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## **Communities for a Better Environment Celebrates Equitable Solar Access for Affordable Housing Tenants in California**

**Los Angeles, CA; July 01, 2019** - Today, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) is celebrating the upcoming launch of California's Solar on Multifamily and Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program, the nation's largest investment in low-income residential solar for renters, on July 1, 2019. The SOMAH program, with its focus on clean energy and reducing costs for hundreds of thousands of affordable housing residents, will provide rebates to affordable housing property owners in East Oakland and South East Los Angeles who install solar and provide clean energy and significant utility bill savings to tenants.

CBE was a leading advocate for the passage of legislation creating SOMAH and in helping shape the program to ensure maximum community benefit. Over 10 years, SOMAH will provide up to \$100 million annually in financial incentives for solar on multifamily affordable housing in the state, ensuring equitable solar access to affordable housing tenants and creating clean energy job training opportunity in local communities.

*"The SOMAH program is monumental because it contributes to a transition from fossil fuel energy dependence," said **Terez Sanogo, CBE SOMAH Outreach Coordinator**. "It offers economic benefits, including job training and lower electricity bills, to those who have been on the frontlines of the struggle for sustainable energy solutions."*

SOMAH is administered by a team of nonprofit organizations that provide a variety of no-cost resources including technical assistance to property owners, tenant engagement resources and job training to ensure maximum community participation and benefit. Communities for a Better Environment is one of four community-based organizations supporting the program in its first year with community outreach and program feedback. The program is overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission.

Interested participants can access sample application forms and other resources, register for contractor and property housing owner webinars and sign up for job training

opportunities on the CalSOMAH.org website. SOMAH will begin accepting applications on July 1, 2019.

**About the SOMAH program**

The Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program provides up to \$100 million annually in financial incentives for installing photovoltaic (PV) energy systems on multifamily affordable housing in California. The program's unique, community-based approach ensures long-term, direct economic benefits for low-income households, helps catalyze the market for solar on multifamily housing and creates jobs. SOMAH is funded through the greenhouse gas allowance auction proceeds of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, Liberty Utilities Company and PacifiCorp. SOMAH aims to install 300 megawatts of generating capacity by 2030.

Founded in 1978, **Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)** is one of the preeminent environmental justice organizations in the nation. The mission of CBE is to build people's power in California's communities of color and low-income communities to achieve environmental health and justice by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy and sustainable communities and environments.

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