

# **Auction Notice**

## **California Cap-and-Trade Program and Québec Cap-and-Trade System**

### **Joint Auction of Greenhouse Gas Allowances**

#### **On February 22, 2017**

**Issued on December 22, 2016**

#### **Auction Summary**

This document, Auction Notice for the California Cap-and-Trade Program and Québec Cap-and-Trade System Joint Auction of Greenhouse Gas Allowances on February 22, 2017 (Auction Notice), is the official notification for the February 22, 2017, joint greenhouse gas (GHG) allowance auction (February 2017 Joint Auction #10). The February 2017 Joint Auction #10 will offer years 2014 and 2017 vintage allowances in the Current Auction and year 2020 future vintage allowances in the Advance Auction. In the Auction Platform, the February 2017 Joint Auction #10 is identified by the title Joint Auction/Enchère liée #10.

Additional background information, detailed instructions, and examples are posted in two supporting documents to provide information that remains static for each 2017 auction event. The [2017 Detailed Auction Requirements and Instructions](#) document provides background information on the California Cap-and-Trade Program and Québec Cap-and-Trade System as well as detailed requirements and instructions for participating in a joint auction, including eligibility; applicant requirements; administrative requirements; submitting a bid guarantee; bidding; and a description of the process to complete auction financial settlement and transfer of allowances.

The [2017 Auction Examples](#) document provides information and examples of how United States (U.S.) and Canadian currencies are managed; how to determine the amount of a bid guarantee; and bid evaluation procedures for purchase limits, holding limits, and bid guarantees.

#### **Date and Time of Auction**

**The February 2017 Joint Auction #10 is scheduled to take place on February 22, 2017 from 10:00 AM Pacific Time (PT) / 1:00 PM Eastern Time (ET) until 1:00 PM PT / 4:00 PM ET.**

The Auction Platform can be accessed at <https://www.wci-auction.org> or from the jurisdictions' and WCI, Inc.'s webpages.

## Allowances Offered for Sale

The auction of allowances from the current and previous budget years is known as the Current Auction. The auction of future vintage allowances is known as the Advance Auction. The Current Auction and Advance Auction will occur simultaneously at the date and time identified in this Auction Notice.

Allowances offered for sale in the February 2017 Joint Auction #10 are issued under the California Cap-and-Trade Program and the Québec Cap-and-Trade System. The number of allowances listed for the Current Auction includes California state- and Québec provincial-owned allowances and California allowances consigned by electrical distribution utilities and natural gas suppliers (consigning entities) and potentially other parties as described in the California Cap-and-Trade Regulation (California Regulation). The allowances listed for the Current Auction can include allowances that remain unsold from an undersubscribed 2016 Current Auction and are returned to auction after two consecutive Current Auctions have resulted in a settlement price above the Auction Reserve Price. Additional allowances may also be made available for auction from closed Compliance Instrument Tracking System Service (CITSS) accounts, allowances submitted for untimely surrender obligations, and the potential return of freely allocated allowances as the result of an enforcement settlement. In each of these situations, the vintages may not be the same as the current calendar year, or the allowances may be an allowance type with no vintage if they were purchased from a jurisdiction's Reserve Sale.<sup>1</sup>

The number of allowances that will be available for sale in the Current Auction and Advance Auction are provided below in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Allowances Offered for Sale**

<b>Auction</b>	<b>Number of Allowances</b>
Current Auction	65,104,273
Advance Auction	9,723,500

For the February 2017 Joint Auction #10, there will be multiple vintages offered within the Current Auction. When submitting bids for the Current Auction, all bids are placed as "Current" vintage. For allowances awarded in the Current Auction, allowances will be transferred to successful bidders according to the requirements of the California Regulation and the Regulation respecting a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas emission allowances (Québec Regulation). The number of allowances offered by vintage in the Current Auction conducted in February 2017 are provided below in Table 2 below.

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<sup>1</sup> Québec Sales by Mutual Agreement are referred to as Reserve Sales for simplicity.

**Table 2: Current Auction Allowances Offered for Sale by Vintage**

<b>Vintage Year</b>	<b>Number of Allowances</b>
2014	9,301
2017	65,094,972
Total Current Auction Budget	65,104,273

**Annual Auction Reserve Prices**

The Annual Auction Reserve Price refers to the Auction Reserve Price established and published annually by each jurisdiction. The Annual Auction Reserve Price is a predetermined minimum price at which allowances will be sold to auction participants in jurisdiction specific auctions. Each jurisdiction provides an Annual Auction Reserve Price that conforms to its Regulation.

The Annual Auction Reserve Prices for California (CA) and Québec (QC) are provided in Table 3. The CA Annual Auction Reserve Price is presented in United States Dollars (USD). The QC Annual Auction Reserve Price is presented in Canadian Dollars (CAD). The actual Auction Reserve Price in effect for each joint auction is determined the day prior to the joint auction based on the Auction Exchange Rate. This Auction Exchange Rate and Auction Reserve Price are required for joint auction currency management and are described in further detail in the [2017 Detailed Auction Requirements and Instructions](#) document.

**Table 3: 2017 Annual Auction Reserve Prices**

<b>Auction</b>	<b>CA Annual Auction Reserve Price (USD)</b>	<b>QC Annual Auction Reserve Price (CAD)</b>
Current Auction	13.57	13.56
Advance Auction	13.57	13.56

**Auction Application Requirements and Instructions****I - Eligibility**

All entities eligible to participate in an auction under the California Cap-and-Trade Program or Québec Cap-and-Trade System are eligible to participate in a joint auction. California covered entities, opt-in covered entities, and voluntarily associated entities (CA entities) are eligible to participate in a joint auction. Québec emitters and participants (QC entities) are eligible to participate in a joint auction.

## **II - Administrative Requirements**

Administrative requirements are requirements that must be met before being granted access to the Auction Platform to submit an entity's application or confirm an entity's intent to bid in an auction. These requirements include selecting the "Auction Participation" box in CITSS to agree to have entity account and account representative information transferred to the Auction Administrator and Financial Services Administrator for the purpose of facilitating participation in any upcoming auction. To establish access to the Auction Platform a Primary Account Representative (PAR) or Alternate Account Representative (AAR) must be authorized by an entity to act on its behalf in an auction.

These requirements are described in further detail in the [2017 Detailed Auction Requirements and Instructions](#) document.

## **III - Application Requirements**

An entity will be required to complete an auction participant application at least 30 days prior to an auction in which it intends to participate. An entity applying for approval as an auction participant must be registered under the California Cap-and-Trade Program or Québec Cap-and-Trade System and have a CITSS General Holding Account that has not been revoked or suspended.

Auction application information includes the following:

- 1) Information submitted in the process of obtaining a CITSS account
  - a) Corporate identity, ownership, and capital structure of the applicant
  - b) The existence of any direct or indirect corporate associations
  - c) An allocation of the purchase limit and holding limit among associated entities, if applicable;
- 2) Bid guarantee form, currency, and return instructions; and
- 3) An attestation response

Once an entity has been approved to participate in an auction, the entity need not complete another application for subsequent auctions unless there is a material change to the information contained in the approved application, although an entity that intends to participate in an auction must inform the Auction Administrator at least 30 days prior to an auction of its intent to bid in an auction, otherwise the entity may not participate in that auction.

Auction application requirements are described in further detail in the [2017 Detailed Auction Requirements and Instructions](#) document.

## Auction Schedule

Table 4 presents the current schedule for activities associated with the February 2017 Joint Auction #10 (Auction Schedule). Any changes to the Auction Schedule will be communicated through an updated Auction Notice and by email to the PAR and AARs of California and Québec registered entities who have selected the “Auction Participation” box in CITSS.

**Table 4: Auction Schedule**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Time - Pacific Time (PT) / Eastern Time (ET)</b>
Auction Notice released/ Auction application period opens	Thursday, December 22, 2016	12:00 PM (Noon) PT / 3:00 PM ET
Deadline for QC entities to make changes in CITSS and submit all hard copy documents accompanying these changes <sup>2</sup>	Friday, January 13, 2017	
Deadline for CA entities to make changes in CITSS and submit all hard copy documents accompanying these changes and to complete or provide an update to the Auction Application Attestation Disclosure	Monday, January 23, 2017	
Auction application period closes	Monday, January 23, 2017	8:59 PM PT / 11:59 PM ET
All bid guarantees due to Financial Services Administrator	Friday, February 10, 2017	No later than 3:00 PM PT / 6:00 PM ET
Auction participants approved and PAR and AARs notified	Friday, February 17, 2017	
Auction Exchange Rate and Auction Reserve Price Posted to Auction Platform	Tuesday, February 21, 2017	
Auction held	Wednesday, February 22, 2017	Bidding window open from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM PT / 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET
Joint Auction Summary Results Report released	Wednesday, March 01, 2017	12:00 PM (Noon) PT / 3:00 PM ET

<sup>2</sup> Under the Québec Cap-and-Trade System and Québec Regulation it is required that changes related to the distribution of the holding limit or any new business relationships must be sent to the Minister not less than forty (40) days before an auction.

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Time - Pacific Time (PT) / Eastern Time (ET)</b>
Auction Certified / Auction results available to qualified bidders	Wednesday, March 01, 2017	12:00 PM (Noon) PT / 3:00 PM ET
Financial settlement in cash due to Financial Services Administrator	Wednesday, March 08, 2017	No later than 3:00 PM PT / 6:00 PM ET
Distribution of auction proceeds completed by	Tuesday, March 21, 2017	
Transfer of allowances into CITSS Accounts	Tuesday, March 21, 2017	
California and Québec Post Joint Auction Public Proceeds Reports released	Tuesday, March 21, 2017	
Earliest date for bid guarantee expiration	Monday, March 20, 2017 (26 days after auction)	

### **Procedures for Conducting the Auction**

Each quarterly joint auction will be conducted using an electronic, internet-based Auction Platform that bidders use to apply to participate in an auction and submit bids in a single-round, sealed-bid auction format.

As described above, each entity must submit an application for or confirm its intent to bid in an auction. All final bid guarantees must be received by the Financial Services Administrator by no later than the date and time listed in the Auction Schedule. The Jurisdictions will approve or deny applicants for an auction within two (2) business days prior to the date the auction is scheduled to take place.

Procedures for conducting the auction are described in further detail in the [2017 Detailed Auction Requirements and Instructions](#) document with specific examples provided in the [2017 Auction Examples](#) document.

## **Form and Manner for Submitting Bids**

Participants will be able to submit bids manually and upload bid schedules in a pre-defined Excel template in the Auction Platform during the bidding window. Bid quantities can only be submitted in multiples of 1,000 allowances. Bids for both the Current Auction and the Advance Auction will be accepted during the same scheduled 3-hour bidding window. The form and manner for submitting bids are described in further detail in the [2017 Detailed Auction Requirements and Instructions](#) document with specific examples provided in the [2017 Auction Examples](#) document.

## **Auction Participant Training Materials**

An Auction Participant Training presentation for CA entities is available on the California Air Resources Board (ARB) Auction Information webpage and a similar Auction Participant Training presentation for QC entities is available on the Québec ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques<sup>3</sup> (MDDELCC) Carbon Market webpage. Each presentation includes information on administrative and regulatory requirements for auction participation, the auction application process, bid guarantee submission, bid submission, settlement price determination, and financial settlement processes for auctions.

Training materials are also available from the Auction Platform, and include a calendar of upcoming activities, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), the Auction Participant Training presentation, and an Auction and Reserve Sale User Guide. Training materials are available in English for CA participants and both English and French for QC participants.

## **Auction Participant Training Webinars**

California and Québec will hold two auction participant training webinar sessions to describe how to apply for an auction and submit bids in the Auction Platform, as well as how to submit a bid guarantee. Each training session will include the same information, and a question and answer period. The first session will be presented in English by ARB's Cap-and-Trade team, and the second session will be presented in French by the Carbon market team of the MDDELCC. Any person interested or considering participating in an Auction is invited to participate in either of the two sessions. The details for these auction training webinar sessions are provided below.

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<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and the Fight against Climate Change.

## **Auction Participant Training Webinar #1 (English)**

Date: January 5, 2017

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM PT / 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET

Click here to register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8334377682840982786>

*Note: Potential participants are strongly encouraged to register in advance of the Webinar event. Upon completing registration, potential participants will receive a follow up e-mail from GoToWebinar with a link that will enable computer access to the video portion of the Webinar at the time of the event.*

To access the audio portion of the Webinar, please use your phone to dial in as follows:

Webinar Dial-In Number (US and Canada toll free): 1-800-369-1784

Webinar Dial-In Number (toll applies): 1-203-827-7006

Participant Passcode: 1698932#

## **Auction Participant Training Webinar #2 (French)**

Date: January 11, 2017

Time: 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM PT / 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

All PAR and AARs of Québec registered entities will receive an invitation to the Webinar. If you are not representing a Québec registered entity but wish to participate in this session, contact MDDELCC's Carbon market team at: [spede-bcc@mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:spede-bcc@mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca).

### **Additional Information**

Additional information on the California Cap-and-Trade Program and the Québec Cap-and-Trade System is available on the jurisdiction webpages as follows:

#### **California**

Cap-and-Trade Program: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/capandtrade.htm>

Auction Information: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/auction>

CITSS Information: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/citss>

For questions regarding the California Cap-and-Trade Program, please contact the California Air Resources Board Cap-and-Trade Hotline at (916) 322-2037.

#### **Québec**

Cap-and-Trade System:

<http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/changements/carbone/Systeme-plafonnement-droits-GES-en.htm>

Carbon Market Website:

[http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/changementsclimatiques/marche-carbone\\_en.asp](http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/changementsclimatiques/marche-carbone_en.asp)



### **Auction Contact Information<sup>4</sup>**

For further information about participation in the February 2017 Joint Auction #10, please contact one of the following:

California Cap-and-Trade Program  
Rajmir Rai, California Air Resources Board  
[Rajmir.Rai@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Rajmir.Rai@arb.ca.gov)  
(916) 327-5614

Québec Cap-and-Trade System  
Ministère du Développement durable de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre,  
les changements climatiques  
[spede-bcc@mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:spede-bcc@mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca)  
418 521-3868, poste 7400

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<sup>4</sup> When contacting jurisdiction staff, please do not use email to transmit personal or confidential information; it is not a secure means of transmission. If it is necessary to transmit personal or confidential information, please contact listed jurisdiction staff for information on how to provide this information securely.