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RENEWABLE AND ENERGY STORAGE RESOURCES (2026 EDITION) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Issued: October 6, 2026

Responses due: **November 17, 2026**
11:59 PM Pacific Prevailing Time

All responses must be submitted through the [TEA RFP Marketplace](#)

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this Request for Proposals (RFP) has been prepared solely to assist prospective respondents in making the decision of whether to submit a proposal. Desert Community Energy (DCE) does not purport this information to be all-inclusive or to contain all the information that a prospective respondent may need to consider in submitting a proposal. Neither DCE nor its employees, officers, nor consultants will make, or will be deemed to have made, any current or future representation, promise or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the information contained herein, or in any document or information made available to a respondent, whether or not the aforementioned parties know or should have known of any errors or omissions, or were responsible for its inclusion in, or omission from, this document. The Energy Authority (TEA) will be conducting this RFP on behalf of DCE.

BACKGROUND

Desert Community Energy (DCE) is a California joint powers authority (JPA) formed to offer a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program in the desert region of Riverside County. Community Choice Energy (or Aggregation) programs are legal entities that allow communities to source their own electricity, putting an end to the monopolies held by traditional Investor-Owned Utilities. DCE offers customers the choice to buy cleaner electricity at competitive rates, reducing greenhouse gases through development of robust renewable energy infrastructure. This adds to the local job market, while allowing programs like DCE to develop strategies to help customers boost energy efficiency and make clean energy more accessible.

DCE began serving customers in Palm Springs in April 2020. The City of Palm Desert is also a member of DCE, though not currently served load. DCE contracts with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments for administrative services and staff. DCE is governed by a Board of Directors (Board), consisting of one director appointed by each of the members of the JPA. Directors are elected officials or senior staff of the appointing member. All Board meetings are conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act. DCE may be required to disclose information received pursuant to this RFP in accordance with requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act or the California Public Records Act (“CPRA”), Cal. Gov’t Code § 6250 et seq.

DCE maintains an investment-grade (BBB) credit rating with a stable outlook from S&P Global Ratings.

1.0 PURCHASE INFORMATION

1.1 OVERVIEW

DCE is issuing this RFP to meet the aspirational procurement targets as described in the integrated resource plan published on August 10, 2026 ([DCE 2026 IRP Narrative PublicVersion 081026.pdf](#)). Its preferred portfolio

includes the addition of tranches of solar paired with 8-hour storage in a 1-to-1 ratio, as well as out-of-state wind, by 2040. The table below describes the size and timeline of each tranche of resource additions.

Resource Type	Contract Begins	Size (MW)
Solar + 8-hour Storage	2030	49 (solar) + 49 (storage)
	2035	13 (solar) + 13 (storage)
	2038	11 (solar) + 11 (storage)
Out-of-State Wind	2035	12

Participants may access and download all RFP documents and posted Q&A at <https://rfpmarketplace.teainc.org> (the TEA RFP Website). Materials are also accessible on the Request for Proposals section of DCE's website at <https://desertcommunityenergy.org/about/rfp/> (DCE's RFP Website).

Responses to this RFP are due by November 17 11:59 pm Pacific Prevailing Time unless extended by an Addendum. All responses are to be submitted via the TEA RFP Website.

1.2 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

DCE is primarily interested in resources that support the preferred portfolio identified in its 2026 IRP but will also consider emerging technologies, local resources, and programs. For each proposed technology, respondents must identify the applicable CPUC procurement category or tranche, expected Net Qualifying Capacity, deliverability status, and expected commercial operation date.

Detailed Requirements	Long-term Product
MW/MWh	Up to 130GWh per year Projects between 5-50MW
Product	Energy, capacity, ancillary services, and bundled RECs
Term	Minimum of 10 years with no escalator preferred
Structure	PPA or ESA
Resource type	- Solar - Wind - Solar combined with storage - Wind combined with storage - Standalone storage - Geothermal - Small hydro
Delivery/ In-service date	2027 and beyond
Delivery point preferences	- SP-15 hub - Project busbar
Interconnection characterization	Preference for resources to have Full Capacity Deliverability Status to the CAISO system

2.0 RFP PROCEDURE

2.1 SCHEDULE

DCE has established the following schedule for the RFP but reserves the right to amend the proposed schedule at any time.

Issuance of RFP	October 6
Questions Due	November 11
Q&A Posted	November 13
RFP Response Due Date	November 17
RFP Evaluation Period	November 18 – December 1
Short List Proposals Identified	December 2
Request Additional Detail on Short Listed Proposals	December 3 – 17
Award RFP	December 18

2.2 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

All inquiries, or questions pertaining to the requirements set forth in the RFP may be emailed to DCERFP@teainc.org by 11:59 pm PPT on November 11, 2026. Questions will be answered on a rolling basis, as received. Questions and responses will be made public for all participants and posted on both the TEA RFP Website and DCE's RFP Website. DCE reserves the right to respond to no questions or only a subset of the questions received.

2.3 INTENT TO BID

While this RFP does not require respondents to signal an intent to bid, doing so ensures that users will receive updates or changes to the RFP process. TEA requests that those who intend to submit a response to this RFP indicate so by selecting the "Intent to Bid" option on the TEA RFP Marketplace.

2.4 BINDING PROPOSALS

Respondents must provide the full legal name of the expected counterparty that would be bound by any agreement with DCE resulting from this solicitation. The cover letter provided by the respondent should be on the respondent's letterhead, signed by an authorized representative of the bidding company. Proposals must remain valid for at least 180 days after the response, unless otherwise agreed by DCE and the respondent.

3.0 COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS

3.1 DEVELOPMENT SECURITY AND PERFORMANCE ASSURANCE

DCE will require the seller to provide Development Security and Performance Security in the amounts and forms specified in the applicable agreement. Development Security must be posted upon execution and will be held until the project achieves Commercial Operation Date, subject to the release conditions in the applicable agreement. Performance Security must be posted no later than the Commercial Operation Date and maintained through the end of the delivery term. Development Security will be released after the applicable conditions are satisfied, including posting of Performance Security where required. DCE will not be required to provide Development Security or Performance Security. Any DCE credit support, if applicable, will be addressed in the definitive agreement.

Term Sheet including credit/collateral requirements will be provided to the shortlisted candidates.

4.0 BID SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Responses to this RFP are due by the deadline listed in the schedule in Section 2.1 and must be submitted through the TEA RFP Website. Submission packages will be deemed complete if they include the following materials:

- Narrative (PDF)
- Offer Form (Excel)

NARRATIVE

Respondents are to provide a brief narrative, a maximum of **10 pages**, of the project, including a technology description, the location, size, pricing, and any relevant high-level details. Also provide a brief description of your organization, including its ownership structure, relevant development and operating experience, financial condition and creditworthiness. A cover letter should also be included and must be signed by an authorized representative of the bidding company. Respondents should provide enough detail, especially for unique or innovative projects, to allow for a meaningful qualitative evaluation of the proposed project. The cover letter should be no longer than **2 pages**.

OFFER FORM

The Excel Offer Form is the primary source of data for evaluating submissions. Completing the Form template is mandatory, and all required fields must be completed for each submission to be considered compliant. Provide a separate Offer Form for each unique configuration that is being offered.

4.2 PUBLIC NATURE OF RESPONSES

TEA will act as the administrative point of contact during the proposal submission phase of this solicitation. TEA and/or DCE may communicate with respondents during the evaluation and selection phase. All responses to this RFP, as well as records of pre-submittal and post-submittal communications with TEA or DCE, will become the exclusive property of DCE. Responses and communications with TEA and DCE are subject to disclosure in accordance with the CPRA. Respondents should clearly identify and segregate information they contend is exempt from disclosure and provide a public redacted copy where feasible. Respondents claiming an exemption from disclosure must provide a written justification identifying each redaction, the basis for the claimed exemption, and the specific harm that would result from disclosure.

Exceptions to disclosure may be available to those parts or portions of proposals that are justifiably and reasonably defined as business or trade secrets, and plainly marked by respondents as “Trade Secret”, “Confidential”, or “Proprietary”. TEA and DCE will endeavor to protect any such marked information to the extent permitted under the CPRA. However, TEA and DCE shall not, in any way, be liable or responsible for the disclosure of any such record or any parts thereof, if disclosure is required or permitted under the CPRA or otherwise by law.

In the event TEA or DCE receive a CPRA request for any of the aforementioned documents, information, books, records, and/or contents of a proposal marked "Confidential", "Trade Secrets", or "Proprietary", respondents agree to defend and indemnify TEA and/or DCE from all costs and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred in connection with any action, proceedings, or liability arising in connection with the CPRA request.

A blanket statement of confidentiality or the marking of each page of the proposal as confidential shall not be deemed sufficient notice of a CPRA exemption, and a respondent who indiscriminately and without justification identifies most or all its proposal as exempt from disclosure or submits a redacted copy may be deemed non-responsive.

5.0 EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

An evaluation committee made up of TEA and DCE staff, their technical consultants, and/or their legal counsel, will review responses to this RFP. Each proposal will be screened for completeness and scored on a weighted criteria basis. TEA and DCE intend to identify a short list of proposed transactions upon which to conduct a more detailed review and may contact respondents with additional questions and clarifications or to offer to conduct one-on-one meetings with some or all the respondents. The opportunity to participate in such meetings, if any, will be communicated separately to individual respondents.

After reviewing the proposals received in this solicitation and any such meetings, DCE may potentially commence negotiation of commercial terms. DCE would then present recommended contract terms to its Board of Directors for final approval.

DCE realizes that some offered projects may be larger than DCE can reasonably use for its own procurement purposes. For this reason, DCE reserves the right to engage other partners that it deems fitting in discussions about partnering as additional off-takers for a project of substantial size. DCE will not disclose a Respondent's confidential information to any prospective partner without the Respondent's prior written consent, except as required by law.

5.1 COMPLETENESS

The evaluation committee will screen all RFP responses for completeness and responsiveness to the eligibility requirements stated above. This screening will be on a Pass/Fail basis. Each proposal that is deemed complete and responsive will then be scored using a weighted scoring criteria process.

5.2 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criteria for selection of proposals will include, but not be limited to, the items listed below. The evaluation committee will evaluate each proposal on a weighted criteria basis to determine the highest scoring proposals. One or more of the highest scoring proposals may be forwarded to DCE's governing board for approval. There is a maximum of 100

points.

WEIGHTING AND SCORING

- 1) 50 — Overall price and customer value
- 2) 30 — Respondent experience, qualifications, creditworthiness
- 3) 10 — Environmental impact and environmental benefits of proposed capacity resource
- 4) 10 — Location and economic benefit of proposed capacity products

Total Points Possible: 100

5.3 Respondent Communications

Questions, comments or feedback associated with this RFP must be sent electronically to DCERFP@teainc.org.

5.4 Disclaimer for Acceptance or Rejection of Offers and RFP Termination

By participating in DCE's RFP process, a respondent acknowledges that it has read, understands, and agrees to the terms and conditions set forth in these RFP Instructions. DCE reserves the right to reject any proposal that does not comply with the requirements identified herein, or to waive irregularities, if any. DCE may accept any and all proposals and evaluate proposals and proceed in the manner it deems appropriate, which may include deviation from the expected evaluation process, the waiver of any requirements, and the request for additional information. Rejected respondents will have no claim whatsoever against DCE nor its employees, officers, nor consultants.

5.5 Nondiscrimination

In connection with the execution of a contract, respondents shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, political affiliation, ancestry, marital status, or disability. This policy does not require the employment of unqualified persons. Parties agree that as a condition precedent to entering into a contract, any respondent is in compliance and will comply during duration of the contract with the non-discrimination provisions set forth under California Law for state contracting parties including, but not limited to, Government Code Section 12990 et seq. and Public Contracting Code Section 10295.35.

5.6 Protest of Award

If an unsuccessful respondent wants to dispute an award or award recommendation, a written protest must be filed with DCE's Executive Director within five (5) business days after posting the Notice of Intent to Award on DCE's website. No verbal protest will be accepted. The protest must be detailed, referencing the solicitation number, project name, and the name of the administrator listed on the bid documents. The protest must be

submitted to DCE's Executive Director via certified mail using the following address:

Executive Director
Desert Community Energy
74-199 El Paseo, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Any entity that submits a bid or proposal may protest a DCE contract award.