

SURGE Compliance Portal Workshop

Q&A Document

The following document contains questions asked during the SURGE Compliance Portal Workshops on 6/18/24 and 6/25/24.

- To access the workshop PPT slides, click here: [Solar-Utilities Reporting, Guidance, & Education \(SURGE\) \(cpucsurge.org\)](https://www.cpucsurge.org)
- To access the workshop recordings, click here: [June 18th](#) or [June 25th](#)

Upcoming Events

Click here to view a list of DIR events: [Support Center \(ca.gov\)](#)

SURGE Reminders:

JULY 1ST DEADLINE ALERT: Contractors with a project that began after December 31, 2023, are subject to prevailing wage requirements and must upload copies of Certified Payroll Reports no later than **July 1, 2024**. Failure to meet this deadline may result in interconnection application processing delays.

Click here to register/submit copies of certified payroll reports: [SURGE Compliance Portal](#)

Have Questions?

Contact us at 1-800-549-2143 or email us at info@cpucsurge.org.

For additional information, please visit our website at www.cpucsurge.org.

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June 18th Workshop

Prevailing Wages

Q: Does post installation labor also require prevailing wages, such as warranty and servicing the system years down the road?

A: Thank you for your inquiry. This question is outside the scope of the presentation, but there are resources available from the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). For questions about if a project is a public works project, please email pwcoverage@dir.ca.gov. For questions regarding prevailing wage classifications, please email statistics@dir.ca.gov. For questions about general compliance (including apprenticeship), please email publicworks@dir.ca.gov.

Q: Do prevailing wages apply to all work, including design-build, site surveys, etc., or if they are specifically for installation? Can you confirm that engineering is exempt from prevailing wage requirements?

A: Thank you for your inquiry. This question is outside the scope of the presentation, but there are resources available from the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). For questions about if a project is a public works project, please email pwcoverage@dir.ca.gov. For questions regarding prevailing wage classifications, please email statistics@dir.ca.gov. For questions about general compliance (including apprenticeship), please email publicworks@dir.ca.gov.

Payroll Submission

Q: To confirm, do we need to submit payroll records to SURGE for a project that began in 2021, if our employees are occasionally working at it in 2024?

A: This depends on when interconnectivity was approved. If you have an interconnectivity application that was approved prior to Jan. 1st, 2024, the project is not subject to AB 2143. There are certain maintenance upgrades that are going to put the project under the umbrella of AB 2143 compliance. It is best to work through the details with the respective utility.

Q: For the purpose of uploading certified payroll, is a company considered the prime contractor if they're going back and performing maintenance work in a project they did not build?

A: A contractor is considered the prime if their contract is directly with the owner of the project. Please review your contract to determine if you are the prime contractor.

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Q: For the CPRs, is it mandatory for SURGE to include the employee's Social Security Number?

A: When contractors submit their certified payroll records to SURGE, they must comply with the labor codes. Per [Labor Code Section 1776](#), social security numbers are required. SURGE can accept the last four digits of the Social Security Number.

SURGE Registration

Q: Does a sub who hires sub need to register with SURGE?

A: Yes. Regardless of the tier of the subcontractor, every subcontractor performing prevailing wage on the project will need to register with both the DIR and SURGE.

Q: We are a sub working with the owner on retrofit projects, is the owner considered the "prime" in this situation?

A: We would need to know if the owner is performing any of the self-installation work. If your firm is doing all the construction work on the solar project, then you would be considered the prime. For the purposes of DIR and SURGE they would be the property/project owner, and you would be the prime contractor.

Q: What do we do when the prime contractor does not register the project [on SURGE]?

A: As a sub, to submit copies of certified payroll records on SURGE, you will need a project identification number (PIN) which is generated when the Prime registers the project. If you have not received the PIN, we advise that you work with the prime contractor and emphasize that this is a requirement, and you will need it to upload your payroll. You can always contact us through the SURGE email/website, and we will be happy to work with the prime.

Department of Industrial Relations (DIR)

Q: What if the prime doesn't register with the DIR?

A: If the prime contractor doesn't register as a public works contractor with the DIR, they will not be able to register as a contractor with SURGE.

Q: So, the issue I'm having is the prime is registering the job with SURGE but not with the DIR.

A: The project owner (Awarding Body) is responsible for registering the project with the DIR. The prime will register the project with SURGE.

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Q: I can't locate that particular job in the DIR. If the job doesn't exist in the DIR but it's registered in SURGE, how do I report it to the DIR?

A: It's possible the project has not been registered with the DIR yet and that is why you are unable to locate it. Unfortunately, you can't submit your payrolls to the DIR until you have the DIR project ID number. Once the owner registers the project, they will get the DIR Project ID and with that you'll be able to submit certified payrolls to the DIR.

Q: Don't you need the DIR registration number to fill out the DAS 140 and 142 for the apprenticeships? Without that how do you know when to trigger that for the apprenticeships?

A: This is out of the scope of SURGE, but you can email the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) at DASpublicworks@dir.ca.gov for questions regarding apprenticeship. You can also visit the [DIR's Public Works Apprenticeship Requirements](#) page.

Q: Are DIR numbers good for life? If we have not used in a while, do we need to do anything?

A: The DIR numbers do expire at the end of the fiscal year (June 30). Contractors can renew their PWCR number for 1-3 years. On the [DIR's contractor registration](#) page, you can go in and search your Public Works Contractor Registration number and it will tell you if it is current or expired. You do need to have a current PWCR number while you're bidding on any public works project and throughout the life of the project.

Q: Can you please send the link in the DIR to check registration history?

A: To find Public Works Contractors on the DIR website you can visit the [DIR's Contractor Registration](#) page.

Q: Do we need to upload the DIR confirmation to SURGE?

A: It is not required to upload the eCPR confirmation pages to SURGE. Contractors just need to submit a copy of the A-1-131 Payroll Reporting Form and the Statement of Compliance. SURGE recommends that contractors keep a copy of the eCPR confirmation pages for their records.

Q: I don't think my question was answered. I asked about where and how does the building owner register the project? Can you provide a link and a little info about what is required of the building owner?

A: The project owner (Awarding Body) will register it through a form called the PWC-100 on the DIR website. Here is the link to get started: [DIR Government Portal - DIR Services \(ca.gov\)](#)

Public Works

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Q: So this legislation (AB 2143) is only related to the pay aspect of public works (prevailing wage rates) and not the labor aspect of traditional public works jobs (apprenticeship and minimum ratio requirements)? Is that correct?

A: All of the public works requirements will apply. These requirements are all under the labor code associated with public works projects, so those will be applicable here. AB 2143 states that if you have an eligible project, it is subject to the public works requirements.

Q: Just to confirm, a project could qualify for AB2143 and not be what would traditionally be considered public works?

A: An eligible project will qualify under AB 2143 as public works, even if it is not publicly funded. If you have a project that is going to be subject to the NEM tariff and does not fall within any of the exemptions, it will be considered public works, even without public funds.

Out of Scope

Q: If the contract doesn't state "skilled and trained workforce" are we required to use apprentice labor?

A: Thank you for your inquiry. This question is outside the scope of the presentation, but there are resources available from the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). For questions about if a project is a public works project, please email pwcoverage@dir.ca.gov. For questions regarding prevailing wage classifications, please email statistics@dir.ca.gov. For questions about general compliance (including apprenticeship), please email publicworks@dir.ca.gov.

Q: Can you please send the exact instructions/site for the building owner where they need to register the project?

A: Thank you for your inquiry. This question is outside the scope of the presentation, but there are resources available from the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). For questions about if a project is a public works project, please email pwcoverage@dir.ca.gov. For questions regarding prevailing wage classifications, please email statistics@dir.ca.gov. For questions about general compliance (including apprenticeship), please email publicworks@dir.ca.gov.

Q: Do training Contributions still go to the CAC?

A: Thank you for your inquiry. This question is outside the scope of the presentation, but there are resources available from the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). For questions about if a project is a public works project, please email pwcoverage@dir.ca.gov. For questions regarding prevailing wage classifications, please email statistics@dir.ca.gov. For questions about general compliance (including apprenticeship), please email publicworks@dir.ca.gov.

Q: Would you be able to share what engineering activities, if any, are required to be prevailing wage? And if there are such activities, do we submit blank CPRs for the period between when engineering activities cease, and actual work on site commences?

A: Thank you for your inquiry. This question is outside the scope of the presentation, but there are resources available from the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). For questions about if a project is a public works project, please email pwcoverage@dir.ca.gov. For questions regarding prevailing wage classifications, please email statistics@dir.ca.gov. For questions about general compliance (including apprenticeship), please email publicworks@dir.ca.gov.

Q: Will training contributions still be paid to the CAC or does it go to the Employee?

A: Thank you for your inquiry. This question is outside the scope of the presentation, but there are resources available from the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). For questions about if a project is a public works project, please email pwcoverage@dir.ca.gov. For questions regarding prevailing wage classifications, please email statistics@dir.ca.gov. For questions about general compliance (including apprenticeship), please email publicworks@dir.ca.gov.

Q: Will you cover whether or not we will be required to have apprentices and minimum hourly ratios on these projects?

A: Thank you for your inquiry. This question is outside the scope of the presentation, but there are resources available from the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). For questions about public works, please email publicworks@dir.ca.gov. For questions regarding apprenticeship, please email DASpublicworks@ca.gov. You may also visit the [DIR's Public Works Apprenticeship](#) page for additional information.

Q: Are apprentice ratios required?

A: Thank you for your inquiry. This question is outside the scope of the presentation, but there are resources available from the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). For questions about public works, please email publicworks@dir.ca.gov. For questions regarding apprenticeship, please email DASpublicworks@ca.gov. You may also visit the [DIR's Public Works Apprenticeship](#) page for additional information.

Q: Where will the apprenticeship and minimum ratios requirements be documented? My company is looking for advisement and very unclear on this. Any resources would be appreciated.

A: Thank you for your inquiry. This question is outside the scope of the presentation, but there are resources available from the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). For questions about public works, please email publicworks@dir.ca.gov. For questions regarding apprenticeship, please email DASpublicworks@ca.gov. You may also visit the [DIR's Public Works Apprenticeship](#) page for additional information.

June 25th Workshop

Project Eligibility

Q: I heard that commercial projects under 10 kW are not subject to AB2143 and prevailing wage requirements. Is that true?

A: Overall, it's the residential facilities that generate a maximum of 15 kW that fall under the exemptions, commercial could be too broad a category. If you're talking about something other than a residential facility, it may still fall under the AB 2143 requirements.

Q: What if the Utility company is not publicly owned, would the project still be required to follow AB2143?

A: SCE, PG&E and SDG&E are the only three utilities that have projects eligible for the NEM Tariff. Only projects eligible for the NEM Tariff will be subject to AB 2143. If you are doing a project in a Municipal Territory (using a Municipal utility company), the project will not be subject to the tariff, and therefore not subject to AB 2143.

Q: Are nonprofit businesses subject to AB2143 and prevailing wage requirements?

A: Yes. Nonprofits do not fall under the exemptions.

Q: Will the pin number replace the pwc-100 number on the certified payroll?

A: No, one does not replace the other. The pin number is generated by SURGE when the project is registered. Contractors do not need to include the PIN number on the certified payroll report. The DIR Project ID number should be included on the certified payroll report.

Q: If the NEM agreement is dated before January 1, 2024, are they exempt?

A: You'll need to verify when your Interconnection Application was processed and approved with your utility. If it was approved and processed before Jan. 1, 2024, it will not be eligible under AB 2143.

Q: Can you walk us through a payroll upload?

A: SURGE has video tutorials on how to upload Certified Payroll Records on our [website](#) and [YouTube account](#).