

# Auction Notice

## California Cap-and-Trade Program and Québec Cap-and-Trade System Joint Auction of Greenhouse Gas Allowances On ~~December 21, 2018~~ February 20, 2019 Update Issued on December 27, 2018

### Auction Summary

This document, the Auction Notice for the California Cap-and-Trade Program and the Québec Cap-and-Trade System Joint Auction of Greenhouse Gas Allowances on February 20, 2019 (Auction Notice), is the official notification for the February 20, 2019, joint greenhouse gas (GHG) allowance auction (February 2019 Joint Auction #18). The February 2019 Joint Auction #18 will offer years 2016, 2017, and 2019 vintage allowances in the Current Auction and year 2022 future vintage allowances in the Advance Auction. In the Compliance Instrument Tracking System Service (CITSS) and Auction Platform, the February 2019 Joint Auction #18 is identified by the title Joint Auction/Enchère Liée #18.

Additional background information, detailed instructions, and examples are posted in two supporting documents to provide information for 2019 auction events. The [Detailed Auction Requirements and Instructions](#) document provides background information on the California Cap-and-Trade Program and the Québec Cap-and-Trade System as well as detailed requirements and instructions for participating in a joint auction, including eligibility, auction applicant requirements, submitting a bid guarantee,<sup>1</sup> bidding, and a description of the process to complete auction financial settlement and transfer of allowances.

The [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.

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<sup>1</sup> The term “bid guarantee” will be used throughout this document to refer to “bid guarantee” as described in the California Regulation, and to “financial guarantee” as defined in the Québec Regulation.

## Date and Time of Auction

**The February 2019 Joint Auction #18 is scheduled to take place on February 20, 2019 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:

California: <https://www.wci-auction.org/ca>

Québec: <https://www.wci-auction.org/qc>

## 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 2019 Joint Auction #18 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 and Québec allowances and allowances consigned by California electrical distribution utilities and natural gas suppliers (consigning entities) and potentially other parties as described in the California Cap-and-Trade Regulation (California Regulation). In addition, the allowances listed for the Current Auction can include allowances that remain unsold from an undersubscribed Current Auction in prior quarters and are returned to auction after two consecutive Current Auctions have resulted in a settlement price above the Auction Reserve Price.<sup>2</sup> Additional allowances may also be made available arising out of each of the jurisdictions' regulatory provisions, including allowances with earlier vintages than the current calendar year or allowances that have no vintage, such as Early Reduction Credits issued by Québec, and allowances from the Québec Minister's reserve account. The number of allowances that will be available for sale in the Current Auction and Advance Auction are provided in Table 1 below.

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<sup>2</sup> For specific treatment of unsold allowances in California's program, see the [Guidance on Treatment of Unsold Allowances](#) on the California auction webpage.

**Table 1: Allowances Offered for Sale**

<b>Auction</b>	<b>Number of Allowances</b>
Current Auction	80,847,404
Advance Auction	9,038,000

For the February 2019 Joint Auction #18, 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 both 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 2019 are provided in Table 2 below.

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

<b>Vintage Year</b>	<b>Number of Allowances</b>
2016	1,914,995
2017	14,254,485
2019	64,677,924
Total Current Auction Budget	80,847,404

## Annual Auction Reserve Prices

The Annual Auction Reserve Prices<sup>3</sup> refer to the minimum prices set and released annually by each jurisdiction in accordance with Section 95911 of the California Regulation and Article 49 of the Québec Regulation. The respective Annual Auction Reserve Prices for California (CA) and Québec (QC) will be used to determine the Auction Reserve Price for each joint auction, the day prior to the joint auction event.

The Annual Auction Reserve Prices for CA and QC are provided in Table 3. The CA Annual Auction Reserve Price is presented in United States Dollars (USD). The QC Annual Auction Reserve Prices are presented in Canadian Dollars (CAD). The Auction Reserve Price will be determined as the higher of the Annual Auction Reserve Prices established in U.S. and Canadian dollars after applying the established Auction Exchange Rate (USD to CAD FX Rate).

The Auction Exchange Rate (USD to CAD FX Rate) in effect the day of a joint auction and for financial settlement by qualified bidders will be determined the business day prior to each joint auction as the most recently available daily average exchange rate for U.S. and Canadian dollars as published by the Bank of Canada, and will be displayed in the Auction Platform.

This Auction Exchange Rate (USD to CAD FX Rate) and Auction Reserve Price are required for joint auction currency management and are described in further detail in the [Detailed Auction Requirements and Instructions](#) document.

**Table 3: 2019 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	\$15.62	\$15.31
Advance Auction	\$15.62	\$15.31

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<sup>3</sup> The term “Annual Auction Reserve Price” will be used throughout this document to refer to the “minimum price” as defined in the Québec Regulation.

# Auction Application Requirements and Instructions

## I - Eligibility

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

An entity<sup>4</sup> applying for approval<sup>5</sup> to participate in an auction 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 suspended or revoked.<sup>6</sup>

## II – Auction Application Requirements

Entities submit auction applications in CITSS. CITSS can be accessed at <https://www.wci-citss.org>. An entity is required to complete an auction participant application in CITSS at least 30 days prior to an auction in which it intends to participate. Information submitted in the auction application process in CITSS includes the following:

- a) Confirmation of the auction event in which the participant intends to bid
- b) Information on the form(s) of bid guarantee, currency, and return instructions
- c) Completion of an Attestation

After entering the information listed above, auction applications are then confirmed and submitted in CITSS.

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<sup>4</sup> The term “entity” refers to the companies and individuals registered under the respective cap-and-trade programs of California and Québec. Under Québec’s cap-and-trade program, entities are known as emitters and participants.

<sup>5</sup> The term “approval or rejection to participate in an auction” will be used throughout this document to refer to approval or rejection to participate in an auction as described in the California Regulation and Québec Regulation.

<sup>6</sup> The account must not be revoked or suspended in accordance with Sections 95814(a), 95832(f)(4), 95835(c)(2), 95921(g)(3), or 96011 of the California Regulation and Section 46 of the Québec Regulation. A revoked account has a status of “Closed” in CITSS.

Auction application information also includes 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

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

## **Auction Schedule**

Table 4 presents the current schedule for activities associated with the February 2019 Joint Auction #18 (Auction Schedule). Any changes to the Auction Schedule will be communicated through an updated Auction Notice and by email to the Primary Account Representative (PAR) and Alternative Account Representatives (AARs) of California and Québec registered entities that have been qualified bidders in past events or that have submitted an event application to an upcoming event.

**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	Friday, December 21, 2018	12:00 PM (Noon) PT / 3:00 PM ET
Deadline for entities intending to participate in the joint auction to make changes in CITSS and submit all hard copy documents accompanying these changes	Friday, January 11, 2019	
Auction application period closes	Tuesday, January 22, 2019	8:59 PM PT / 11:59 PM ET
All bid guarantees due to Financial Services Administrator	Friday, February 8, 2019	No later than 3:00 PM PT / 6:00 PM ET
Auction participants approved and PAR and AARs notified	Friday, February 15, 2019	
Auction Exchange Rate and Auction Reserve Price Posted to Auction Platform	Tuesday, February 19, 2019	
Auction held	Wednesday, February 20, 2019	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, February 27, 2019	12:00 PM (Noon) PT / 3:00 PM ET
Auction Certified / Auction results available to qualified bidders	Wednesday, February 27, 2019	12:00 PM (Noon) PT / 3:00 PM ET
Financial settlement in cash due to Financial Services Administrator	Wednesday, March 6, 2019	No later than 3:00 PM PT / 6:00 PM ET
Distribution of auction proceeds completion	Tuesday, March 19, 2019	
Transfer of allowances into CITSS Accounts	Tuesday, March 19, 2019	
California and Québec Post-Joint Auction Public Proceeds Reports released	Tuesday, March 19, 2019	
Earliest date for bid guarantee expiration	Monday, March 18, 2019 (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 submit bids in a single-round, sealed-bid auction format.

As described above, each entity must submit an application, or for CA Entities confirm its intent to bid, in an auction in CITSS. Financial Services Delivery Instructions will be available from CITSS, and 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 of the scheduled auction date.

Procedures for conducting the auction are described in further detail in the [Detailed Auction Requirements and Instructions](#) document with specific examples provided in the [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, i.e. 1 bid lot equals 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 [Detailed Auction Requirements and Instructions](#) document with specific examples provided in the [Auction Examples](#) document.

## **Auction Participant Training Materials**

An Auction Participant Training presentation for CA entities is available on the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Auction Information webpage. An Auction Participant Training presentation for QC entities is available on the Québec ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques<sup>7</sup> (MELCC) Carbon Market webpage. Each presentation includes information on regulatory requirements for auction participation, the auction application process, bid guarantee submission, bid

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<sup>7</sup> Ministry of Environment and the Fight against Climate Change.



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 Platform User Guide. Training materials are available in English for CA entities and both English and French for QC entities.

## **Auction Participant Training Webinar**

California and Québec will each hold an auction participant training webinar session to describe how to apply for a joint 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 sessions will be presented in English by California and in French by Québec. 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.

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

Date: Wednesday, January 9, 2019

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

Click [here](#) to register.

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): 1-800-369-2100

Webinar Dial-In Number (toll applies): 1-517-308-9252

Participant Passcode: 32059#

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

Date: Wednesday, January 16, 2019

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

All PARs 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 MELCC's Carbon market team at:

[EncheresGES-qc@environnement.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:EncheresGES-qc@environnement.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: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/capandtrade.htm>

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

CITSS Information: <https://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.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/changements/carbone/Systeme-plafonnement-droits-GES-en.htm>

Carbon Market Website:

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

## **Auction Contact Information**

For further information about participation in the February 2019 Joint Auction #18, please contact one of the following:

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

Tobias Muench, California Air Resources Board

[Tobias.Muench@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Tobias.Muench@arb.ca.gov)

(916) 322-3908

### **Québec Cap-and-Trade System**

Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques

[EncheresGES-qc@environnement.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:EncheresGES-qc@environnement.gouv.qc.ca)

418 521-3868, ext. 7400