year of the TECH budget could provide a credit enhancement for \$1.65 million of private capital for heat pump technology, or 165 projects at \$10,000 each as part of an initial piloting of collaboration between TECH and REEL. Funds for TECH are Cap-and-Trade program funds authorized as part of SB 1477 and are not ratepayer funds. However, like ratepayer funds, they would be used to leverage additional private capital through the CHEEF. REEL provides customers and contractors a current choice of 8 lenders offering an unsecured loan product with attractive terms that are unavailable outside of the Program. A large focus of TECH will be to catalyze contractor adoption of heat pump technology across the state. A simple, statewide program, through which contractors know they can help their customers finance heat pump upgrades has the potential to bring real benefits to ratepayers, non-ratepayers, and the state as a whole.

#### IV. Precedent for incorporating non-ratepayer funding:

CAEATFA believes there is precedent for funding programs across utility jurisdictional lines. Most importantly, D.19-08-009, Decision Modifying the Energy Efficiency Three-Prong Test Related to Fuel Substitution, clearly allows programs within the IOU's Energy Efficiency Portfolios to support fuel substitution, regardless of whether that fuel is provided by a CPUC regulated entity or municipal entity.

The Decision states that ratepayers of the end-use fuel should pay for the program. If the ratepayers of the end-use fuel are not IOU ratepayers, then the need exists to marry funding sources in order to run a comprehensive program.<sup>4</sup> When operating their Home Upgrade Programs in prior years, IOUs entered into agreements with both other IOUs and at least one POU (LADWP) to cover cost sharing and allocation of energy savings, in order to offer comprehensive programs to customers.

#### V. Clarity on what CAEATFA Seeks:

CAEATFA understands that the CPUC has no regulatory authority over the POUs and is not looking for an opinion from the CPUC regarding POU activity. CAEATFA is seeking guidance from the CPUC on how to incorporate non-ratepayer funds into the CHEEF in a way that is fair for ratepayers, and for permission to utilize the CHEEF infrastructure to incorporate non-ratepayer funds to offer financing statewide. It is CAEATFA's opinion that no formal agreement with, nor directive to, the POUs is necessary to offer a financing product to customers in their service territories. However, formal collaboration between CAEATFA and the POUs may take place, if the POUs desired it, or if they were the source of the funds.

#### VI. Energy Savings Determinations

CAEATFA believes that IOU savings determinations for projects that involve measures related to both an IOU and POU fuel source would not necessarily be different than when a project involved measures related to two different IOU fuel sources. Currently, IOUs may claim savings for projects financed through the CHEEF when a customer utilizes an IOU rebate or incentive or takes part in an IOU Program. There is no currently approved savings methodology by which an IOU can claim savings for "finance only" projects absent the customer taking part in an IOU Program. However, as part of its ongoing Proceeding addressing the CHEEF Programs, the CPUC may choose to allow IOUs to claim energy savings for "finance only projects," or attribute GhG reductions to the CHEEF Programs. If this were to occur, the methodology approved for projects in IOU-POU territory could adopt the same or similar methodology used to allocate savings when two different IOUs service a property. CAEATFA will continue to obtain IOU utility account numbers and permission to share pre- and post-installation consumption data.

#### VII. Process to incorporate non-ratepayer funds:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> From D.19.08.009:

<sup>&</sup>quot;We agree with NRDC and Sierra Club that substitution of electricity with natural gas, or vice versa, should be eligible, regardless of whether the fuel is provided by a Commission-regulated entity or a municipal utility." (Discussion, page 12)

<sup>&</sup>quot;While the new fuel ratepayers will be the funding source, potential program administrators are not limited to utilities. All program administrators may propose to offer fuel substitution measures; the Commission will identify the appropriate funding sources and accounting treatment, as necessary." (Discussion, page 35)

<sup>&</sup>quot;Fuel substitution is defined as changing from one regulated fuel to another (e.g., from natural gas to electricity), whereas fuel switching involves changing from the use of a non-regulated fuel to a regulated one (e.g., from propane to electricity). 3. Fuel substitution is permissible within the energy efficiency portfolios of program administrators, regardless of whether both fuels are provided by Commission-regulated entities, whereas fuel switching is not covered in this decision and not funded by utility ratepayer energy efficiency funding." (Findings of Fact #2, page 50 -51)

<sup>&</sup>quot;The Commission should continue to permit fuel substitution, but not fuel switching, within the portfolios of the energy efficiency program administrators, and regardless of whether both electricity and natural gas are provided by Commission-regulated entities". (Conclusions of Law #2, page 53)

<sup>&</sup>quot;Fuel substitution measures should be funded by the ratepayers of the new fuel, not the original fuel being substituted. This should not create any inherent inequity." (Conclusions of Law #21, page 56)

If granted approval to utilize the CHEEF infrastructure to incorporate non-ratepayer funds, CAEATFA would:

- 1. Identify and obtain non-ratepayer funds;
- 2. Seek budgetary authority to expend the funds;
- 3. Modify CHEEF program regulations to accommodate measure eligibility expansion;
- 4. Open additional Trustee holding accounts to hold non-ratepayer funds to be used for credit enhancements
- 5. Simplify operations for lenders and contractors (e.g. removing fuel source eligibility checks); and
- 6. Update marketing and outreach materials to reflect the expansion

# VIII. Proposed cost allocation methodology draft

Table 1 outlines three different categories of expenses for the CHEEF and proposes how expenses in these categories should be allocated.

Note that the Program currently allows 30% of the Claim-Eligible Loan Principal to support non-IOU fuel measures.

Table 1. Expense Overview by Category		
Categories of expenses	Proposed Cost Allocation	Reasoning
<b>1. Past investment</b> E.g. Industry research, establishment of regulations, building website, lender and contractor recruitment, etc.	IOU Ratepayers	These costs were incurred to set up the CHEEF and CHEEF Programs for ratepayers. Expanding the Program now does not change the fact that these costs were necessary to launch.
2. Ongoing operational costs to maintain programs "as-is" (i.e. financing for IOU-fuel measures only) E.g. Contracts, labor, operating expense and equipment (OE&E).		The CHEEF would continue to incur these costs whether or not the Program removes limit on 30% non-IOU fuel measures.
	IOU Ratepayers	If expansion of the Program leads to more projects in IOU territory, as expected, fixed operational costs would be spread over a larger volume of loans and rate-payers would experience cost-inefficiencies.
3. Incremental cost to expand financing to include non-IOU fuel measures A. Start-up: operational changes to allow for expanded eligibility B. Ongoing: E.g. Inspections of electricsaving measures in POU territory, review and processing of loan enrollments, credit enhancement contribution for electric measures in POU territory (Note: not an expense unless a claim payment is made)	Non-IOU Ratepayer Source	These costs would [mostly] not be incurred by ratepayers if measure eligibility were not being expanded

Table 2 takes a closer look at what the incremental expenses to expand financing would be. Table 2A looks at the Start-up/Development costs to remove the IOU fuel measure eligibility requirement.

Table 2: Identifying Incremental Costs for Expansion to non-IOU fuel measures				
2A. Start-up/Development costs (examples)	Proposed Cost Allocation	Potential Methodology and Notes		
Contracts				
Contractor Manager: E.g. Time spent updating training materials, communicating expansion to contractors, QA set-up, building additional reporting infrastructure	Non-Ratepayer Source	Could be allocated by 1) actual time spent, 2) pro-rata of monthly historical charges or 3) estimate of hours		
Master Servicer: E.g. Database build out	Non-Ratepayer Source	Billable by specific task order and invoiced hours		
Marketing Implementer: E.g. Updating information on gogreenfinancing.com	Non-Ratepayer Source	Allocated by invoiced hours including coordination with CAEATFA. (Not a CAEATFA-administered contract. SoCalGas-administered)		
CAEATFA Labor	CAEATFA Labor			
Operations: E.g. Updating forms and data collection and tracking, updating accounting procedures, coordination with Trustee	Non-Ratepayer Source	Determine a percentage of time for a # of FTEs for an estimated period		
Outreach and education: E.g. updating websites, roll-out of new rules to Lenders, updating program materials, etc.	Non-Ratepayer Source	Determine a percentage of time for a # of FTEs for an estimated period		

Table 2B, on the next page, looks at what the ongoing costs of running CHEEF Programs with non-IOU fuel measure eligibility with regard to both fixed and variable costs. An "IOU fuel" measure, for the purpose of this document and for CHEEF Program eligibility means equipment that utilizes an IOU-provided fuel (e.g., an air conditioner when an IOU provides electricity) or an envelope type measure that conserves fuel provided by an IOU (e.g., attic insulation assuming that an IOU provides gas for heating).

2B. Ongoing costs (examples)	Proposed Cost Allocation	Potential Methodology and Notes	
2Bi. Fixed Costs			
Contracts			
Master Servicer monthly fee	Ratepayers	Not an incremental expense; cost is incurred with or without expansion	
Trustee Bank monthly fee	Ratepayers	Not an incremental expense; cost is incurred with or without expansion	
Contractor Manager ME&O, Support, Enrollment	Shared	Determine a percentage of effort and apply pro-rata to invoiced hours or look at contractor service territory to allocate Support and Enrollment costs	
Contractor Manager monthly costs for Training and Reporting	Ratepayers	Not an incremental expense; cost is incurred without expansion	
Other Expenditures and Equipment			
Overhead	Ratepayers	Not an incremental expense until expansion requires hiring additional FTEs and more usage of office equipment, etc.	
Conferences, event sponsorships, travel	Shared	Allocated by specific conference or event expenses	
Labor			
Program, ME&O and compliance staff	Shared	Pro-rata portion of a # of FTE(s) in each unit to support the expanded program	
2Bii. Variable Costs			
Technical consultant Fees	Shared	Allocated based on time billed	
Loans with only non-IOU fuel measures			
Transaction Expense Examples (per loan)			
Loan review and enrollment (Master Servicer)	Non-Ratepayer Source	Allocated based on # of loans	
QA Desktop reviews (Contractor Manager)	Non-Ratepayer Source	Allocated based on # of loans	
QC Site-inspections (Contractor Manager)	Non-Ratepayer Source	Allocated based on # of loans	
Loans with both IOU and non-IOU fuel measures			
Transaction Expense Examples (per loan)			
Loan review and enrollment (Master Servicer)	Shared	See methodology options in Table 4	
QA Desktop reviews (Contractor Manager)	Shared	See methodology options in Table 4	
QC Onsite-inspections (Contractor Manager)	Shared	See methodology options in Table 4	

Table 3 itemizes the different types of transactions related to the credit enhancement funds.

Table 3: Credit Enhancement Management			
Encumbrance/Cost	Proposed Cost Allocation	Potential Methodology and Notes	
Loss Reserve Account set-up	Both ratepayer and non-ratepayer funds would be contributed to a lender's existing single loss reserve account(s) per one or more of the methodology options below in Table 4. Maintaining distinct loss reserve accounts for the lenders between different sources of funds would drastically diminish the value of the loss reserve as risk mitigation comes from having a pool of loans.		
Loss Reserve Contributions to Lender's Accounts (Encumbered, but not expensed funds)	Shared	See methodology options in Table 4 below	
Claims Payments (Expenses)	Shared	Paid to a lender from their Loss Reserve Account regardless of the fuel source makeup of the underlying measures.  New loans with non-IOU fuel measures should have similar risk to old loans so the risk of default is proportional to the number of loans in the portfolio. More non-IOU fuel loans in the portfolio will mean more risk of default, but also come with more \$ in loss reserve contribution. As older, IOU-fuel only loans are paid off, funds are recaptured to the IOU Program account.	
Recoveries	Shared	Recoveries on losses after claims will be repaid to the lender's loss reserve account.	
Annual Rebalance (Recapture of encumbered funds)	Shared	The original loan loss reservation will be recouped for paid-off loans. The value of any contribution that was paid from ratepayer LLR funds will be returned to the ratepayer Program account and the value that was paid from non-ratepayer funds will be returned to the non-ratepayer Program account.	

Table 4 proposes options as to how both transaction costs and the credit enhancement could be allocated for loans with both IOU and non-IOU fuel measures.

# Table 4: Options for Allocating Loan Transaction Costs and Credit Enhancement Contribution for Loans with Both IOU and non-IOU Fuel Measures

CAEATFA is presenting several options for comment and discussion.

Note that the Program currently allows 30% of the Claim-Eligible Loan Principal to support non-IOU fuel measures.

Allocation Option	Pros	Cons
1. Pro-rata for each loan/project by measure fuel source.  Allocate transaction costs and loss reserve contribution directly to measure costs.  CAEATFA would use non-ratepayer funds first, whenever available, to pay for the pro-rata cost corresponding to the non-IOU measures. If non-ratepayer funds aren't available, CAEATFA would revert to rate-payer funds to allow for up to 30% of loan to support non-IOU fuel measures.  Allowed additional related costs (e.g. landscaping) would have to pro-rata allocated based on overall gas versus electric composition.	Most "fair" method for ratepayers or other funding source as costs for all loans are pro-rated specifically to measures and corresponding fuel source. When feasible, CAEATFA prefers this method. If another funding source is available, CHEEF Programs don't need to use the 30% allowance for non-IOU measures.	The calculation for cost allocation is run uniquely for each loan. CAEATFA currently collects measure cost breakdown for REEL but not for SBF projects. Building envelope measures would have to be split and allocated between fuels.
2. Screen for non-IOU measures, then even split:  Any project that includes a non-IOU fuel conserving measure will be allocated x% to ratepayer and x% to non-ratepayer costs.	Calculations are simple as all loans with non-IOU measures are treated the same. This would be easy to implement.	These methods are more estimated and less precise. We could end up with an allocation of costs that doesn't correspond to the types of measures by fuel source that end up being installed. For example, under Option #3 the non-
3. Treat all loans the same: A simple formula would be developed and applied to all projects for properties where the customer has a non-IOU fuel provider, regardless of the measures installed. We would assume a constant x% of costs allocated for gas and x% for electricity.	Calculations are simple as all loans to properties with a non-IOU fuel provider are treated the same.	ratepayer source could end up subsidizing a bunch of projects without any electric measures. Other potential funding partners may hesitate to participate as they would not be able t target funds toward specific technology. Since non-IOU fuel measures have only been offered previously in a very limited way, there is not much history on which to base a formula. Significant re-evaluation would be needed.

(END OF ATTACHMENT B)