**Legal Title**  
Public Interest Research, Development, and Demonstration Fund

**Legal Citation/Authority**  
Chapter 94, Statutes of 2005 (SB 76), Section 4  
Public Utilities Code section 384

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**Purpose**  
For the purpose of making awards for public interest energy research, development, and demonstration projects or programs that are not provided for by competitive and regulated markets. The fund would prescribe procedures for the development, implementation, and administration of the program. The program shall consist of a balanced portfolio that addresses California’s energy and environmental needs, technology opportunities, and system reliability.

**Administering Agency/Organization Code**  
Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission/Org 3360

**Major Revenue Source**  
Funds transferred from electrical utility corporations.

**Disposition of Fund (upon abolition)**  
Pursuant to Government Code section 16346, in the absence of language that identifies a successor fund, any balance remaining in this fund upon abolition, shall be transferred to the General Fund.

**Appropriation Authority**  
Funds available upon appropriation by the legislature

**State Appropriations Limit**  
**Excluded:** Revenues in this fund are not proceeds of taxes; however, when transferred, may become proceeds of taxes. There is a logical, direct relationship between the use or purposes (to undertake public interest energy research, development, and demonstration projects) and the revenues collected (from electricity companies).

**Comments/Historical Information**  
Chapter 905, Statutes of 1997, Section 5 (SB 90) created the fund. Chapter 1051, Statutes of 2000 (AB 995), extended the collection of revenues by the utilities for the PIER Program through January 1, 2012.