

# **California Solar Initiative RD&D Program**

## **Administration, Project Selection and Program Coordination**

**California Public Utilities Commission**

**Workshop on the Electric Program Investment  
Charge Program**

**January 17, 2013**



# CSI RD&D Program

*SB1 signed in 2006 -CPUC established CSI RD&D Program in 2007*

- *Allocated \$50 million for research, development, demonstration and deployment (RD&D) projects to further the overall goals of the CSI Program*
- *Adopted the “CSI RD&D Plan”*

*CSI RD&D Plan established:*

- *Goals and objectives*
- *Allocation guidelines for project funding*
- *Criteria for solicitation, selection and project funding*

*Three Target Areas Established for Program Funding:*

- *Grid-Integration: 50-65%*
- *Production Technologies: 10-25%*
- *Business Development and Deployment: 10-20%*

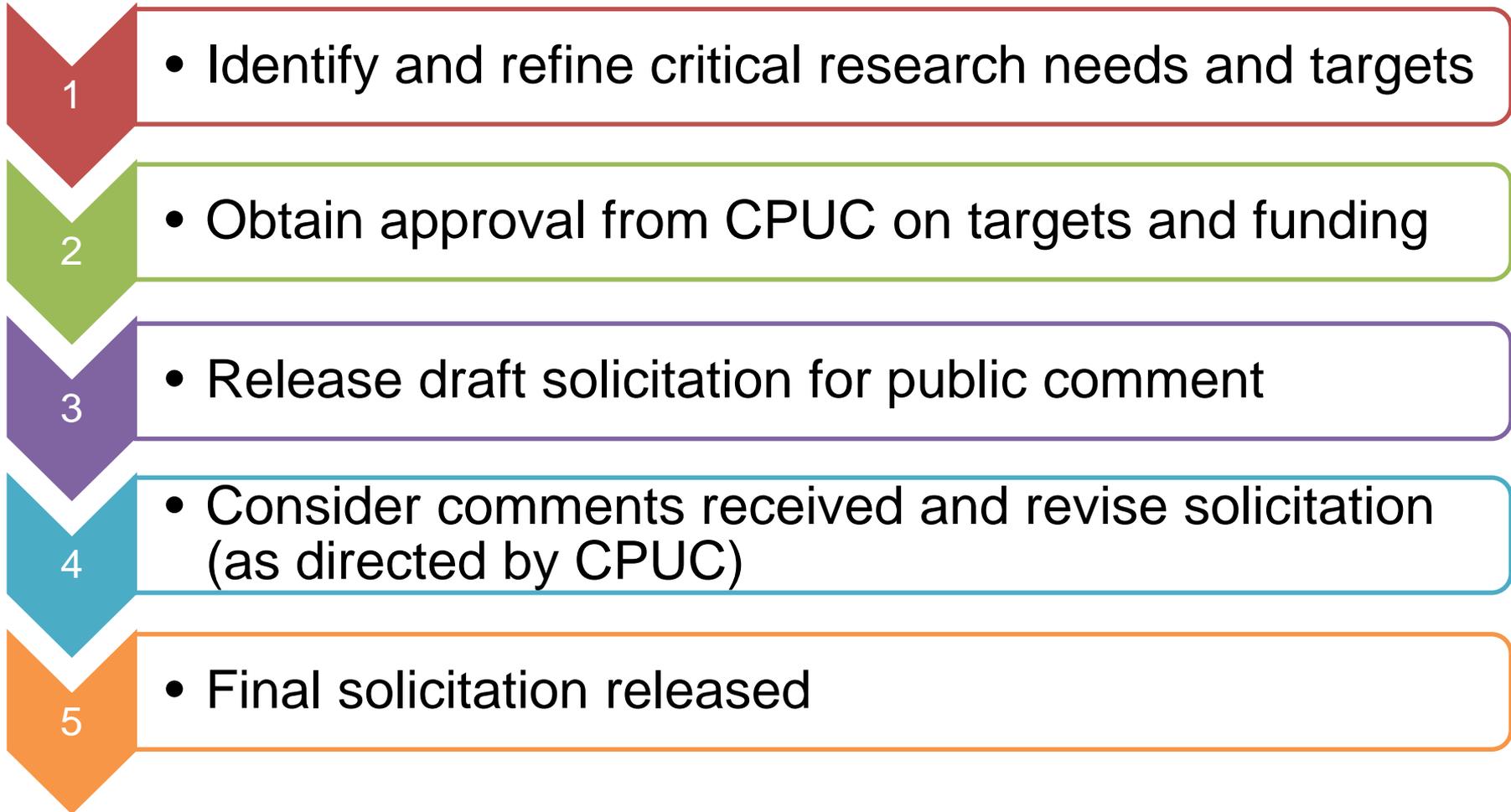
**CSI RD&D TimeLine To-Date:**



# Key Principles of CSI RD&D Plan

- ❑ The Adopted Plan established the following seven key principles that are the focus of the RD&D Program
  1. Improve the economics of solar technologies by reducing technology costs and increasing system performance.
  2. Focus on issues that directly benefit California, and that may not be funded by others.
  3. Fill knowledge gaps to enable successful, wide-scale deployment of solar distributed generation technologies.
  4. Overcome significant barriers to technology adoption.
  5. Take advantage of California's wealth of data from past, current, and future installations to fulfill the above.
  6. Provide bridge funding to help promising solar technologies transition from a pre-commercial state to full commercial viability.
  7. Support efforts to address the integration of distributed solar power into the grid in order to maximize its value to California ratepayers.

# Solicitation Process



# Project Selection Criteria

## □ Selection Criteria includes:

- ✓ **Utility participation**
- ✓ Match funding provided
- ✓ Benefits accrued to California ratepayers
- ✓ Level of funding requested from RD&D Program
- ✓ Potential to expand PV market opportunities or reduce barriers
- ✓ Milestones targeted
- ✓ Institutional or regulatory feasibility
- ✓ Visibility and educational component
- ✓ Capabilities, qualifications and experience of team
- ✓ Size of RD&D grant and budget allocations

# Review, Selection, and Grant Initiation Process

Step 1

- Technical review of proposals by outside experts and reviews available to Scoring Committee

Step 2

- Diverse committee reviews and scores proposals and makes recommendation for awards

Step 3

- Itron takes recommendation to CPUC for consideration

Step 4

- CPUC issues draft resolution announcing awards – Resolution subject to 30 day comment period

Step 5

- CPUC adopts Resolution with award funding level ‘up to ...’

Step 6

- Due diligence performed by Itron during the process of developing the grant agreement

# Program Coordination Points

## ❑ Solicitation Planning

- ✓ Direct contact with over two dozen entities involved with Solar RD&D
- ✓ Periodic contact and meetings with the primary funding organizations – CEC and DOE

## ❑ Project Selection

- ✓ Technical reviews conducted by outside experts to identify strengths, weaknesses, areas of possible overlap / synergies
- ✓ Proposal review and scoring team consists of experts, CPUC, CEC, DOE

## ❑ Project implementation

- ✓ Invite diverse stakeholder group to project kick-off
- ✓ Conduct regular project update webinars
- ✓ Conduct joint research forums

# Thank you!

For more information on the CSI RD&D Program, please visit the program website:

[www.CalSolarResearch.ca.gov](http://www.CalSolarResearch.ca.gov)

Or contact: Ann Peterson, Itron

509-891-3185

[Ann.Peterson@itron.com](mailto:Ann.Peterson@itron.com)