Building a Clean Energy Future

California's expanding CCA sector continues to fuel clean energy development, green jobs, and economic growth throughout the state.

The 200-megawatt Wright Solar Project in Merced County (pictured) is one of a growing number of clean energy projects built to serve CCAs.
Resilience. Reliability. Flexibility. These terms have long been part of the daily lexicon in California’s energy sector and are essential electricity system traits as we plot a course toward a 100% clean energy future. Now their use has extended more broadly to daily life in these turbulent and uncertain times. They are no longer just desirable grid characteristics, but survival skills we must rely on and sharpen amid this pandemic existence, where everything—plans, gatherings, dates, travel—can be upended at any moment, no matter the importance.

Perhaps that is why positive news and developments, when we do see them, take on a greater significance than they might during “normal” times. CalCCA made a point to issue a November update of the progress CCAs are making in contracting for new-build renewable energy and energy storage—even though it could be dismissed as par for the course—because, quite frankly, it’s excellent news.

CCAs have to date signed long-term power purchase agreements for more than 6,000 megawatts (MW) with new clean energy projects including wind, solar, geothermal, and energy storage throughout California, and have been accelerating the signing of PPAs throughout the pandemic and building a more diverse and balanced resource portfolio (see pages 4 and 5 for details).

The 6,000 MW total includes almost 5,000 MW in executed renewable energy PPAs—an increase of 1,700 MW compared to a year ago—and more than 1,000 MW in battery energy storage contracts, a fourfold increase over last year. When it comes to clean energy and resilience initiatives, CCAs are continuing to forge ahead.

CCAs’ commitment to new clean energy resources is vital for the state to achieve ambitious climate mandates, and to drive economic recovery and job creation when they are most needed. Indeed, several projects that will generate power for CCAs are currently under construction and approaching commercial operation despite the many challenges posed by COVID-19. Many others will be built in the next year to meet 2022 and 2023 commercial operation dates.

This has been a challenging year on so many fronts. With the holiday season upon us, it seems like a good time to tap into those newly honed pandemic survival skills and focus on the wonderful things of permanence that are here today. Family, friendship, and laughter are just a few of the things that come to mind.

Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

Beth Vaughan
Executive Director, CalCCA

“California’s community choice aggregators are moving ahead of the traditional utilities.”

The First Major Long-Duration Storage Procurement Has Arrived, Greentech Media, 10.16.20
QUICK TAKES

- California CCAs have to date signed long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs) for more than 6,000 MW with new-build clean energy resources—including solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, and energy storage—CalCCA announced on November 12, with PPAs totaling more than 2,600 MW added to the CCA portfolio in the last year alone (see more details on pages 4 and 5).

- CalCCA on November 12 awarded MCE CEO Dawn Weisz the 2020 CCA Champion Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions as a CCA trailblazer, leader, and tireless supporter. Each year CalCCA’s board of directors selects a leader—one who goes above and beyond to support the long-term success and viability of community choice aggregation in California—to receive the award.

- In response to the power outages and shortages that gripped California in August and September, CalCCA proposed several near-term actions to improve the reliability of the state’s electric system and help avert future grid emergencies. The recommended actions, documented in a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom, target the regulatory, legislative, and federal arenas.

- California’s newest community choice energy programs, Baldwin Park Resident Owned Utility District and Pomona Choice Energy, flipped the switch on CCA service in the cities of Baldwin Park and Pomona in October. With the additions of BPROUD and Pomona Choice there are now 23 operational CCAs serving more than 10 million customers in California.

Timeline showing the launch year for each of California’s 23 operational CCAs.
CCAs have signed long-term power purchase agreements for more than 6,000 megawatts (MW) with new-build clean energy resources, fueling renewable energy development, green jobs, and economic growth throughout California.
CCA PPAs: BY THE NUMBERS

6,000
Megawatts in long-term PPAs with new-build solar, wind, biogas, geothermal and energy storage facilities throughout California

1,790
Megawatts of solar paired with energy storage

2,600
Megawatts in clean energy PPAs signed by CCAs in the last year alone

14
Megawatts of geothermal - will be first new geothermal plant in the CAISO balancing area in 30 years

1,100
Megawatts in long-term PPAs with battery energy storage facilities (more than quadruple last year’s amount)

1,030
Megawatts of wind energy

500
Megawatts of long duration storage (LDS) currently sought by CCAs through RFO

3,860
Megawatts of solar energy

10 to 25 Years
Range of PPA terms; average is 17 years across all CCA long-term clean energy contracts

21
California counties where CCA clean energy projects are located or will be built

10 Million+
Number of people served by CCAs in California

117
CCA PPAs with new-build solar, wind, biogas, geothermal and energy storage facilities

CalCCA TIP
CCAs’ 2020 integrated resource plans (IRPs) are posted on the CalCCA website: cal-cca.org/cca-integrated-resource-plans-irps/.
Central Coast Community Energy (formerly Monterey Bay Community Power) serves more than 400,000 customers throughout the Central Coast, including agricultural, commercial and residential customers in communities located within Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz counties. 3CE’s goal is to source 100% of its customer demand from new clean and renewable resources by 2030, 15 years ahead of the state’s clean energy goal.

Name Change
Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP) officially became Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) on September 4, 2020, reflecting a thoughtful service area expansion throughout the Central Coast that will add more than 100,000 new customers to its existing 300,000 customers in 2021, spanning the five counties of Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz.

Pathway to 100% Clean and Renewable by 2030
3CE has adopted a new pathway to 100% clean and renewable energy by 2030, accelerating the deployment of clean and California-eligible renewable energy supply to further our goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a meaningful and affordable way. 3CE is committed to achieving 60% clean and renewable resources by 2025 and reaching 100% by 2030—15 years ahead of California’s SB 100 requirement of 100% zero-carbon energy by 2045. 3CE will increase its electric load from 3.1 billion kWh/year to a projected 5.4 billion kWh/year in 2021 with its service area expansion, and expects to increase its renewable energy supply in a reliable way by contracting for long-duration storage (storage for renewable energy dispatchable or available for use for eight hours or more) in partnership with other California CCAs. 3CE is also contracting for geothermal energy available 24-7, and most of its current renewables contracts include a short-duration storage component.

S&P Global Ratings ‘A’ Rating
3CE received a stable ‘A’ rating from S&P Global Ratings on October 16, 2020. S&P’s ‘A’ rating and stable outlook will further reduce 3CE’s energy costs and its Pathway to 100% Clean and Renewable Energy for Central Coast communities. The ‘A’ rating recognizes 3CE’s stability within the California CCA market and the strong socioeconomic conditions of 3CE’s growing service area. The ‘A’ rating will aid in increasing the number of counterparties competing for 3CE wholesale contracts, lower transaction costs, and make innovative financing structures accessible to help 3CE continue to develop solutions to California’s greatest energy challenges.
$6.3 Million Energy Program Budget Approved for FY 20/21
In September 2021, the 3CE Policy Board approved $6.3 million to implement 3CE’s robust suite of energy programs in fiscal year 2020/2021. Many of the energy programs approved as part of the FY 20/21 budget build upon the successes of existing programs implemented in previous years.

Building and Transportation Electrification
Electrification of the building and transportation sectors continues to be a focus for 3CE’s energy programs, such as the New Construction Electrification Grant Program and the Zero Emissions School Bus Program. 3CE plans to extend the highly successful CALeVIP-Central Coast Incentive Project by contributing another $1 million for electric vehicle infrastructure incentives. Combined with California Energy Commission funds, CCIP will bring a total of $8 million to the Monterey Bay region for EV infrastructure projects. In collaboration with partners in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties (including Clean Power Alliance), 3CE is working to expand the CALeVIP program in its southern service area, dubbed the South-Central Coast Incentive Program.

January 2021 Enrollment
3CE is busy preparing for the upcoming January 2021 enrollment of 100,000 new customers in the cities of Arroyo Grande, Del Rey Oaks, Grover Beach, Guadalupe, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, Santa Maria and Solvang and unincorporated northern Santa Barbara County (Pacific Gas & Electric service territory). In October 2021, 3CE will enroll customers in the cities of Carpinteria and Goleta and unincorporated southern Santa Barbara County (Southern California Edison service territory). In addition to required mailers, 3CE is sending emails, hosting webinars and virtual office hours, and purchasing advertising (radio, TV and online), as well as pushing communications out through enrolling member agencies and more than 50 community-based organizations.

CLEAN POWER ALLIANCE

Launched in 2018, Clean Power Alliance serves approximately 1 million customer accounts in 32 communities across Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

CPA Repays $10 Million Startup Loan
On September 25, 2020, CPA fully repaid its $10 million startup loan provided by the County of Los Angeles. “Clean Power Alliance is thankful to the County of Los Angeles for investing in its vision of regional sustainability by leading the creation of our agency and providing a startup loan,” said David McNeil, CPA’s chief financial officer, as CPA marked this major milestone. “We are proud to repay the county in full and pleased that Clean Power Alliance is now debt-free and financially self-sustaining from customer revenue.” Take a look at the official LA County report.

Leading the Way on Solar and Storage Investments
Continuing a successful year of ramping up storage procurement to increase the reliability of the state’s storage projects in September and October.
electricity system, CPA’s board of directors approved four new solar and battery storage projects in September and October. CPA has secured more than 1,200 MW of new renewable energy projects and 686 MW of new battery storage to date, establishing itself as one of the largest purchasers of new renewable energy capacity in California and one of the three largest purchasers of battery storage in the state. And more is on the way. Taken together, these projects will create more than 2,500 construction jobs and over $1 billion in investment while generating enough electricity to power some 500,000 homes in Southern California with 100% carbon-free renewable energy. Learn more about CPA’s exciting new projects.

CPA Recognized With Green Power Leadership Award
CPA received the 2020 Green Power Leadership Award from the Center for Resource Solutions in September, in recognition of its innovative and accelerated renewable energy procurement and the choices of its 12 100% Green Power communities that have made CPA the single largest provider of 100% renewable energy to customers in the nation. Other past and current award recipients include Apple, Google, Microsoft, AT&T, MCE and the U.S. Navy, to name a few.
CleanPowerSF offers renewable, affordable and accessible electricity to more than 380,000 San Francisco residents and businesses. In 2020, CleanPowerSF expects to deliver at least 50% renewable energy for its default Green product. To date, CleanPowerSF has contracted with 392.9 MW of new renewable energy facilities and 65 MW of four-hour energy storage across California.

Supporting Customers With Over $2.8 Million in Bill Credits
As part of an ongoing effort to support customers during the COVID-19 pandemic, CleanPowerSF provided over $2.8 million in one-time bill credits to customers enrolled in the California Alternate Rates for Energy and Federal Electric Rate Assistance affordability programs. The relief program offered one-time credits of $50 for single-family homes, $3,000 for multifamily residential buildings and $750 for nonprofit or small commercial accounts—the equivalent of a month’s worth of savings on the average customer’s electricity bill. CleanPowerSF launched a multilingual marketing campaign to enroll more customers in the CARE and FERA programs before the September 30 credit program deadline.

First Solar and Battery Storage Contracts
This summer, CleanPowerSF executed two new contracts that will increase renewable energy and storage capacity infrastructure and add new cost-effective resources that support statewide electric reliability. The two contracts—one with a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources and one with EDF Renewables—will together support the construction of 120 MW of new solar power plants in California and 65 MW of four-hour energy storage.

Accelerating San Francisco’s Renewable Energy Goals
CleanPowerSF’s recently submitted 2020 integrated resource plan outlines a path to achieving 100% renewable energy by 2025. The accelerated path puts the program five years ahead of San Francisco’s citywide target and 20 years ahead of California’s state target. Stakeholder feedback was an important part of the program’s 2020 IRP process. CleanPowerSF accepted written public comments on the IRP proposal, held virtual stakeholder and community meetings, and created a dedicated webpage with easy-to-access information to increase customer awareness of the IRP.

Staying Connected: Virtual Power Tours
To provide customers and the public with educational opportunities during shelter-in-place, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission hosted two power-focused virtual tours as part of the agency’s Virtual Explorations series. The events attracted over 350 combined attendees and featured an overview of the SFPUC’s clean energy programs, including CleanPowerSF, along with clean energy trivia and audience Q&As.

‘CHOICE’ WORDS
“CCAs are an integral part of California’s transition to a cleaner and more responsive grid.” - Thomas Folker, CEO and Co-Founder of Leap
Launched in 2018, East Bay Community Energy serves approximately 550,000 customers in Alameda County including in Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Oakland, Piedmont, San Leandro, Union City and the county’s unincorporated areas.

**EBCE Issues 2020 Renewable Energy and Storage Request for Offers**

On October 29, East Bay Community Energy issued a request for offers to procure long-term renewable energy resources and storage, provide long-term clean energy hedges and resource adequacy, and contribute to EBCE’s renewable portfolio standard and integrated resource plan obligations under SB 350 and SB 100. EBCE is seeking to procure hundreds of megawatts of clean generating resources and storage through this RFO. EBCE’s previous RFO resulted in contracts for 550 MW of wind and solar and over 150 MW of battery energy storage projects.

**EBCE Launches First-of-Its-Kind Home Battery Backup Program**

In anticipation of wildfire season and the threat of Public Safety Power Shutoff events, EBCE in July launched Resilient Home, a comprehensive residential battery backup program. Resilient Home reduces the cost and complexity of installing energy storage systems, while improving the resilience of the local power grid every day. Most importantly, through Resilient Home residents will be better prepared for the impacts of grid outages caused by extreme weather, earthquakes, and other unpredictable events when they happen. To further lower customer costs, through the Resilient Home program Sunrun will pay homeowners $1,250 after installation for agreeing to share their stored energy with EBCE when the power grid is operating normally, but demand is high. This will help the grid operate more reliably, as well as cut carbon emissions and costs for all EBCE customers.

**EBCE, Partners Announce 3rd Round of COVID Relief Grants to Power State’s Clean Energy Workforce**

‘EBCE’s third and latest round of COVID-19 community grants aims to jump-start new careers in California’s energy sector and support critical workforce training. Twenty local charitable organizations (listed [here](#)) were allocated $10,000 each, and an additional $100,000 in grants was given to three workforce-development organizations across Alameda County (GRID Alternatives, Cypress Mandela, and the Tri-Valley Career Center at Chabot–Las Positas Community College). This brings EBCE’s total donations for COVID relief to $2 million.

**EBCE Renews Partnership with Oakland Roots Soccer Team**

The Oakland Roots professional soccer team and EBCE continue their partnership for the inaugural 2021 USL season. EBCE will be featured on the Oakland Roots media backdrop, field boards, in–stadium signage and on ESPN+ broadcasts for all home games.
As California’s first Community Choice Aggregation program, MCE offers cleaner, locally controlled, cost-competitive electricity options for more than 1 million residents and businesses in 36 Bay Area communities across Contra Costa, Napa, Marin and Solano counties. MCE provides customers with twice the amount of clean energy compared with traditional electricity service and is 90% greenhouse gas-free. For more information about MCE’s services, visit mceCleanEnergy.org.

MCE’s Climate Action Leadership Award
Senator Mike McGuire is the recipient of MCE’s 2020 Climate Action Leadership award for his advocacy of policies that support community choice energy programs, his commitment to advancing efforts to combat climate change, and his leadership toward a more sustainable and equitable world for all. Senator McGuire has been a champion of the CCA movement since his election to the California State Senate in 2014. View his acceptance speech.

MCE Energy Storage
MCE’s Energy Storage Program launched in July 2020 with a goal of deploying 15 MWh of customer-owned, behind-the-meter battery energy storage systems over two years. The dispatchable batteries must be paired with solar and are programmed to provide immediate backup power and daily peak load reduction, resulting in reduced emissions, grid congestion and electricity costs. MCE’s $6 million Resiliency Fund, a Marin Community Foundation grant, and the state’s Self-Generation Incentive Program will help reduce or eliminate participant costs. To date, the program has submitted more than 150 SGIP applications. To provide immediate support to medical-baseline customers this fire season, MCE also purchased and distributed 100 portable, off-grid batteries in partnership with the local Centers for Independent Living.

MCE Earns New, Higher Investment-Grade Credit Rating from Fitch Ratings
MCE is excited to announce the upgrade of its Fitch credit rating to a ‘BBB+’ Issuer Default Rating due to its strong financial profile and successful load management during COVID-19 shifts, among other factors. MCE was the first CCA to receive an investment-grade credit rating, from Moody’s in May 2018, as well as the first to receive a second from Fitch Ratings in August 2019.

MCE Has Supported the Installation of 550 Electric Vehicle Charging Ports
MCE’s transportation electrification programs have helped customers install over 550 Level 2 charging ports, helping workplaces and multifamily properties increase access to EV charging stations—two of the biggest barriers to EV adoption. MCE also offers rebates to income-qualified customers who purchase EVs.

Integrated Resource Plan Update
MCE recently released the 2021 update to its operational integrated resource plan, highlighting its procurement and programs strategy for the next 10 years, as well as a 10-year impact report showcasing the successes of its first decade of service.
Launched in 2016, Peninsula Clean Energy serves approximately 295,000 customers in San Mateo County, maintaining a 97% participation rate of eligible customers. PCE offers two service options: ECOplus, with 50% renewable and 95% greenhouse gas–free energy, and ECO100, with 100% renewable energy that is Green-e certified. PCE plans to offer 100% GHG-free electricity for all customers by 2021, and 100% renewable electricity on a 24–7 basis for all customers by 2025.

$24 Million in Incentives for 3,500 EV Charging Ports in San Mateo County With EV Ready
PCE has launched its EV Ready Program, an unprecedented $28 million effort to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure at commercial workplaces, multifamily dwellings and other public locations. It is the largest EV charging infrastructure program tied to a single CCA agency. EV Ready aims to install 3,500 charging ports in San Mateo County over the next four years. The effort includes $24 million in project incentives and $4 million toward free technical assistance for eligible properties, support of workforce development in the county and other assorted costs. Read more.

Promoting EVs in San Mateo County
PCE launched its program offering rebates to help first-time buyers of new electric vehicles. The 2020 New EV Rebate Program is offering rebates of $1,000 toward the cost of a new fully electric vehicle and $700 for a plug–in hybrid purchased by San Mateo County residents between October 1 and December 31. Eligible vehicles are any new EVs that have a purchase contract cash price of $45,000 or less, before sales tax. Additionally, PCE is providing residents the opportunity to experience driving an EV with a $200 rebate toward an EV rental and assistance in setting up at–home or at–dealership test drives. Learn more.

$1.55 Million in Small Business Assistance During COVID–19
PCE is providing up to $1.55 million to help small businesses impacted by the economic downturn during the COVID–19 pandemic. The assistance includes a $250 bill credit for up to 6,000 qualifying small businesses and a $50,000 donation to the San Mateo Credit Union Community Fund. The $50,000 donation is earmarked for small–business support overseen by the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, which has served 195 small businesses throughout San Mateo County over the past two years. Read the press release.

Power On Peninsula: Battery Backup and Solar + Storage System Program
To help residents prepare for outages and be part of a more energy–resilient community, the Power On Peninsula program helps residents maintain electricity when the grid is down. By fully participating in the grid storage program, residents get backup power and reduce their energy costs while helping the community reach its goal of using 100% renewable energy and earn up to $1,250 in rebates. Read more.

Seeking Innovative Technologies to Strengthen Grid Resilience
PCE along with seven other CCAs launched a joint request for offers to procure up to 500 MWs of long–duration storage. Long–duration storage provides grid resiliency to support higher concentrations of renewable energy on the grid. The RFO is seeking a minimum 10–year contract for grid–charged technologies for one or more projects to come on line by or before 2026 with a minimum discharge period of eight hours. Read the press release.
Rancho Mirage Energy Authority began serving the City of Rancho Mirage in 2018 and provides service to 18,000+ accounts. “Base Choice,” RMEA’s default electricity service offering, is 50% carbon-free. It is comprised of 35% renewables and 15% hydroelectric. RMEA’s “Premium Renewable Choice” rate plan offers customers the option of “opting up” to 100% renewable energy at an affordable price. RMEA’s net energy metering program features a net surplus compensation rate of 6 cents per kWh.

Residential Solar Rebate Program
RMEA’s Residential Solar Rebate Program launched in July 2018 offering an incentive of a one-time $500 rebate to any residential RMEA customer who installs a new solar system or expands an existing solar system. At the close of Q3 2020, RMEA had processed a total of approximately 630 rebates, resulting in $315,000 back to RMEA customers.

With Calpine, there’s a lot standing behind you
From back office support to data and risk management, we supply CCAs with all of the resources they need to power California
Launched in 2017, Redwood Coast Energy Authority serves over 63,000 customers in Humboldt County, Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna, Ferndale, Blue Lake, Rio Dell and Trinidad. RCEA offers “REpower” 40% renewable and “REpower+” 100% renewable energy service options.

**Joint Resource Adequacy Contracts**

RCEA partnered with Valley Clean Energy in September to negotiate contracts for long-term incremental resource adequacy. The two contracts, with Leap and Ormat/Viridity Energy Solutions, complete RCEA’s fulfillment of resource adequacy obligations through 2023. The decision to partner with VCE was based on mutual financial experience, creditworthiness, expected impacts, economic benefit, and the ability to diversify portfolios.

Leap lowers its residential and nonresidential customers’ electricity use in response to peak demand periods by controlling their smart thermostats, HVAC systems, electric vehicle chargers and water pumps. Leapfrog aggregates and bids this resource into the California energy market. RCEA’s share of the portfolio’s capacity will be 5.5 MW.

Viridity Energy Solutions, a subsidiary of the 55-year-old renewable independent power producer Ormat, is developing the Tierra Buena utility-scale battery storage project in Sutter County for RCEA and VCE. Under the 10-year agreements, the project is expected to begin commercial operation no later than June 2022. RCEA’s share of the project’s capacity will be 2.5 MW.

**Feed-In Tariff**

RCEA’s board approved two additional feed-in tariff projects to be developed by RPCA Solar 5, which has already contracted with RCEA for two other local projects, just outside of Blue Lake. The solar projects are expected to be operational in April 2022. The contracts, in addition to previously board-approved FIT contracts, fulfill the FIT program’s 6.5 MW capacity. RCEA’s FIT program offers above-market pricing for renewable energy generation in Humboldt County less than 1 MW in capacity. A second round of the program is expected to launch in the first quarter of 2021.

**Electric Vehicles**

RCEA Transportation Specialist Sophia Valenzuela gave an “Electric Vehicles 101” webinar, discussing the different types of electric vehicles, financial incentives and assistance, consumer and environmental benefits, fuel and maintenance savings, and charging options. RCEA plans to roll out a local EV rebate this fall that will be an add-on to the California Clean Vehicle Rebate Project. RCEA’s Transportation Program supports the use of low-carbon-fuel vehicles in Humboldt County by planning, managing, and implementing zero-emission vehicle infrastructure. RCEA also provides information, education, and incentives to encourage local residents, businesses, and public agencies to adopt low-carbon-fuel vehicles.

Terry Uyeki is one of RCEA’s e-bike rebate recipients.
San Jose Clean Energy initiated service in 2018 and is the largest single-jurisdiction CCA in operation, serving approximately 330,000 customers in the City of San José (population 1.03 million). SJCE’s total annual load is approximately 4 TWh and peak demand is approximately 1 GW. SJCE offers two service options: a default option, GreenSource, which is 45% renewable at rates 1% lower than Pacific Gas & Electric’s, and a premium option, TotalGreen, 100% renewable. SJCE maintains a 98% participation rate.

SJCE Is Investing in New Renewables and Reliability
SJCE has contracted for nearly 500 MW of new renewable energy and 10 MW of battery storage since launching service to most customers in 2019. Investing in new renewables and storage will lead to more clean energy that is available during all hours of the day, which increases grid reliability, reduces reliance on fossil fuels, and lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

In spring 2020, SJCE announced an innovative power purchase agreement that will pair battery storage with solar to provide 62 MW of renewable energy every day between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. In addition, SJCE expects to announce another power purchase agreement for wind energy later this year. The investment in wind augments SJCE’s previous investments in new solar and battery storage and diversifies its portfolio. SJCE is also one of eight CCAs to partner on a joint request for offers for long-duration storage, further supporting its commitment to grid resiliency.

Improving Access to EVs and Infrastructure
From August 1 through October 31, 2020, SJCE promoted its Drive Electric program through which residents could take advantage of extra discounts on electric vehicles. San José partnered with five local dealerships to offer up to $3,000 in discounts on seven EV models. In partnership with Peninsula Family Service, SJCE’s DriveForward program offered free workshops and one-on-one counseling to help moderate- to low-income households with purchasing a new or used EV. SJCE will now pivot to promote Drive Clean Bay Area, a regional collaboration to advance the adoption of EVs in the Bay Area.

In addition, the CALeVIP Peninsula–Silicon Valley Incentive Project will bring $14 million to San José ($4 million from SJCE and $10 million from the California Energy Commission) and will double the current level of public EV infrastructure in the city. At least 25% of the funding will be invested in low-income and disadvantaged communities to improve access to this infrastructure and move the needle on EV adoption.

SJCE Hires Assistant Director and Looks to the Future
This October, after an extensive nationwide competitive recruitment, Zachary Struyk was appointed as assistant director of the City of San José Community Energy Department. He joined the department as deputy director of account management and marketing in 2018 and has 20 years of energy and environmental expertise. As deputy director, he has successfully led many initiatives to support the startup of SJCE, and in his new role will provide executive leadership and guidance on daily operations. There were only two employees when the department launched in 2017. Now, there are more than 30 employees and fellows committed to bringing the benefits of renewable energy to San José residents and businesses. SJCE will soon begin the recruitment process for the position of Deputy Director of Account Management and Marketing.
Launched in April 2017, Silicon Valley Clean Energy serves some 270,000 customers in Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Saratoga, Sunnyvale and unincorporated Santa Clara County. SVCE offers two carbon-free energy choices: GreenStart, procured from 50% renewable sources and 50% hydro, and GreenPrime, a 100% renewable, Green-e certified product.

Working Together for Increased Grid Resiliency Through Long-Duration Storage
In October, eight CCAs issued a request for offers to procure up to 500 MW of long-duration storage. The CCAs are seeking minimum 10-year contracts for projects with a minimum discharge period of eight hours, to be on line by 2026. Long-duration storage will improve grid reliability and advance California’s aggressive greenhouse gas-reduction targets for 2030, and joint procurement offers the CCAs an opportunity to acquire diverse resources with shared risk and enhanced negotiating powers. The CCAs partnered for this RFO are Central Coast Community Energy, CleanPowerSF, MCE, Peninsula Clean Energy, Redwood Coast Energy Authority, San Jose Clean Energy, Silicon Valley Clean Energy and Sonoma Clean Power.

New Online Resources to Aid Consumers With Fighting Climate Change
SVCE has launched eHub, a new set of online resources to inspire, educate and enable customer adoption of clean, all-electric living. eHub is designed to take the guesswork out of switching to an all-electric lifestyle without stressing wallets. Clean Electricity, Drive Electric and Electric at Home feature the benefits of electric living as well as tools customers can use to compare and shop for appliances, electric vehicles and home solar-plus-battery systems. eHub provides easy, actionable clean energy opportunities for SVCE customers.

Lights On SV
SVCE has partnered with the home solar and storage company Sunrun to provide upfront savings on home batteries for households that are at risk of emergency power shutoffs or outages. The program focuses on residents vulnerable to these outages, income-qualified customers, and those in underrepresented communities. Additionally, SVCE will leverage the customer-sited batteries to help reduce peak power demand and provide resource adequacy. The program will launch this fall. More info: svcleanenergy.org/lights-on-sv.
SOLANA ENERGY ALLIANCE

Launched in 2018, Solana Energy Alliance is the first CCA to launch in San Diego Gas & Electric territory, serving approximately 7,500 customers in the City of Solana Beach.

SEA Continues to Provide Clean Energy at Competitive Rates
During 2019, SEA provided customers with 100% greenhouse gas–free energy while offering rates that saved an average 3% on monthly generation costs. SEA is planning for its transition to Clean Energy Alliance in May 2021, and continuing to provide customers with clean energy at competitive rates.

SONOMA CLEAN POWER

Sonoma Clean Power serves 227,000 accounts in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. SCP offers CleanStart 50% renewable/97% carbon-free electricity and EverGreen 100% local, renewable electricity. SCP enjoys an 87% participation rate. SCP’s Mission: Turning the tide on the climate crisis, through bold ideas and practical programs.

NCPA and SCP Execute Agreement for Scheduling Coordinator Services
The Northern California Power Agency and SCP have executed an agreement to establish a new partnership, through which NCPA will begin supplying scheduling coordinator services to SCP effective January 1, 2021.

School Storage Study
SCP is working with consultant TerraVerde Energy to provide free financial and technical feasibility assessments for deploying battery energy storage systems at school facilities in SCP territory. Upon review of the applications and data received, up to 50 school locations will be selected for further analysis. Selected schools will be provided with a project analysis including equipment specifications, costs, available incentives, and financial and backup-power benefits.

Energy Resiliency Audit Program (ERAP)
SCP has enrolled the Sonoma County Indian Health Project in the Energy Resiliency Audit Program. The local clinic serves the needs of the local indigenous community and is expected to be a COVID–19 vaccine dispenser with refrigeration needs. SCP staff is evaluating the potential of other medical clinics with similar refrigeration needs. To date, SCP has 28 customer sites enrolled.

Energy Makeover: Home Edition
Join SCP customer Mary Davies on her home renovation journey as she details her experience upgrading her older, natural gas–powered kitchen to a low-energy, all-electric one. Read Mary’s account of her journey here.
FALL 2020

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY

Valley Clean Energy launched in 2018 and serves over 55,000 customer accounts in the cities of Davis, Woodland, Winters (beginning in 2021), and unincorporated Yolo County.

VCE and RCEA: Joint Storage RA Agreement
Valley Clean Energy and Redwood Coast Energy Authority each signed an agreement for 2.5 MW of resource adequacy from Ormat’s Tierra Buena energy storage project. Under the 10-year agreements, the project is expected to begin commercial operation no later than June 2022. These are the first energy storage deals for the two CCAs. The agreement includes a $10,000 donation on behalf of each agency to local job training programs in Sutter County.

VCE Donates Face Masks to RISE Inc.
VCE purchased 500 high-quality, washable, U.S.-made face masks and donated them to RISE Inc., a nonprofit organization that serves the Latinx community and has organized the delivery of social services for more than 30 years. RISE Inc. is a “one-stop shop” for social services in western Yolo County, providing services to preschoolers through senior citizens. Among its programs are emergency food and clothing, resource and referral services, summer recreation activities, and mental health services.

WESTERN COMMUNITY ENERGY

Western Community Energy launched in May and serves approximately 113,000 residential and business customers in Riverside County in the cities of Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Norco, Perris and Wildomar. WCE offers two renewable energy products: the “Choice Plan” (37% renewable energy) and the “Choice Plus Plan,” in which customers can opt up to receive 100% green energy.

PTA Micro-Sponsorships
WCE will be partnering with the community this winter season by offering micro-sponsorship opportunities to local Parent Teacher Associations. With many students, teachers, faculty and families being affected by the stay-at-home orders, WCE would like to provide the community with an opportunity to learn more about WCE as well as help and encourage each PTA to meet a need for its schools.
CALCCA MEMBERS

- Apple Valley Choice Energy
- Baldwin Park Resident Owned Utility District
- Central Coast Community Energy
- Clean Energy Alliance
- Clean Power Alliance
- CleanPowerSF
- Desert Community Energy
- East Bay Community Energy
- Lancaster Choice Energy
- MCE
- Peninsula Clean Energy
- Pico Rivera Innovative Municipal Energy
- Pioneer Community Energy
- Pomona Choice Energy
- Rancho Mirage Energy Authority
- Redwood Coast Energy Authority
- San Diego Community Power
- San Jacinto Power
- San Jose Clean Energy
- Silicon Valley Clean Energy
- Solana Energy Alliance
- Sonoma Clean Power
- Valley Clean Energy
- Western Community Energy

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

- City of Corona
- City of Hermosa Beach
- King City Conservation District

On the Cover

The 200 MW Wright Solar Project is operational as of January 2020 and generates power exclusively for Peninsula Clean Energy under a 25-year PPA. The facility was constructed with about 400 union workers from surrounding areas. Photo credit: Brian Doll/Swinerton Renewable Energy