MCE RFP 2026-03 - Responses to Questions Submitted

1. If a bidder's CEC-funded project involved a different program type (e.g., data infrastructure or program evaluation) rather than a VPP or DER-aggregation program specifically, does that satisfy the requirement in Attachment A, Section B1 that bidders cite at least one project funded through a CEC Grant, or must the CEC-funded project be tied to VPP/DER-aggregation work specifically?

   A bidder's experience with any CEC project is sufficient.

2. Can MCE confirm whether any portion of the VPP 2X program (or the prior Richmond VPP pilot) has been implemented using a third-party DERMS/aggregator vendor platform, and if so, whether that vendor is expected to also respond to this RFP as a bidder?

   MCE has a perpetual license to its eDERMS which was purpose built during the pilot phase for CCA VPP Operations. MCE also has a DERMS Operator on the project team. This solicitation is seeking an M&V Provider who will access data from the eDERMS and other MCE sources to measure project performance. MCE's existing DERMS operator/provider is not expected to respond to this RFP.

3. Does the minimum qualification requiring "technical capability to operate within an OpenADR-enabled DERMS environment" require the M&V provider to independently operate or own DERMS infrastructure, or does it refer to the ability to integrate with and receive data from MCE's existing eDERMS platform (e.g., via API/data feed) for M&V purposes?

   MCE eDERMS is operated by its existing DERMS Operator. The selected M&V Provider will be expected to interact with MCE's existing DERMS, and this will include some processing and analysis of OpenADR payloads to verify DERMS performance

4. Can MCE specify which CAISO market program(s) the VPP participates in or intends to participate in (e.g., Proxy Demand Resource, Demand Response Auction Mechanism, Reliability Demand Response Resource)?

   MCE and the project team will be evaluating all available pathways to market participation, but our initial focus will be on the utilization of the Proxy Demand Resource market participation model. The specific CAISO markets that MCE decides to participate in during the VPP FLEX project are to be identified in the project's Economic Dispatch Plan and are subject to regulatory and CAISO requirements.

5. Does the "CAISO Market Participation (Y/N)" field in Attachment A's M&V Experience table require the bidder itself to have been a direct CAISO market participant, or does experience analyzing/integrating CAISO market data on behalf of a CAISO-participating program administrator satisfy this?

   Experience analyzing/integrating CAISO market data on behalf of a CAISO-participating administrator is sufficient.

6. The RFP requires bidders to demonstrate compliance with applicable California and California Energy Commission requirements and references the use of California-based staff or subcontractors. Please clarify whether all personnel performing the M&V Provider scope must be based in California, or whether a bidder may use qualified out-of-state technical staff while maintaining a California business presence and engaging California-based staff or subcontractors for portions of the work.

   The RFP does not require every individual performing the M&V scope to reside or be physically based in California. However, the selected prime contractor must demonstrate that it satisfies the RFP's California-vendor and California-nexus requirements.

   A bidder may propose qualified out-of-state technical personnel as part of its team, provided the bidder demonstrates an adequate California nexus through factors such as authorization to conduct business in California, a California office or business presence, California-based staff or subcontractors, relevant California project experience, and the ability to comply with applicable California and CEC requirements.

   MCE will evaluate the bidder's overall organizational structure, California nexus, staffing approach, and ability to perform the work for this California-based project.

7. If a minimum percentage of labor or contract expenditures must be incurred in California, please identify the applicable threshold and explain how compliance will be evaluated.

   The RFP does not establish a fixed minimum percentage of labor or contract expenditures that the M&V contractor must incur in California. Proposals will therefore not be evaluated against a specific California labor-spending percentage.

   The approved CEC project budget identifies 99.77% of total CEC reimbursable funds as expected to be spent in California or paid to California-based entities. This is an aggregate grant-level budget figure and is not a bidder-specific or labor-only threshold.

Compliance for this procurement will be evaluated based on whether the bidder satisfies the California-vendor and California-nexus requirements described in the RFP and whether its proposed staffing and subcontracting approach is consistent with applicable California and CEC requirements.

8. Expected Role and Level of Ongoing Involvement: The RFP describes the selected M&V provider as a core member of the VPP project team and includes responsibilities that appear operational in nature, such as data integration, payment validation, coordination with project partners, methodology development, and ongoing program optimization. However, the formal deliverables are limited primarily to the M&V Plan, M&V Parameters Report, and three annual performance reports.

   Can MCE clarify the expected role of the selected M&V provider throughout the contract term? Specifically, should bidders assume the provider will serve as an ongoing operational partner performing recurring measurement, payment validation, data reconciliation, and program support throughout the year, with the annual reports serving as summaries of that work, or as an independent evaluator performing measurement activities primarily in conjunction with the required annual deliverables? Additionally, what measurement cadence—following each event, monthly, quarterly, annually, or another cadence—should bidders assume when preparing their technical approach and pricing?

   The role of the M&V Provider throughout the contract term will be to measure and verify the key performance impact metrics identified in the M&V Parameters Report deliverable. The process and distribution of labor involved with completing the required measurement and verification labor will be defined in detail in the Measurement and Verification Plan deliverable. The project scope requires that project performance is measured and reported to the CEC on an annual basis, and we do not anticipate needing measurement and verification monthly or quarterly.

   The selected M&V Provider will be required to verify the key performance impacts of the VPP FLEX project annually, including but not limited to items such as kWh of load modification delivered (incl., total annual, by asset class, by season, during specified event windows, etc.) using CAISO-accepted Performance Evaluation Methodologies (PEMs), the value generated from the VPP program (i.e., customer incentives, trade ally performance payments, MCE operational cost savings, revenue generated from market participation events, etc.).

   In order to complete the required measurement and verification work, the selected M&V Provider must effectively integrate with MCE's enterprise data systems to access protected data sets that include personally identifiable information (PII). This will require active coordination between MCE, members of the project team, and the selected M&V Provider to define the procedures, develop the pathways, depositories, and data flows that, and complete sufficient testing to ensure that the M&V process is robust and manageable.

MCE expects that the selected M&V Provider will also be fluent with the PEMs that are currently approved for use by CAISO, including the 10-in10, 5-in-10, Control Group, Weather Matching, Meter Generator Output (MGO), and Load Shift Resource (LSR). MCE and the project team are actively evaluating a range of PEMs, including alternative approaches that address known deficiencies of the PEMs that are currently accepted by CAISO, and we anticipate the potential opportunity to do a pilot demonstration of an alternative PEM in collaboration with CAISO using the VPP FLEX project performance data. The selected M&V Provider will be expected to support the project team in the development, assessment, and implementation of the alternative PEMs utilized during the VPP FLEX project.

9. Program Purpose and Operating Model: Can MCE provide additional details regarding the design and operating model of the VPP program? Specifically, is the program primarily intended to measure event-based load reduction, ongoing load shifting and shaping, energy efficiency impacts, DER dispatch performance, or some combination of these use cases?

   MCE’s VPP FLEX project aims to generate maximum value through an Economic Dispatch framework that combines market-aware daily load shaping, market-integrated Demand Response events, and dynamic DER dispatch. The project will aggregate batteries, heat pumps, EVSE, variable-speed pumps and motors, Building Energy Management Systems, and other assets into PDR aggregations capable of providing market-integrated energy and ancillary services, as well as supporting out-of-market grid and program needs. Dispatch will be event-based, although recurring events across multiple days will also create ongoing load shifting and shaping.

   The program will participate in market-based events requiring approved M&V methodologies and out-of-market events that may use other fit-for-purpose methods. M&V must verify individual DER and aggregate VPP performance, baseline accuracy, response to market signals and dispatch instructions, and delivered performance compared with bids, awards, schedules, or requested quantities. Traditional energy-efficiency impact measurement is not the program’s primary purpose, although efficiency measures may affect load profiles, flexibility, and baseline calculations.

10. How does MCE expect these use cases to evolve over the contract term, and which outcomes are most important to the program's success?

Generally speaking, MCE anticipates that over the course of the VPP FLEX project the fleet of connected DERs will grow in size (MW/MWh) and diversity (number of asset types), and that the Economic Dispatch Plan will become more complex as we expand the number of use-cases. This would indicate that the first annual M&V Report will have less complexity than subsequent reports, which would allow the selected M&V Provider to devote more time to the development of the M&V Parameters Report and M&V Plan deliverables and the integration with MCE's enterprise data systems.

The primary lens for viewing the success of the VPP FLEX project is the Return on Investment calculations and reports. Demonstrating that the VPP is generating sufficient value for MCE to recoup its investment and earn a return is of the highest importance to MCE and the CEC.

11. CAISO, Regulatory, and Evaluation Objectives: Can MCE clarify which market, regulatory, and evaluation requirements the M&V work is expected to support? For example, should bidders assume that the scope includes CAISO market participation or settlement, CPUC Load Impact Protocol reporting, CEC grant evaluation, customer and partner payment validation, internal program optimization, or some combination of these purposes?

Where multiple requirements apply, which should govern the design of the M&V methodology and reporting approach?

Development of the M&V Plan deliverable will be a key part of the contracted scope of work for the selected M&V Provider, and it will be done in consultation with MCE and the project team.

MCE expects the M&V Plan to include measurement and verification of key performance indicators relating to our implementation of the VPP FLEX project. This includes satisfying all applicable CEC requirements for M&V in an EPIC grant project setting. To achieve this, MCE anticipates that the selected M&V Provider will verify the costs incurred and the values generated by the VPP at annual intervals to support the required reporting, including ROI (Return On Investment). Costs will include customer incentives, VPP Partner performance payments, and all other applicable VPP FLEX grant-related expenditures. Values generated will include customer cost savings, MCE cost savings (i.e., procurement of energy and/or resource adequacy), and revenue from market participation. MCE does not currently anticipate the selected M&V Provider supporting any CPUC reporting.

Satisfying the CEC requirements for M&V in an EPIC grant setting is a primary focus and expectation for the selected M&V Provider.

12. Evaluation Responsibilities and Division of Roles: Will the selected M&V provider serve as the primary independent evaluator for the VPP program, including preparation of any required load impact or regulatory evaluation reports, or will another evaluator be responsible for those functions?

    If responsibilities will be divided among multiple parties, can MCE describe the expected division of roles among the M&V provider, MCE, the eDERMS provider, aggregators, OEMs, program implementers, and any independent evaluators?

    The primary role of the selected M&V Provider will be to provide independent third-party measurement and verification of key performance indicators of MCE's VPP FLEX project for the purposes of performance reporting to the CEC in fulfillment of the M&V requirements. The selected M&V Provider will review and verify MCE's Performance Evaluation Methodology (PEM) and Settlement Quality Meter Data (SQMD) filings to CAISO annually but will not be responsible for preparing or submitting those filings. The same would also apply to any regulatory performance reporting that is required or applicable.

13. DERMS Architecture and OpenADR Responsibilities: Can MCE describe the anticipated eDERMS and OpenADR architecture, including how dispatch instructions will flow from MCE through the eDERMS to aggregators, OEM platforms, and enrolled devices?

    What role, if any, is the selected M&V provider expected to play within that architecture? For example, is the provider expected to operate or emulate an OpenADR Virtual Top Node, receive OpenADR payloads and reports for validation only, reconcile dispatch records against downstream responses, or support another function?

    MCE's eDERMS is an internally operated system that will monitor MCE's portfolio of customer accounts and distributed energy resources (DERs), evaluate available use cases, and determine when DER assets should be dispatched for portfolio management, customer benefit, cost savings, or revenue generation through participation in the CAISO market.

    OpenADR will serve as the communications mechanism between the eDERMS and participating DERs, whether those resources are reached through an aggregator, an OEM platform, or a direct device integration. The anticipated workflow is as follows:

    1. A use case or operational need is defined within the eDERMS.
    2. The eDERMS evaluates and value-stacks the available use cases and selects the most appropriate application for the eligible DERs.

3. The eDERMS identifies the appropriate resources and issues dispatch instructions through OpenADR.
4. The applicable aggregator, OEM platform, or enrolled device receives instructions and responds to the event.
5. Meter, telemetry, dispatch, and settlement data are collected to evaluate performance and allocate the resulting value among the customer, VPP partners, MCE, and any other applicable parties.

Each use case may have its own measurement and verification procedures, performance requirements, customer baseline methodology, and value-allocation rules.

The selected M&V provider is not expected to operate or emulate an OpenADR Virtual Top Node or to independently analyze the technical contents of OpenADR instructions. Instead, the provider's primary responsibility will be to verify the end-to-end outcome of selected use cases. This may include confirming:

- The eDERMS activated the appropriate use case.
- The correct DERs were selected in accordance with the use-case rules.
- Dispatch instructions were issued and received by the intended resources or downstream platforms.
- The selected DERs responded as expected throughout the event.
- Customer baselines (CBLs) were calculated correctly.
- The difference between the CBL and event-period meter data was calculated correctly.
- The expected operational, customer, portfolio, or market value was realized.
- Payments, credits, and other value allocations to customers, VPP partners, MCE, and other parties were calculated and applied correctly.

MCE may make relevant OpenADR records, dispatch logs, acknowledgments, downstream response data, telemetry, and meter data available to support this validation. The M&V provider may therefore reconcile dispatch records against downstream acknowledgments and observed performance, but this function is intended as validation of the event and its results—not as responsibility for operating the OpenADR infrastructure or managing dispatches.

This level of detailed analysis is not expected for every event. MCE anticipates that the provider will conduct deep-dive reviews on a randomized, risk-based, or as-needed basis. The sampling frequency will reflect program participation levels, operational experience, and the need to establish reasonable assurance that the VPP is consistently producing the expected results. MCE and the selected provider will mutually refine the procedures, sampling methodology, and reporting requirements as the eDERMS and associated programs mature.

14. Device, Customer, and Participant Composition: What customer segments, DER technologies, aggregators, OEMs, and partner types are expected to participate during each year of the contract?

    Can MCE provide estimated numbers of enrolled customers, sites, devices, and partners by customer segment and DER type, as well as anticipated growth over the project term?

    MCE anticipates that a mix of commercial, industrial, municipal, and residential customers will be enrolled in the VPP program over the course of the VPP FLEX project. MCE's VPP program is technology agnostic, which means that we are creating a flexible system that allows virtually any DER that can be integrated via OpenADR to participate in our VPP. MCE intends to integrate a diversity of DER types into the VPP program, including battery energy storage, electric vehicle service equipment, heat pumps, smart thermostats and HVAC systems, building energy management systems, etc.

    MCE is currently preparing a series of procurements to solicit proposals and qualifications from original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), project developers, project financiers, and DER aggregators. We cannot confirm which specific companies will respond to these solicitations, nor which of those will execute contracts with MCE to enable participation in the VPP FLEX project at this time.

    MCE expects the VPP enrollments to begin in 2027, with the connected capacity to start small and grow steadily over the remaining project timeline. MCE aims to enroll a minimum of 3 megawatts of flexible load over the course of the VPP FLEX project. We cannot provide estimates of the number of customers, sites, or devices at this juncture, as this is dependent on the outcomes of the aforementioned solicitations. MCE does anticipate that the fleet of registered DERs will initially be heavily weighted towards battery energy storage, electric vehicles and EV service equipment, and dispatchable residential heat pump systems.

15. Event Volume and Dispatch Characteristics: Approximately how many VPP dispatch events are anticipated annually, and what assumptions should bidders use regarding event duration, seasonality, notice period, frequency, and participant volume per event?

    Should bidders also anticipate non-event or continuous load-shaping activity that will require measurement outside formally declared dispatch events?

    MCE and the project team are currently working on the initial Economic Dispatch Plan, which will outline MCE's dispatch strategy for all DER asset types. MCE will be evaluating and implementing a wide range of dynamic dispatch strategies designed to create maximum value from each DER type and participating customer segment.

The resulting Economic Dispatch Plan will provide a comprehensive outline of how each distinct DER asset type will be dispatched over the course of a year, and this will likely include seasonal strategies and a mix of daily load shaping and CAISO market participation using the Proxy Demand Resource (PDR) market participation mechanism. It is important to note that MCE intends to create value with the VPP all year round and is not limiting our dispatch strategy to only the summer months or the 4-9pm window.

16. Data Availability and Source Ownership: What data will be made available to the selected M&V provider, including AMI interval data, settlement-quality meter data, participant enrollment and eligibility data, event metadata, device telemetry, tariff enrollment, billing data, customer attributes, weather data, and CAISO market data?

    Who will provide each dataset, and will MCE be responsible for securing all necessary customer authorizations and third-party data rights?

    Determining the data needs and sources will be a foundational component of the M&V Plan development work led and coordinated by the selected M&V Provider. As the primary contractor, MCE will be ultimately responsible for ensuring that the necessary data is made available to the selected M&V Provider in a timely, secure, and accessible manner. This data may include, but is not limited to: AMI interval data, settlement-quality meter data, participant enrollment and eligibility data, VPP capacity and value forecast data, event metadata (incl. OpenADR payloads), eDERMS performance data, device telemetry, tariff terms and enrollment, pay-for-performance contract terms, billing data, customer attributes, weather data, and CAISO market data

17. Data Latency and Measurement Turnaround: What data latency should the selected provider expect for AMI, telemetry, event, and settlement data following a dispatch?

    Are there required turnaround times for event-level results, customer or partner payment validation, annual true-up calculations, or market-facing settlement outputs?

    The selected M&V Provider will be responsible for completing annual M&V Reports and will not be responsible for measuring or verifying individual events during the performance year. MCE anticipates that the annual measurement and verification process will take place primarily in Q1 of each calendar year during the project timeline. Complete performance data from the previous calendar year will be provided to the selected M&V Provider in January, and MCE anticipates that the selected M&V Provider will complete the verification process within 30-60 days of receiving the data so that customer and VPP Partner true-up payments can be delivered in April each year.

18. Integration Expectations: Should bidders assume persistent system integrations with MCE's cloud environment, the eDERMS, aggregators, OEMs, utility systems, and market data sources throughout the contract, or will data primarily be made available through periodic batch transfers?

    Are APIs, SFTP endpoints, cloud data shares, or other interfaces already established, and which integrations would the selected provider be responsible for building and maintaining?

    Data will be primarily made available to the selected M&V Provider through periodic batch transfers at pre-determined intervals, and MCE does not anticipate the need for real time data feeds to the M&V Provider. However, MCE and the project team will coordinate with the selected M&V Provider to determine if any persistent system integrations with our cloud or eDERMS software are necessary and/or beneficial. If such integrations are deemed necessary, MCE will facilitate those integrations. MCE will also review any existing APIs, SFTP endpoints, and other interfaces with the selected M&V Provider to determine if any are applicable.

19. Tariff, Payments, and Settlement Logic: Can MCE clarify how the current VPP tariff and anticipated future dynamic tariff relate to the M&V scope?

    One of the primary sources of value generated by MCE's VPP FLEX project is the value delivered to participating customers through the adopted VPP Tariffs. Participating commercial and industrial (C&I) customers receive $0.11/kWh for the flexible load (kWh/MWh) delivered to the VPP each calendar year. Therefore, it is crucial that the calculations that underpin these customer incentive payments are verified by an independent third party.

20. Which payment calculations must be independently produced or validated by the selected provider, including residential flat credits, commercial and industrial monthly advance payments, annual true-up payments, VPP partner compensation, and any market revenues or settlements?

    The selected M&V Provider will independently validate the following payment calculations: VPP Tariff-related compensation to participating customers, including monthly bill credits and annual true-up payments, pay-for-performance (P4P) payments to contracted VPP Partners, and CAISO market revenues.

21. Will MCE provide the governing calculation rules and payment logic, or is the selected provider expected to develop or materially refine them?

    The rules, logic, and formulas that govern the tariff payment calculations will be provided by MCE to the M&V provider. MCE will lead the dynamic tariff design and establish the related value sharing terms. Feedback on draft dynamic tariff designs may be requested from the M&V provider.

22. Performance Evaluation Methodology and CAISO Integration: What outcome does MCE ultimately seek from the development and refinement of new Performance Evaluation Methodologies?

    Is the selected provider expected only to test and document an NMEC-based methodology, or also to support CAISO stakeholder engagement, tariff or business-practice revisions, approval proceedings, implementation, and operational settlement?

    MCE seeks to demonstrate the feasibility, efficacy, and benefit of an NMEC-based performance evaluation methodology (PEM) in collaboration with CAISO and other stakeholders working together in the Demand and Distributed Energy Market Integration (DDEMI) Working Group. The intended outcome of this effort is for CAISO to review and approve this new PEM for settlement purposes for Demand Response performance calculations.

    The selected M&V Provider is not expected to play an operational role in the settlement process with CAISO, but it will be expected to support the related development, testing, documentation, and presentation (i.e., knowledge transfer) of the new PEM during the VPP FLEX implementation timeline. The selected M&V Provider will also be expected to validate MCE's implementation of the new PEM, meaning that they will be responsible for verifying that the methodology was implemented correctly.

23. Intellectual Property and CEC-Funded Work Product: What intellectual property, licensing, data-rights, and work-product requirements will apply to methodologies, software, configurations, models, reports, and other materials used or developed in connection with the CEC-funded project?

    If the selected applicant has intellectual property concerns, it will be asked to fill out the standard CEC partner template, "Exhibit C Attachment 1: Confidential Products and Project-Relevant Pre-Existing and Independently Funded Intellectual Property." This document will allow for the identification of preexisting intellectual property the recipient deems to be confidential.

Per the agreement terms, "During the Agreement, if the Recipient develops additional information not originally anticipated as confidential, it must follow the procedures for a request for designation of confidential information specified in Title 20 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 2505."... "When submitting products containing confidential information, the Recipient must mark each page of any document containing confidential information as "confidential" and present it in a sealed package to the Contracts, Grants, and Loans Office."

24. Can MCE confirm that bidders may retain ownership of pre-existing software, open-source methods, algorithms, and proprietary platform capabilities, while granting MCE and the CEC only the rights necessary to use project-specific deliverables?

    If the selected applicant has intellectual property concerns, they will be asked to fill out the standard CEC partner template, "Exhibit C Attachment 1: Confidential Products and Project-Relevant Pre-Existing and Independently Funded Intellectual Property." This document will allow for the identification of preexisting intellectual property the recipient deems to be confidential.

    Per the agreement terms, "During the Agreement, if the Recipient develops additional information not originally anticipated as confidential, it must follow the procedures for a request for designation of confidential information specified in Title 20 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 2505."... "When submitting products containing confidential information, the Recipient must mark each page of any document containing confidential information as "confidential" and present it in a sealed package to the Contracts, Grants, and Loans Office."

25. CEC Participation in Procurement and Governance: Will CEC personnel participate in proposal evaluation, bidder interviews, contractor selection, deliverable review, or approval of the selected provider?

    No

26. Which CEC office, division, or grant-management team is responsible for EPC-24-040, and what ongoing role will that team have during implementation?

    CEC's EPC-24-040 is managed by the Energy Research and Development Division (ERDD). An ERDD staff member is the action Commission Agreement Manager (CAM) who regularly meets with MCE to review recent activities, provide feedback on deliverables, field any requests of alteration on the proposal scope and timeline, as well as engage in regular dialogue about the development of the proposal.

27. Success Criteria: Beyond completion of the listed deliverables, what outcomes will define a successful engagement from MCE's perspective? (Are there target levels for measurement accuracy, data completeness, reporting timeliness, payment-validation turnaround, CAISO readiness, stakeholder acceptance, program scalability, or return on investment that bidders should address?)

    The approval of the listed M&V deliverables by the CEC CAM is a high priority, and MCE is seeking a provider with demonstrated experience providing M&V services within the CEC EPIC framework.

    Fluency with CAISO PEMs and SQMD procedures is important to MCE and the success of the project.

    The turnaround time of the validation of the key VPP impact metrics detailed in the M&V Plan in Q1 of each calendar year is crucial, because the annual true-up payments will not be processed and sent to participants until the M&V work has been completed and the calculations have been verified. Some of the late-season performance data will not be made available until January, yet the selected M&V Provider must still complete the annual M&V process by March 31st.

28. Software and Commercial Structure: Attachment C requests labor classifications and hourly billing rates. Is MCE open to proposals that include a software subscription or platform licensing component, with implementation, data enablement, and advisory services priced separately, provided that bidders also supply the requested labor rates and deliverable-level costs?

    MCE is seeking an M&V provider to fulfill the requirements of the VPP FLEX project, which is funded in part by the CEC's EPIC program, and does not have a stated preference regarding whether the selected provider does so using a "software-enabled platform" or "consulting services supported by analytical tools." We are interested in establishing a robust yet sustainable measurement and verification paradigm for the VPP program that provides transparency and instills trust in all stakeholders. MCE will consider any proposal that meets the minimum criteria outlined in the RFP 2026-03.

29. Software Versus Consulting Preference: Does MCE have a preference for a software-enabled M&V platform that supports repeatable calculations, configurable workflows, auditability, and ongoing reporting, or is MCE primarily seeking consulting services supported by analytical tools?

    Will MCE consider the long-term operating value and scalability of a platform-based approach in addition to the direct cost of producing the required reports?

MCE is seeking an M&V provider to fulfill the requirements of the VPP FLEX project, which is funded in part by the CEC's EPIC program, and does not have a stated preference regarding whether the selected provider does so using a "software-enabled platform" or "consulting services supported by analytical tools." We are interested in establishing a robust yet sustainable measurement and verification paradigm for its VPP program that provides transparency and instills trust in all stakeholders. MCE will consider any proposal that meets the minimum criteria outlined in the RFP 2026-03.

30. Data Governance, Auditability, and Reproducibility: Are there specific audit, traceability, retention, or reproducibility requirements for measurement results, including version control of source data, methodologies, calculation logic, assumptions, model outputs, and historical payment determinations?

    Respondents may propose the traceability, retention, reproducibility, and quality assurance approaches they believe are appropriate for a rigorous M&V implementation. Requirements regarding version control of source data, methodologies, calculation logic, assumptions, model outputs, and historical payment determinations would be addressed through the M&V Plan, contract negotiations, or applicable CAM direction

31. Must MCE, the CEC, or other reviewers be able to independently reproduce calculations, and if so, what level of access to software, code, or calculation artifacts is expected?

    EPC-24-040 requires that project results, methodologies, and findings be documented to a degree sufficient for the California Energy Commission (CEC), MCE, and other authorized reviewers to evaluate and validate the reported outcomes. The specific approach to documenting calculations, analyses, and supporting work products will be addressed through the M&V Plan, the M&V contract, and any applicable direction provided by the Commission Agreement Manager (CAM).

32. Attachment B states a 10p limit for the narrative proposal – is it acceptable to also include a cover page, table of contents, executive summary, and tab pages in the proposal, counting outside of the page limit?

    The cover page, table of contents, and executive summary will not count towards page limits.

33. Attachment B establishes a 10-page maximum for the Proposal Narrative and separately instructs bidders to "attach a sample calculation or modeling approach (one total required)." However, during the Bidder's Conference, MCE appeared to indicate that the sample calculation/modeling approach should be included within the 10-page maximum. Can MCE please clarify whether the required sample calculation/modeling approach may be provided as an attachment in addition to the 10-page Proposal Narrative, or whether it must be included within the 10-page limit?

    Yes, the required sample calculation/modeling approach should be provided as an attachment in addition to the 10-page Proposal Narrative.

34. For a prime and subcontractor team, should Attachment A Section A company information be completed for the prime only, or for both firms? Similarly, may the two required Section B project examples be drawn from either firm, and may bidders submit additional project examples for the subcontractor in the optional Section B.2 narrative? Does the 500-word limit in Section B.2 apply to the section as a whole?

    If subcontractors are included, please provide a separate Attachment A: Bidder Qualification form for the subcontractor, identifying them as a subcontractor on the form.

    Please also include documentation of subcontractor costs in Attachment C: Cost Proposal Form,

    Please also describe relationship and project management approaches for engaging with a subcontractor in Attachment B: Proposal From – Project management. The 500-word limit should apply to the whole team.

35. Our firm has a subcontractor on the project team for a portion of the work. Does MCE require additional attachments to be filled out for the subcontractor, or is it acceptable to include them as part of our overall response to the MCE RFP? If MCE requires subs to fill out information as well, can you please confirm which attachments are needed?

    If subcontractors are included, please provide a separate Attachment A: Bidder Qualification form for the subcontractor, identifying them as a subcontractor on the form.

    Please also include documentation of subcontractor costs in Attachment C: Cost Proposal Form, Please also describe relationship and project management approaches for engaging with a subcontractor in Attachment B: Proposal From – Project management. The 500-word limit should apply to the whole team.

36. The insurance requirements include $5,000,000 Privacy and Cybersecurity Liability. Please confirm whether this limit applies to the prime contractor only, or whether subcontractors must independently carry the same limits. If subcontractors must carry them, may the prime's coverage extend to subcontractor activities performed under the prime's supervision and within the prime's data environment?

    The contract requires subcontractors to maintain insurance coverage identical to the coverage required of the contractor, including the Privacy and Cybersecurity Liability coverage. Accordingly, subcontractors are expected to maintain coverage meeting those requirements and provide evidence of such coverage through the contractor.

37. CEC Grant Role and Contractual Status: Can MCE clarify the selected provider's status and responsibilities under CEC Grant Agreement EPC-24-040? Will the selected provider serve solely as a vendor to MCE, or will it be treated as a subcontractor or other formally identified project participant for purposes of CEC approval, reporting, audit, invoicing, flow-down requirements, or budget administration?

    Are any CEC approvals, substitutions, or grant amendments required before the selected provider may begin work?

    The selected provider will serve as a vendor under contract with MCE. However, its status as a vendor does not exempt it from applicable requirements of CEC Grant Agreement EPC-24-040. Relevant CEC requirements will be incorporated into the provider's contract with MCE, including applicable reporting, invoicing, record-retention, audit-access, and other flow-down requirements.

    MCE will remain responsible for overall grant administration, CEC reporting and invoicing, and budget management. The provider may be identified in grant-related budgets or reports and may be subject to CEC review or approval where required, but it will not have a direct contractual relationship with the CEC.

    MCE will work with our Commission Agreement Manager to name the selected M&V provider in our project budget. We do not expect any CEC approvals, substitutions, or grant amendments to be required. The selected provider's agreement to necessary flow-down provisions is required prior to beginning work. The flow-down provisions can be found in the contract (see RFP 2026-03 Attachment E).

38. Would the selected M&V provider be classified as a "Vendor" under Attachment F (CEC Grant Agreement EPC-24-040), and what specific Exhibit C requirements would flow down to the selected provider, including any cost-disclosure, accounting, or audit requirements?

    The selected provider will serve as a vendor under contract with MCE. However, its status as a vendor does not exempt it from applicable requirements of CEC Grant Agreement EPC-24-040. Relevant CEC requirements will be incorporated into the provider's contract with MCE, including applicable reporting, invoicing, record-retention, audit-access, and other flow-down requirements.

    MCE will remain responsible for overall grant administration, CEC reporting and invoicing, and budget management. The provider may be identified in grant-related budgets or reports and may be subject to CEC review or approval where required, but it will not have a direct contractual relationship with the CEC.

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39. Can you provide the MCE Policy 009 and AMI Data Security Policy for IT for our team to review and confirm we meet data requirements?

    The MCE Policy 009 and AMI Data Security Policy have been added to these responses (please see final pages).

40. Can MCE please send a copy of the presentation slide deck and/or recording to the attendees along with a list of attendees?

    MCE can provide a copy of the presentation slide deck. It is included at the end of this document.

41. What mix are you expecting for demand response and load shifting? Will it be specific to customer type and/or devices, and do you expect to layer demand response on load shifting?

    Determining the mix of market integrated Demand Response and out of market load modifications that yields the highest total value from MCE's VPP is a primary goal of MCE's VPP FLEX project. MCE and the project team are developing an Economic Dispatch Plan, which will outline the dispatch strategy for each asset type. The Annual M&V Report will inform subsequent adjustments to the Economic Dispatch Plan, which means that the dispatch strategy will evolve over the course of the project. We anticipate that the amount of market integrated Demand Response activity will start relatively low and increase over the project timeline, with a strong emphasis on out of market load shaping in the first year of operation.

42. What are MCE's expectations for reporting and visualization delivery — static documents, an interactive dashboard hosted by the M&V provider, a dashboard delivered into MCE's environment, or a combination? If a dashboard is expected, does MCE have a standard platform?

    MCE expects the selected M&V Provider to produce work products that meet or exceed the minimum requirements established by the CEC in the EPIC framework, and that they have prior demonstrated experience doing so. MCE does not require that the selected M&V Provider incorporate an interactive dashboard but is open to reviewing proposals that do incorporate them.

43. Attachment B asks bidders to describe their preferred data environment and system access requirements and notes the answers will help MCE determine what resources it must provide. Please describe MCE's current Data Cloud platform and whether MCE intends to provision the M&V provider in a workspace inside MCE's environment, deliver scheduled extracts to a provider-hosted environment, or some combination. Does MCE have a preference, and are there constraints on data access?

    a. MCE maintains a data warehouse within a Microsoft Azure tenancy. MCE can do one of the following:
        i. Provide data transfer protocols through eSFTP; simplest option
        ii. Host a separate Azure environment for a vendor to operate within; number, type and availability of VM's and other resources will need to be negotiated in advance; this option will require more effort and requires the vendor to have a sufficiently mature data practice to implement
        iii. Provide machine-to-machine or system-to-system access to specified data tables within its data warehouse. Please note that while this option is possible, the current scope of the M&V work is unlikely to require the type of continuous/real-time access to data that this option provides. This is the most complex option.

44. Will the M&V provider receive direct read access to the eDERMS via API for event metadata, dispatch signals, OpenADR reports, and aggregated performance outputs, or will MCE deliver periodic exports? What data latency should bidders assume between event dispatch and data availability?

The M&V Plan deliverable that is developed by the selected M&V Provider in coordination with MCE and the project team will dictate the data flows and intervals. A direct API to MCE's eDERMS platform can be provided to the M&V Provider if that is determined to be beneficial and appropriate to serve the M&V Plan. However, MCE expects that the bulk of the annual measurement and verification process will be conducted in Q1 of each calendar year, analyzing the performance data from the previous calendar year.

45. For participating customer interval data: will MCE provide PG&E AMI data at a 15-minute interval through Share My Data, and how much pre-enrollment history will be available for baseline development? Who is responsible for obtaining and maintaining CISR-SMD and CISR-DRP authorizations — MCE, the trade ally or MCE-authorized designee, or the M&V provider?

    MCE will maintain DRP authorization with PG&E and receive data from PG&E through PG&E's Share My Data Process. Data will be provided to the M&V provider via secure file transfer or other method agreed to in the development of the M&V Plan. We do not anticipate the M&V Provider processing CISR-SMD or CISR-DRP.

46. Please provide MCE's current and projected VPP enrollment by customer segment (residential, low-income residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, public agency) and by DER technology type for each year of the term, including device counts and expected flexible capacity in kW/MW and annual kWh/MWh.

    Current enrollments in MCE's VPP program were an outcome of the Richmond AEC VPP Pilot, including approximately 30 residential and 3 commercial customers. VPP FLEX customer enrollments will begin in late 2026 and will continue throughout the project timeline. The goal for the project is to enroll 3-5 MW of flexible capacity across all customer segments. The specific distribution of DER and customer types are unknown at this time; however, the project team estimates indicate that a balanced portfolio with 5 MW of enrolled flexible capacity could represent approximately 2500-3500 residential customers and 10-30 commercial and industrial customers.

47. How many VPP dispatch events per year does MCE anticipate, and of what type — economic or load-shift optimization, reliability, PSPS pre-charge, or market-integrated dispatch? What share of events does MCE expect to be full-portfolio versus targeted subsets?

    MCE and the project team anticipate that the first-year Economic Dispatch Plan will include a mix of market-integrated Demand Response, daily load shifting, and PSPS (planned grid outage) pre-charge dispatch events. However, the estimated number of each type of dispatch has not been determined. Due to a number of factors and project-specific variables—including market rules, installed DER device capabilities and constraints, customer preferences, geographic project locations, etc.—MCE and the project team anticipate that there will be very few "full-portfolio" dispatches, and that most dispatches will target a subset of the fleet. MCE's VPP dispatch strategy is intended to be flexible, agile, and dynamic to reflect real-world conditions and enable optimization and maximum value creation.

48. How many VPP Partners does MCE expect to contract with, by partner type, and how many will be subject to performance-based payments requiring independent M&V? Approximately what portion of the total value-share pool flows to partners versus customers?

    Approximately 15 integrations are expected by the end of the project period, including OEMs (note- OEMs will not receive performance-based payments), Project Developers, and DER Aggregators. However, the proportional mix of each type of partner is not known at this time.

49. For sites with on-site solar and/or storage under NEM, the Net Billing Tariff, or successor tariffs, does MCE have an established convention for separating gross load from net export at the revenue meter? Will DER-level generation and discharge telemetry be available at sufficient granularity to support load/export separation, or should bidders assume estimation from net meter data alone?

    MCE and the project team will share the applicable modeling assumptions and frameworks with the selected M&V Provider to support independent measurement and verification. The team will also provide granular asset-level telemetry for the fleet of connected DERs and OpenADR payloads to support detailed load analysis and disaggregation.

50. Tariff eligibility requires customers to disenroll from other demand response programs and behind-the-meter aggregations, which limits double-counting exposure. Are there nonetheless anticipated overlaps requiring explicit additionality treatment — for example, sites that have received MCE energy efficiency program incentives, prior Peak FLEX market participation, SGIP-funded storage, or federal or state DER incentives?

    Conflicts are screened at time of outreach and enrollment by MCE. Our team has established a process to validate dual enrollment conflict via PG&E's Demand Response Registration System (DRRS) process.

51. Does MCE want the M&V provider to quantify and net out efficiency-driven consumption changes occurring concurrently with VPP participation?

    This may be relevant on a case-by-case basis, but efficiency validation is not a key SOW item for the M&V provider. MCE is more interested in validating event-based load-modification outcomes.

52. The M&V Findings Report contents include “Validation of annual true-up payments,” “Calculation of monthly bill credits to be disbursed to commercial and industrial customers,” and “Calculation of performance-based payments to VPP partners.” Is the M&V provider expected to independently produce the settlement-grade calculations MCE will use to issue credits and payments, or independently verify calculations produced by MCE or an MCE-authorized designee? Will the M&V provider’s outputs feed MCE’s billing or payment systems directly, and in what format?

    Formulas and calculation methodologies will be created by the MCE team with feedback from the M&V provider. Initial calculations will be produced by MCE and the project team and verified by the selected M&V Provider. The selected M&V Provider’s outputs will not feed directly into MCE’s billing or payment systems. The annual M&V process and related Reports will be leveraged by MCE to support final determinations of the annual true-up payments for participating customers and VPP partners receiving performance-based compensation.

    Our Value Sharing Plan (under development) outlines initial concepts for value sharing, as follows.

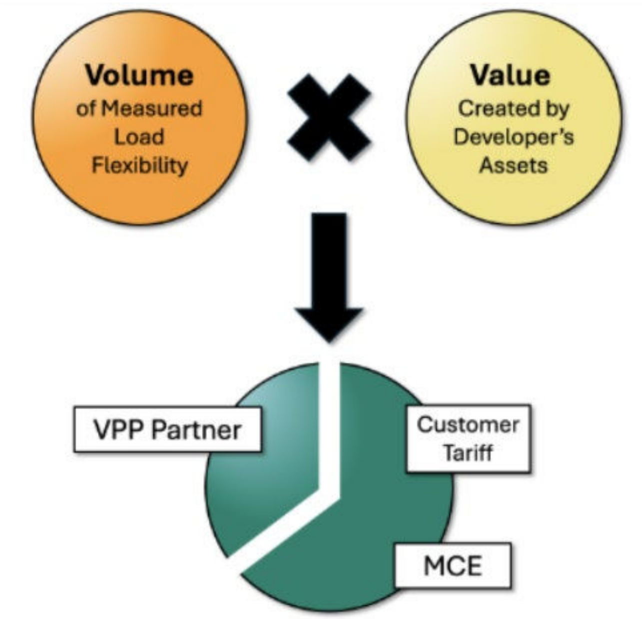
    How is value calculated? In its simplest format, the total “Value” created by the VPP is a product of the total capacity of load modification (in kWh) *and* the price derived from such value from matched CAISO market opportunities (in dollars).

    Total Value (V) = Volume (kWh) X Price ($)

    Non-monetized value is also created by VPP operations in the form of hedging and avoided costs – such as reductions in RA obligations.

    How is Value Allocated? At program launch this Value is then allocated to VPP Stakeholders through the following formula and contractual mechanisms. Over time, allocation formulas may be updated to new dynamic customer tariffs and partner compensation formulas.

Figure 1: Value Allocation



Total Value (V) – Tariff Payments to Customers (TP) = Net Value (NV)

MCE Retention ($) = NV X MCE %

Partner Allocation ($) = Weighted NV X Partner %

DERMS Operator Allocation ($) = NV X Operator %

Where: Partner allocation is weighted by the measured volume of contribution to the VPP in kWh

Where: MCE % + Partner % + DERMS Operator Allocation % = 100%

Where: MCE Retention + Partner Allocation + Cumulative DERMS Operator Allocations = Net Value (NV)

Measurement and Verification processes of load events play a significant role in allocation value assignment and are necessary to conduct the baseline and counterfactual analysis needed to accurately and equitably settle load event payments with VPP Stakeholders. MCE is establishing a separate measurement and verification plan for its VPP and will work with a selected M&V Provider to provide an objective and transparent process.

53. Residential participants are compensated through flat per-device credits that do not depend on measured performance. What M&V does MCE expect for the residential segment — device enrollment and operability verification, aggregate segment-level load impact estimation, both, or something else? Is residential performance required to be verified at the individual customer level?

While MCE's current VPP Tariff does not include a volumetric performance-based payment to residential participants (i.e., annual true-up), the performance of the assets and metered load impacts at participating residential accounts will still be tracked and reported for a number of critical reasons, including CAISO settlement and performance reporting to the CEC. So, the selected M&V Provider will still be responsible for verifying the performance of those residential systems, and the project team will provide access to the data needed for that analysis.

54. Does MCE anticipate different measurement, baseline, reporting, or verification requirements for residential and non-residential DER participants? If so, please describe the expected M&V use cases (e.g., participant settlement, performance payments, portfolio reporting, and CEC reporting) by customer segment.

Generally speaking, the performance evaluation methodologies (PEMs, including.: day-matching, weather-matching, control group, etc.) can be applied to either residential or non-residential accounts to quantify baseline load impacts. MCE and the project team must prepare individual Settlement Quality Meter Data (SQMD) Plans for each market-integrated DER aggregation for CAISO review and approval and will determine the most appropriate PEM for each aggregation at that time. In addition, MCE intends to develop and pilot a new PEM for CAISO review and approval, which would be demonstrated through data analysis conducted in parallel with the CAISO approved PEM for settlement purposes. This means that there will be multiple load baselining methodologies required, and the mix will be determined by the selected M&V Provider in coordination with MCE and the project team as the M&V Plan deliverable is developed.

55. According to the RFP, MCE anticipates selecting a contractor in September 2026. When do you anticipate work will begin?

October or November 2026, contingent upon contracting process.

56. Would you confirm that the M&V reporting only occurs once annually at the end of each year and that there is not any expectation of monthly or quarterly reporting of M&V results?

While the measurement and verification process, including the cadence of data analysis and performance reporting, will be determined through team coordination and development of the M&V Plan deliverable, MCE anticipates that the M&V process will take place annually in Q1 of each calendar year during the contract term.

57. Monthly bill credits are issued monthly, but M&V Findings Reports are annual. What cadence of M&V provider involvement in monthly credit calculation does MCE contemplate between annual reports — for example, a monthly production run, a monthly review and sign-off, or a quarterly reconciliation?

    Because the monthly bill credits for participating customers, as well as the monthly payments to VPP Partners receiving performance-based compensation are both designed to be flat (static, unchanging) amounts that do not fluctuate from month to month, there is no monthly M&V required. It is the end-of-year true up payments that require measurement and verification to ensure that stakeholders receive fair, transparent, independently verified compensation for the total value they delivered to the VPP over the course of the preceding calendar year.

58. Would you also confirm that an M&V report will be due in March 2027 for the 2026 program year? Can you provide information about the enrollments and program activity to date in 2026 and expected activity and enrollments for the remainder of the year?

    MCE anticipates a potential test event in 2026, and some M&V support may be required to supplement internal analysis from MCE's technology analytics team. 2026 efforts would be in the form of a memo rather than a full M&V report. The first M&V report will cover 2027 efforts. Draft and final report deadlines can be coordinated between MCE and the selected provider.

59. Can you please clarify the expectations related to working within an OpenADR-enabled DERMS environment for the M&V provider? Will this be for data acquisition needed for event participation and impact validation?

    OpenADR will not affect or constrain the Measurement and Verification (M&V) provider or its processes. OpenADR will be used exclusively as the secure communications protocol between the eDERMS platform and participating grid-edge devices, systems, and aggregators. Its purpose is to deliver dispatch instructions, demand-response events, operating parameters, and related device-level communications.

The M&V provider will obtain the information required to perform independent performance calculations directly from the DERMS database. Data can be made available through a secure JSON-based API for automated integration or through scheduled CSV file exports, depending on the provider's technical and operational requirements.

The available dataset can include enrollment and asset information, interval meter data, established baselines, event notifications, dispatch instructions, device acknowledgments, actual performance, calculated load reductions, event timestamps, data-quality indicators, and other relevant audit records. This approach keeps the control and dispatch communication layer separate from the M&V data-access layer, allowing the M&V provider to use its preferred methodology and analytical tools without requiring direct integration with OpenADR.

60. Please clarify the expected level of interaction between the M&V provider and MCE's OpenADR-enabled DERMS environment. Is the M&V provider expected to independently validate OpenADR dispatch signals and event execution through direct system access, API integrations, and event logs, or will these data be provided through curated reports and extracts from MCE and its technology partners?

The M&V provider will not be required to integrate directly with the OpenADR communications environment or independently monitor grid-edge devices through OpenADR. OpenADR will be used primarily between MCE's eDERMS and participating grid-edge devices, aggregators, and control systems to communicate dispatch events and receive associated acknowledgments and operating information.

The DERMS will capture the relevant event, dispatch, acknowledgment, interval-performance, and audit data required to independently validate event execution and calculate performance. The M&V provider will have three options for accessing this information:

1. **JSON API integration:** The provider may retrieve the required data programmatically through a secure JSON-based API. This option supports automated, repeatable data exchange and integration with the provider's M&V systems.

2. **Direct DERMS access and CSV downloads:** Authorized users may log in directly to the DERMS and download CSV files containing the data required for M&V analysis. Access will be controlled through appropriate user roles and security permissions.

3. **Scheduled custom CSV delivery:** MCE and its technology partners can configure a custom CSV export containing the provider's required data fields and securely transmit the file to the provider's SFTP folder on an agreed schedule.

Available information can include event definitions, dispatch instructions, timestamps, targeted resources, device or aggregator acknowledgments, interval meter data, baseline inputs, calculated performance, asset information, data-quality indicators, exceptions, and relevant audit records.

These three access methods allow the M&V provider to independently validate dispatch activity and event performance without requiring direct access to the OpenADR communication layer. The selected delivery method, required data fields, reporting frequency, security requirements, and retention periods can be finalized during implementation with the selected M&V provider.

61. Does the M&V provider's scope include independent verification of the eDERMS itself (Task 3(b) refers to "Validate MCE's eDERMS"), and if so, what does MCE consider the acceptance criteria for a validated eDERMS — for example, dispatch signal fidelity, telemetry completeness, reconciliation tolerance against AMI, or forecast accuracy?

The M&V provider's validation of MCE's eDERMS will be limited to M&V-related functions. This includes verifying that SQMD is generated in accordance with the approved SQMD Plan and validating customer performance and payment calculations against the underlying data.

The scope does not include eDERMS uptime, system health, cybersecurity, forecasting accuracy, or general platform performance, except where an issue directly affects SQMD or customer payments.

62. Does MCE have an existing data dictionary, schema documentation, or sample data extract for the eDERMS and Data Cloud that could be shared with bidders, or with the selected provider at kickoff?

MCE does not currently have a formal data dictionary or M&V-specific schema documentation. The Enterprise DERMS is flexible, and the API, data schema, and CSV extracts will be developed collaboratively with the selected M&V provider.

MCE has an approved Performance Evaluation Method (PEM) and expects to develop additional PEMs and SQMD Plans during the contract term. The M&V provider will provide input during that process, and the API and CSV outputs will be updated as requirements evolve.

63. Does MCE have any indication from DIR on the timing or likely outcome of the prevailing wage determination? If prevailing wage is ultimately determined to apply, what labor classifications does MCE anticipate would be applicable to the selected M&V provider for purposes of developing the required prevailing-wage pricing scenario?

    At this time, MCE has not received an indication from DIR regarding either the timing or likely outcome of the pending prevailing-wage determination. MCE is therefore not in a position to predict whether prevailing wage will apply or to prescribe final DIR classifications in advance of that determination.

    The anticipated M&V scope is primarily professional evaluation work, including evaluation planning, project management, data collection and analysis, modeling, and reporting. MCE does not expect the selected provider to perform installation, construction, repair, or maintenance work.

    If DIR ultimately determines that prevailing wage applies, the applicable classification(s) will depend on the actual duties performed and the final DIR determination. MCE is not prescribing or representing that any particular DIR classification will apply at this time.

    For the alternate pricing scenario, please identify any portions of your proposed scope that you believe could be subject to prevailing wage; the classification(s) you believe may apply; and the resulting cost differential. Please separately identify onsite inspection, verification, or testing activities from professional evaluation, analytical, and reporting activities.

64. Does MCE anticipate a single baseline methodology across all participating DER technologies and customer segments, or should the M&V provider develop and maintain resource-specific baseline methodologies? If resource-specific methods are expected, please identify the anticipated DER categories.

    MCE currently uses one baseline methodology but expects to add others during the contract term, including a modified CalTRACK approach, MGO, 10-in-10, and additional methods as market requirements evolve.

    The eDERMS will manage multiple DER categories, including BESS, commercial HVAC, EV chargers, solar inverters, thermostats, water heaters, and other emerging resources. MCE anticipates applying resource-appropriate baseline methodologies to accurately measure each DER’s performance.

POLICY 009: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY

Information technology ("IT" or "Information") is a critical Marin Clean Energy (MCE) asset and will be managed to ensure that it remains complete, accurate, confidential, and available for authorized business activities. Proper management of information technology is required to support regulatory compliance, minimize legal liability, reduce the risk of criminal activity, and to sustain stakeholder and customer satisfaction.

MCE is dependent on information technology to conduct business operations. Members of the Internal Operations Team in collaboration with the IT Consultant have been designated as the IT Security Team and are responsible for communicating IT policies and standards, helping all personnel achieve compliance with policies and standards, and reporting to management on any non-compliance or areas of risk.

MCE will make information technology accessible only to authorized employees or designated vendors as needed and such information shall only be used for authorized agency purposes. To ensure protection of information technology, operational guidelines will be in place for employees and designated vendors to follow which adhere to the principles below:

- Access to specific information technology is to be assigned to MCE employees or designated vendors with the minimum level of access necessary to perform respective responsibilities.
- Access to information technology will be made available only to the extent necessary to support authorized business functions.
- Security systems are to be structured with multiple layers of security, including physical, network, host, and personnel security measures.
- The degree of information security protection is to be commensurate with the impact of inadvertent or intentional misuse, improper disclosure, damage or loss.
- Adequate controls will divide sensitive duties among more than one individual to provide checks and balances that help insure operational guidelines are followed.
- Security is not an optional component of operations. All MCE staff and designated vendors are required to protect information. All staff and designated vendors that use or have access to MCE information technology are personally responsible for exercising the proper control over information according to the operational guidelines provided to them.
- Operational guidelines for treatment of information technology are subject to change as needed to protect MCE based on any changes in systems, threats, and practices.

MCE Clean Energy
My community. My choice.

Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Data Security and Privacy Policy

Marin Clean Energy ("MCE") developed the following policy for ensuring the privacy and security of AMI data and customer usage information pursuant to Attachment B of the California Public Utilities Commission Decision 12-08-045.

(1) **GENERAL**

A. MCE shall implement reasonable administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect covered information from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure.
B. MCE and all third parties shall provide reasonable training to all employees and contractors who use, store or process covered information.
C. MCE shall collect, store, use, and disclose only as much covered information as is reasonably necessary or as authorized by the Commission to accomplish a specific primary purpose.

(2) **TRANSPARENCY AND NOTIFICATION**

A. MCE shall provide customers with meaningful, clear, accurate, specific, and comprehensive notice regarding; the accessing, collection, storage, use, and disclosure of AMI data. Provided, however, that MCE is using AMI data solely for a primary purpose on behalf of and under contract with utilities is not required to provide notice separate from that provided by the utility.
B. MCE shall provide written notice when; confirming a new customer account and at least once a year. The notice shall inform customers how they may obtain a copy of MCE's notice regarding the accessing, collection, storage, use, and disclosure of AMI data and shall provide a conspicuous link to the notice on the home page of their website and include a link to their notice in all electronic correspondence to customers.
    - The notice shall be labeled Notice of Accessing, Collecting, Storing, Using and Disclosing Energy Usage Information and shall—be written in easily understandable language and be no longer than is necessary to convey the requisite information.
    - The notice and the posted privacy policy shall state clearly— the identity of MCE, the effective date of the notice or posted privacy policy, MCE's process for altering the notice or posted privacy policy, including how the customer will be informed of any alterations, and where prior versions will be made available to customers, and the title and contact information, including email address, postal address, and telephone number, of an official at

MCE who can assist the customer with privacy questions, concerns, or complaints regarding the collection, storage, use, or distribution of covered information.

- The notice shall provide an explicit description of— each category of covered information collected, used, stored or disclosed, and for each category of covered information, the reasonably specific purposes for which it will be collected, stored, used, or disclosed, each category of covered information that is disclosed to third parties, and, for each such category, a description of the means by which customers may view, inquire about, or dispute their covered information, and the means, if any, by which customers may limit the collection, use, storage or disclosure of covered information and the consequences to customers if they exercise such limits.

C. MCE shall provide to customers upon request convenient and secure access to their covered information— in an easily readable format that is at a level no less detailed than that at which the covered entity discloses the data to third parties.

(3) **USE, DISCLOSURE, AND CUSTOMER AUTHORIZATION**

A. MCE may disclose covered information without customer consent to a third party acting under contract with the Commission for the purpose of providing services authorized pursuant to an order or resolution of the Commission or to a governmental entity for the purpose of providing energy efficiency or energy efficiency evaluation services pursuant to an order or resolution of the Commission.

B. MCE may disclose covered information to a third party without customer consent when explicitly ordered to do so by the Commission; or for a primary purpose being carried out under contract with and on behalf of MCE provided that the covered entity disclosing the data shall, by contract, require the third party to agree to access, collect, store, use, and disclose the covered information under policies, practices and notification requirements no less protective than those under which the covered entity itself operates.

C. Any entity that receives covered information derived initially from MCE may disclose such covered information to another entity without customer consent for a primary purpose, provided that the entity disclosing the covered information shall, by contract, require the entity receiving the covered information to use the covered information only for such primary purpose and to agree to store, use, and disclose the covered information under policies, practices and notification requirements no less protective than those under which the covered entity from which the covered information was initially derived operates.

D. When MCE discloses covered information to a third party under this subsection it shall specify by contract, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, that it shall be considered a material breach if the third party engages in a pattern or practice of accessing, storing, using or disclosing the covered information in violation of the third party's contractual obligations to handle the covered information under policies no less protective than those under which the covered entity from which the covered information was initially derived.

E. If MCE finds that a third party contractor to which it disclosed covered information is engaged in a pattern or practice of accessing, storing, using or disclosing covered information in violation of the third party's contractual obligations related to handling covered information, MCE shall promptly cease disclosing covered information to such third party.
F. Separate authorization by each customer must be obtained for all disclosures of covered information except as otherwise provided for herein.
G. MCE shall permit customers to cancel authorization for any secondary purpose of their covered information by the same mechanism initially used to grant authorization.
H. MCE shall permit the use of aggregated usage data that is removed of all personally-identifiable information to be used for analysis, reporting or program management provided that the release of that data does not disclose or reveal specific customer information because of the size of the group, rate classification, or nature of the information.

Measurement & Verification
RFP Webinar

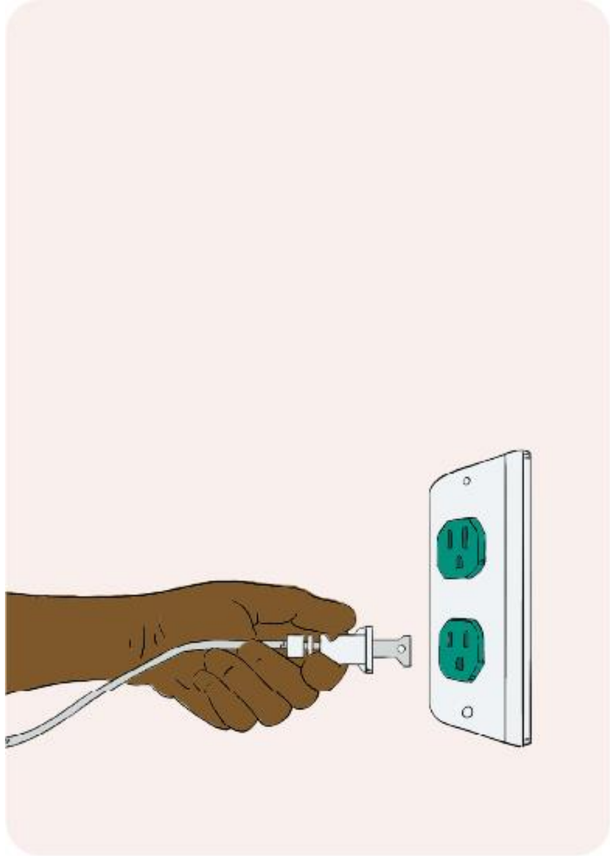
MCE

A local, not-for-profit electricity provider

August 5, 2026

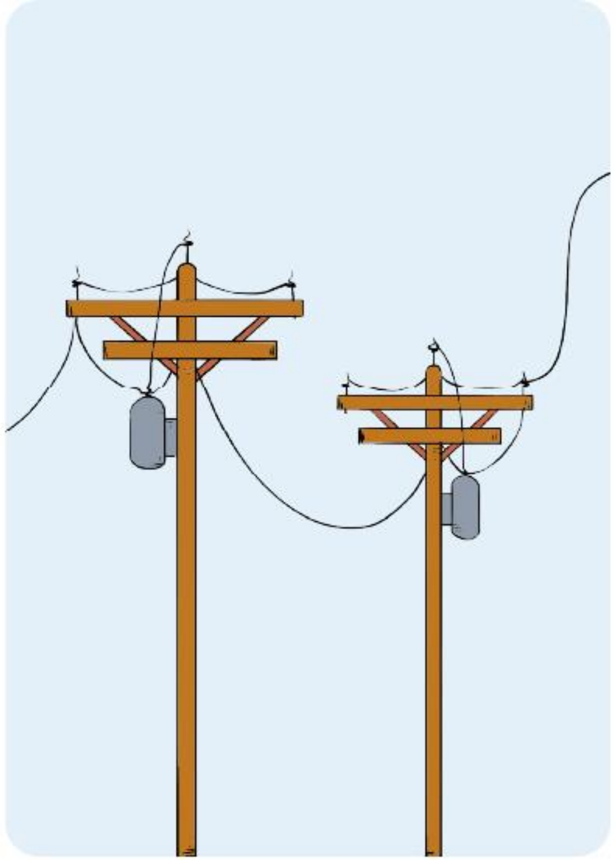
Who is MCE?

How MCE Works



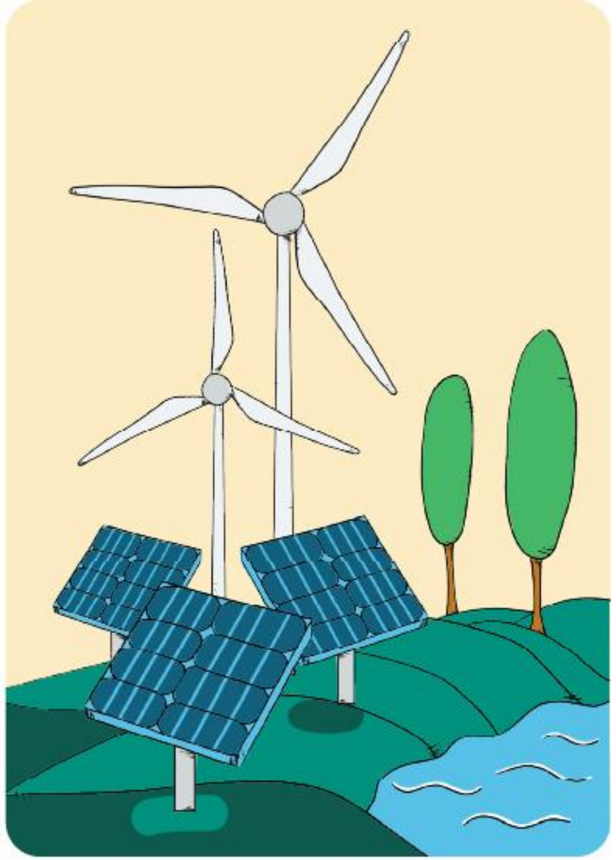
You

Benefit from cleaner air, stable rates, choice, and local control



PG&E

Delivers energy, maintains lines, and sends bills



MCE

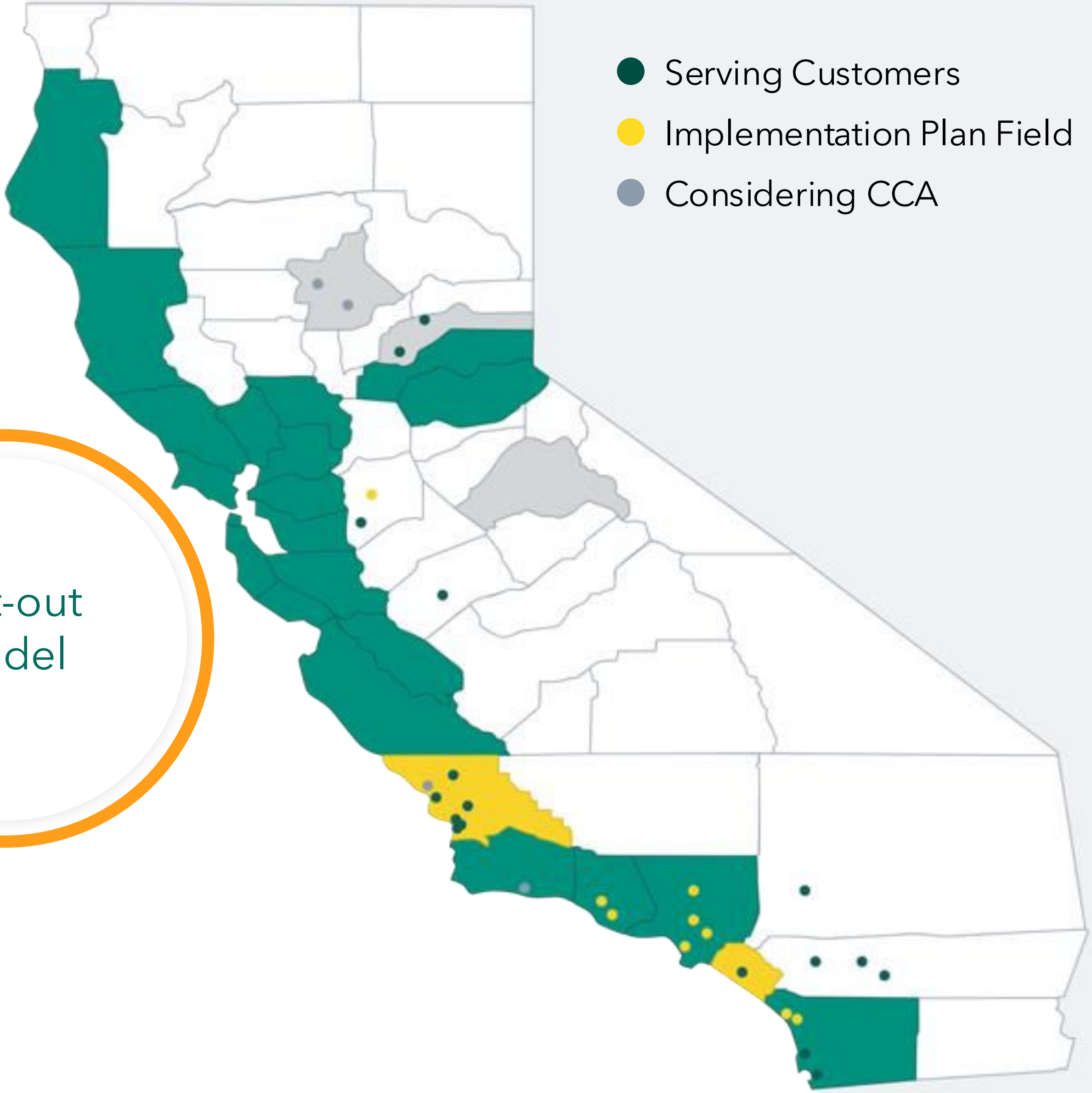
Buys and builds clean and renewable energy for you

Community Choice in California

Enabling Legislation AB 117, 2002

Over 14 million customers & 200 communities

Opt-out model



Our Vision

Lead CA to an equitable, clean, affordable, and reliable energy economy by serving as a model for community-based renewable energy, energy efficiency, and cutting-edge clean-tech products and programs.

Our Mission

Confront the climate crisis by eliminating fossil fuel greenhouse gas emissions, producing renewable energy, and creating equitable community benefits.

Your Dollars at Work

Energy Efficiency

Audits, Rebates, Usage Reduction

- $10M in rebates
- Over 5,000 customers served

Electric Vehicles

Vehicle and Charging Station Rebates

- 2,000+ EV chargers
- 1,100+ EVs

Energy Resiliency

Distributed Resources, Demand Response, Virtual Power Plant, and Behavioral Programs

- 33 facilities
- $300,000+ in bill credits
- $1.7M in SGIP incentives

Electrification

Heat Pump Installs and Contractor Training

- 25+ contractors engaged
- 300 heat pump water heaters

Equity, Health & Safety

Health, Safety, and Resiliency Upgrades

- 200 portable batteries
- $750,000 in solar rebates

Virtual Power Plant

- MCE's VPP is scaling to its full service area and is seeking new partner
- Work builds on pilot efforts in City of Richmond
- CEC Funding secured

Key Features of MCE's VPP that make it different from other VPPs:

- MCE is the Aggregator, we bid into CAISO as a scheduling coordinator / Demand Response Provider
- DERMS software is owned by MCE and we send signals to participants.
- Value created is shared with customers, and VPP partners through performance-based contracts and Tariffs
- Technology-agnostic. flexible load is desired. Leverage open ADR to support interoperability

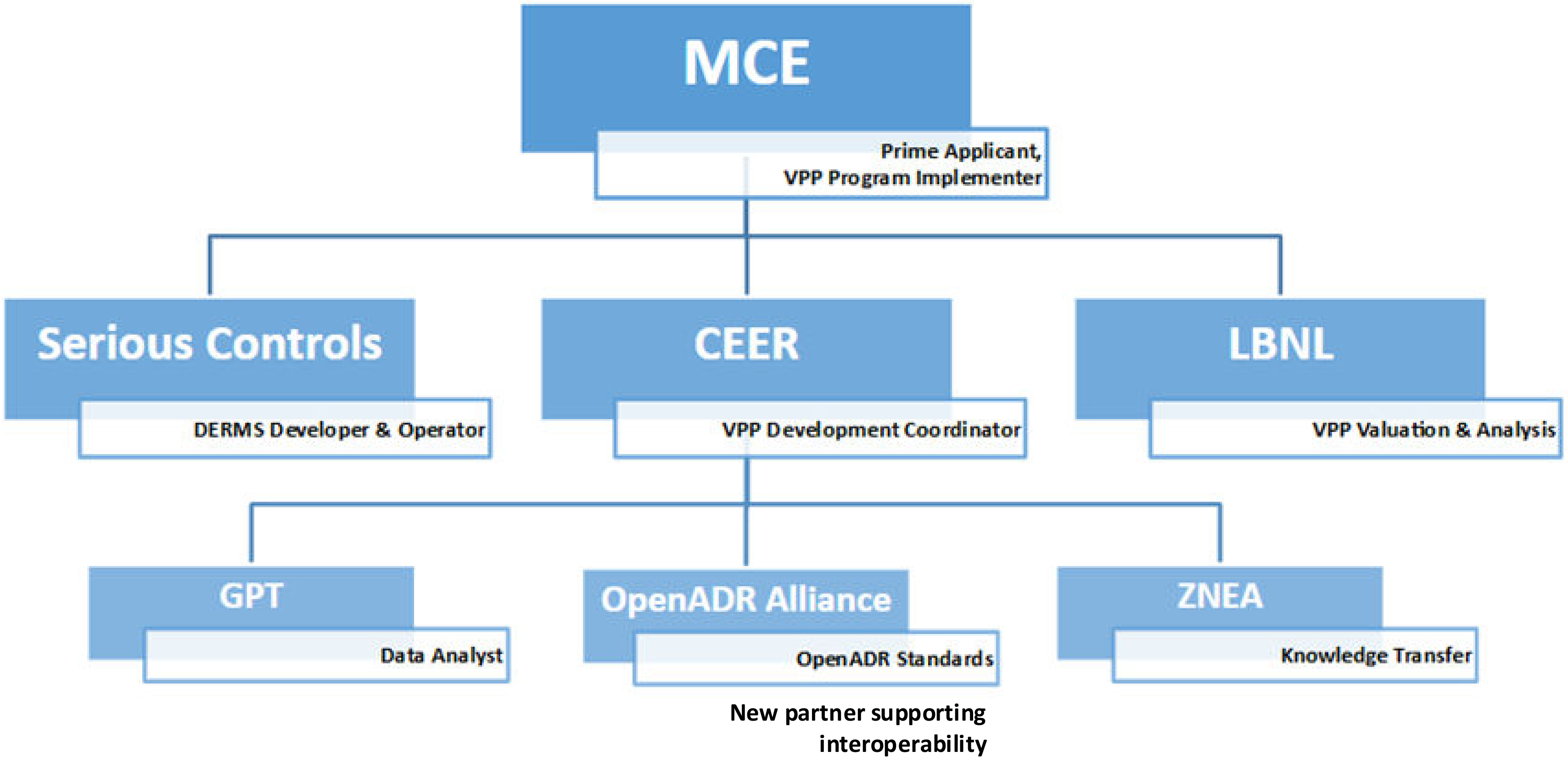
VPP Program History

2022: MCE joins a CEC EPIC grant to develop a VPP pilot in Richmond; installing virtually-connected DERs to eDERMS, which are remotely controlled and operated to shift load at strategic times.

2025: MCE is awarded VPP FLEX to expand the VPP across 4 counties, including ~85,000 PV systems and ~20,000 battery systems. Steps include updating the tariff, planning for program adaptations, enrolling eligible customers from adapted programs, and deploying a tracker in CRM and train CSAs on VPP fundamentals.

2026: MCE is developing a value-sharing methodology and Pay-for-Performance (P4P) contract to deepen technology integration, assess the value of DER dispatch and share those with the VPP customers and some partners. Methodology and its implementation must be verified by the selected M&V provider.

Project Team



New partners will have a chance to join the VPP during the 2026 RFPs.

Enterprise DERMS — Connected Energy Ecosystem

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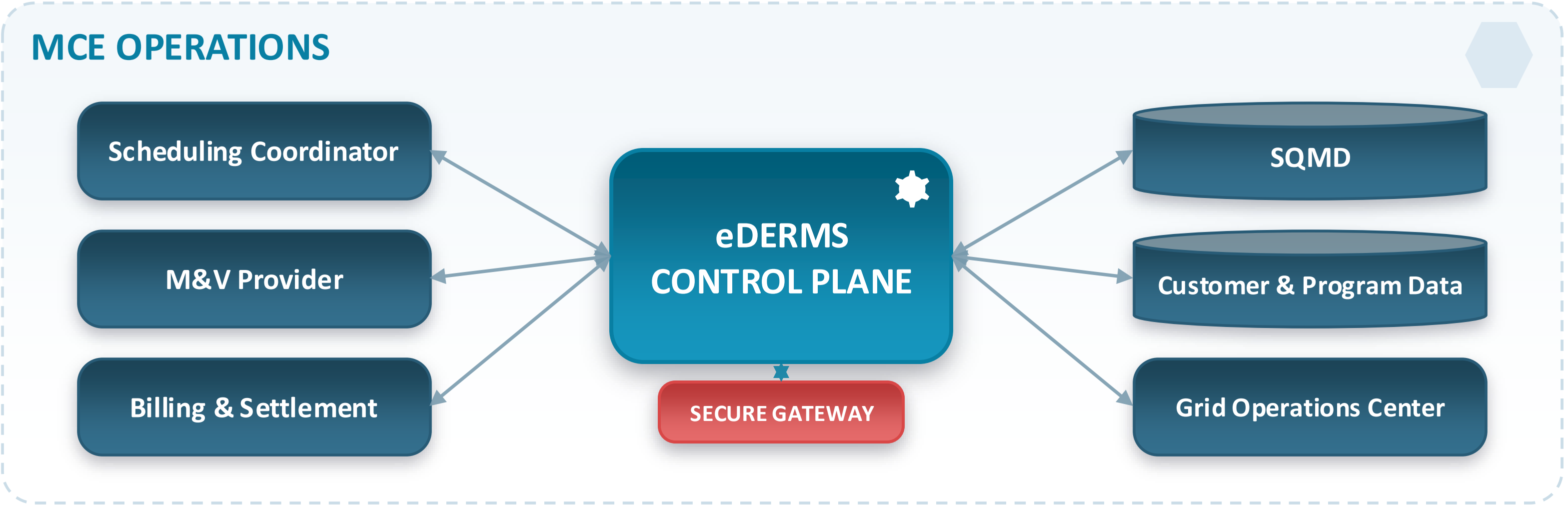
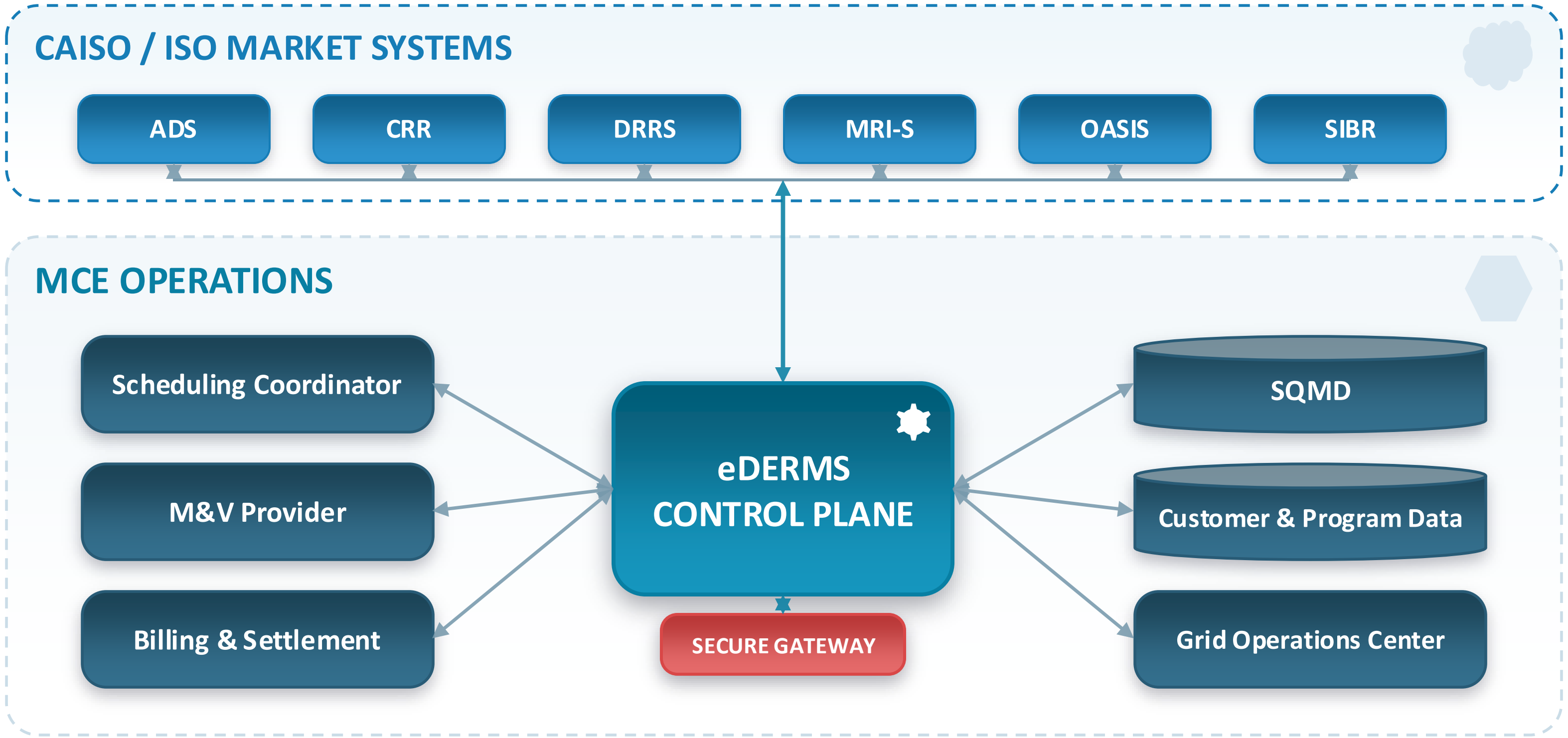
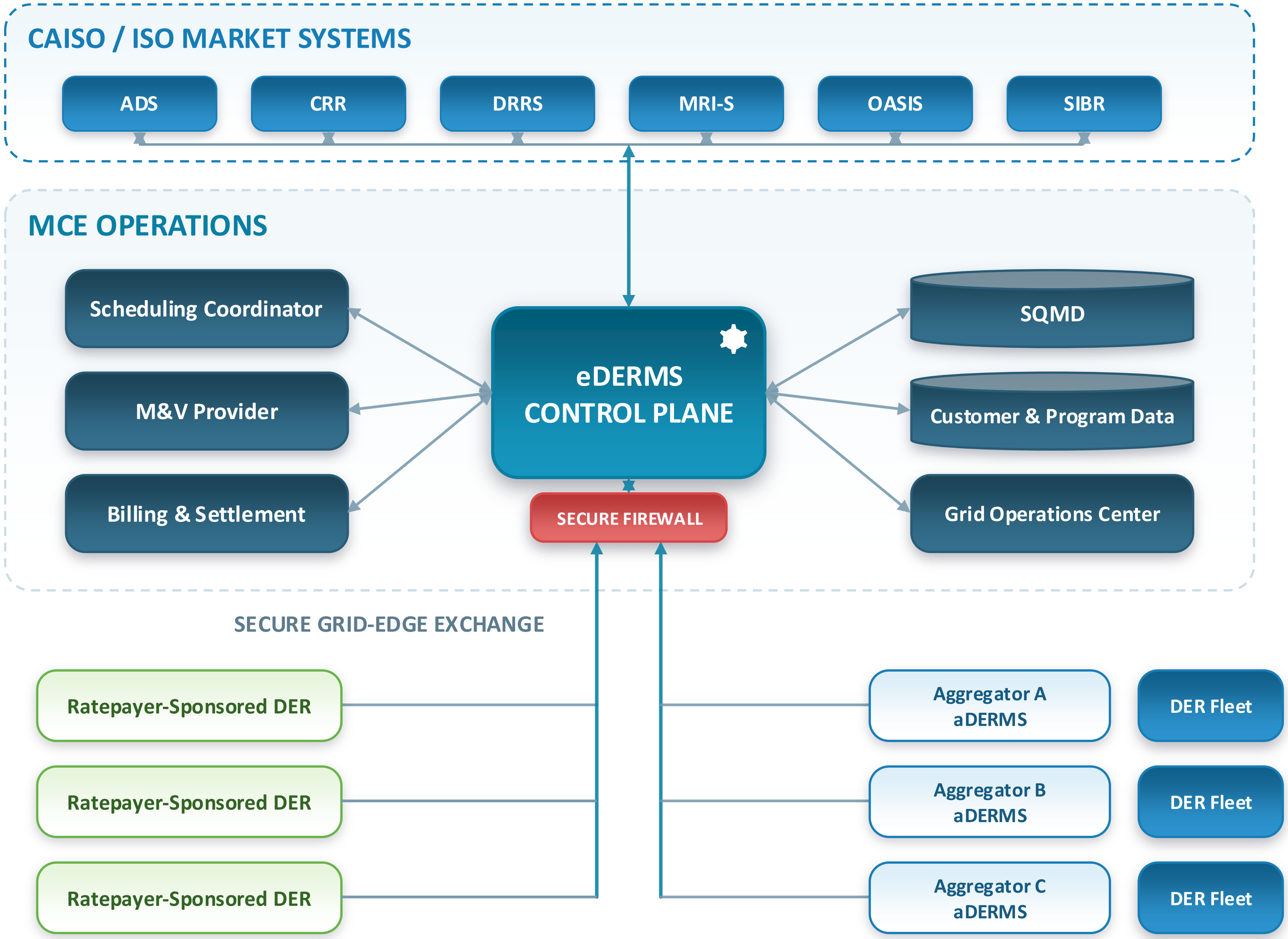


Enterprise DERMS — Connected Energy Ecosystem



Enterprise DERMS — Connected Energy Ecosystem



Seeking an M&V Partner

- **Seeking an experienced, independent Measurement and Verification (M&V) provider** to deliver rigorous, transparent, and scalable performance evaluation for GFO-23-309, Virtual Power Plant Approaches for Demand Flexibility (**VPP-FLEX**).

- **Desired demonstrated experience:**
  - M&V on CEC-funded grants
  - Utility program evaluation
  - Demand Response and DER performance measurement (i.e., CAISO-accepted Performance Evaluation Methodologies)
  - Pay-for-performance validation

- **Contract Details:**
  - **Initial term:** Through **March 30, 2029**, with optional one-year extensions at MCE's discretion
  - **Maximum proposal budget: $390,000**

Seeking an M&V Partner

Requirements:

- Experience providing M&V services for utility/CCA programs and CEC grants, including demand response, DER aggregation, and/or VPPs
- Familiarity with California energy markets, rate structures, and regulatory requirements
- Ability to manage large-scale interval data sets and integrate multiple data sources, including multiple enterprise and third-party systems
- Technical capability to operate within an OpenADR-enabled DERMS environment
- Independence from OEMs, developers, or aggregators in a manner that preserves objectivity and transparency

Value-Sharing Framework

- This is a **P4P compensation** framework - DER deployment and dispatch will generate measurable value that will be allocated to the participating stakeholders
- MCE's VPP Tariff rewards customers through bill credits
  - Residential customers receive **stackable flat monthly bill credits** for each enrolled device
  - C&I customers receive **$0.11/kWh for verified load flexibility delivered** through flat monthly bill credits and an annual true-up
  - MCE intends to expand the VPP Tariff options (incl., dynamic)
- Contracted **VPP Partners will be compensated** for the verified load flexibility (kWh) they deliver through **flat monthly payments and an annual true-up payment**
- The total value that is generated by the VPP, the customer bill credits, and the VPP Partner compensation must all then be **validated through the annual verification process** defined in the M&V Plan

VPP ROI

Goal: Achieve a 20% ROI on the total investment during the project timeline, while building a self-sustaining, market-integrated VPP that no longer relies on grant funding.

Transparent performance data and annual M&V reports will help MCE:

- **Demonstrate VPP value** through CAISO market revenues, avoided procurement costs, customer value (i.e., incentives, bill savings, etc.), and grid services delivered
- **Measure and validate VPP performance** annually using advanced performance evaluation methodologies (PEM) and third-party M&V
- **Quantify and verify economic benefits** for MCE, VPP partners, and participating customers
- **Validate performance-based compensation** and tariff development
- **Inform ongoing VPP program design refinements** to increase cost-effectiveness, scalability, and long-term financial sustainability

Proposed M&V Scope

The selected M&V provider will independently verify load modifications and DER performance using data from MCE, aggregators, OEM assets, telemetry, and CAISO systems.

Contract scope includes

- **Review and validate annual VPP performance data** including raw meter data, revenue/settlement quality meter data, VPP capacity and value forecasts, DERMS dispatch signals, and device-level telemetry
- **Verify participating customer and VPP Partner payments**, including annual true-up calculations
- **Develop and implement new PEMs** for CAISO review/approval, including advanced normalized metered energy consumption (NMEC)
- **Deliver transparent, auditable reporting** for regulators and stakeholders
- **Provide advisory support** for expansion of VPP tariffs to include dynamic options that offer higher risk, higher reward payment terms

Key Tasks

- **Develop Measurement & Verification Plan**
  - Coordinate with MCE and the project team
  - Define M&V methodology and assumptions
  - Identify data sources and analytics
  - Deliver draft and final M&V plan
- **Data Infrastructure and Systems Coordination**
  - Align data pipelines and reporting with MCE
  - Integrate and validate third-party and eDERMS data
  - Maintain secure, auditable data workflows
  - Manage Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
- **Measure and Verify VPP Performance**
  - Develop performance baselines for SQMD processing
  - Review and validate eDERMS, AMI, and DER telemetry data
  - Analyze and quantify customer load and DER dispatch from VPP events
  - Perform independent VPP FLEX ROI validation
  - Recommend M&V improvements as the program evolves

Key Tasks, Part II

- **Implement New Performance Evaluation Methodology (PEM)**
  - Test and refine new NMEC-based PEM
  - Support CAISO review and approval
  - Explore other PEMs, as applicable
- **Coordination and Review Process**
  - Coordinate deliverables with MCE while maintaining independent technical analysis
  - Support data reviews and technical discussions
  - Conduct independent quality reviews
  - Revise deliverables based on feedback
- **Reporting and Documentation**
  - Deliver participant, portfolio, and program reports
  - Document methods, assumptions, and calculations
  - Support MCE reporting, compliance, and CEC grant requirements

Qualifications and Compensation

Demonstrated experience with:

- Utility and CEC-funded M&V programs
- Demand response, DER aggregations, and VPPs
- California energy markets, rate structures, and regulations

Technical capabilities:

- Managing large interval datasets and integrating multiple data sources
- Operating within an OpenADR-enabled DERMS
- Independence from OEMs, developers, or aggregators to ensure objectivity and transparency

Contract Details

- **Initial term:** Through **March 30, 2029**, with optional one-year extensions at MCE's discretion
- **Maximum proposal budget: $390,000**

CEC Deliverables

- **Draft M&V Plan:** Defines the methodology for measuring and verifying VPP performance, including data quality, baseline and performance analytics, OpenADR validation, preliminary customer compensation methodology, and alignment with CEC reporting requirements and MCE program objectives.
- **Final M&V Plan:** Incorporate MCE and CEC comments to develop a final plan that reflects approved methodologies and serves as the governing document for subsequent verification activities.
- **M&V Parameters Report:** Documents key assumptions, baseline methodologies, measurement parameters, data handling, adjustments, and aggregation logic across devices used to evaluate program performance.
- **M&V Findings Reports (Three Reports):** Three year-end reports will validate DERMS and VPP performance, support performance-based compensation and annual true-up payments, and provide a comprehensive assessment of VPP operations, DER performance, market value, ROI, lessons learned, and recommendations for program improvement.

How to Apply

Required Submittals

- Bidder Qualification Form
- Key Personnel Resumes
- Proposal Narrative *(10 page maximum)*
  - Sample Calculation/ Modelling Approach
  - Project Timeline (Gantt Chart)
- Cost Proposal Form
  - Pricing with and without California prevailing wage
- Proposal Completion Checklist

Submission

- Due: 4:00 PM PDT, Aug 30, 2026
- Submit via provided link: https://mea.egnyte.com/ul/lKqsbJZjS6

M&V RFP

- https://mcecleanenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/2026-03-RFP-for-MV-Provider-VPP-Program.pdf

Q&A – Written Responses

Deadline for Questions: Any questions related to the content of this RFP must be submitted to the Contracts Manager **no later than 5:00 p.m. PST on Friday, August 7, 2026.**

MCE Deadline for Responses: MCE Responses to all questions received will be sent to all bidders who submitted questions and/or provided a complete Notice of Interest via email by **Tuesday, August 18, 2026.**

Timeline

Date Issued	July 14, 2026 (Thursday)
Pre-Bid Webinar	August 5, 2026, 2:00 PM PST (Wednesday)
Deadline for Questions	August 7, 2026, 5:00 PM PST (Friday)
MCE Responses to Questions	August 18, 2026 (Tuesday)
Submission Deadline	**August 30, 2026, 4:00 PM PST (Sunday)**
Anticipated Selection	September 21, 2026 (Monday)

Thank you!

MCE

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