COOL ACTIONS for a HOT PLANET

SUMMER 2023

CALIFORNIA AGGREGATOR
News and Updates from the California Community Choice Association
Extreme temperatures, fires, pollution, flooding—the impact of climate change is an international crisis that’s getting worse. In July, global temperatures surged beyond all prior records by a substantial margin. This phenomenon is not confined to land alone; 44% of the world’s oceans are currently experiencing a heat wave that poses a threat to marine ecosystems. I find myself in eastern Canada, checking my air quality app more often than my weather app, as I look out across a lake where the shoreline is obscured by the smoke from Quebec wildfires. I thought traveling to the north would be a safe bet and a welcome escape from California’s consecutive years of wildfires and drought…but I was wrong. Escape is not an option—we need to prepare and adapt for a future defined by extreme climate conditions.

What does that mean for those of us in the energy business? My initial thought is that we need to elevate our efforts in resource planning and reliability as we consider how resource portfolios will actually operate in a future of extreme climate conditions. In May, at the 2023 CalCCA Annual Conference in San Diego, several panels explored the opportunities and challenges of emerging technologies that could diversify our resource mix and enhance operations, including batteries, hydrogen, geothermal, and offshore wind. How will these resources, alongside existing thermal combustion units, solar and wind turbines, operate in extreme conditions? How does this impact reliability?

Following the conference, I attended the ribbon-cutting of the first geothermal project to be built in the last 30 years within the CAISO balancing authority. CalCCA members—Central Coast Community Energy and Silicon Valley Clean Energy—are off-takers of Ormat’s 30 MW Casa Diablo IV plant. The event reminded me that 2023 will be a record year for new-build CCA projects to become operational—more than 2 GW to date. However, it is also a sobering reminder that to meet SB 100 goals by 2045, an additional 7 GW of new-build projects need to come on line every year. How can we work with our partners/developers and other load-serving entities to build more and build it faster?

To achieve this ambitious goal, we must engage in difficult discussions on how to navigate challenges while ensuring a reliable and resilient energy supply. While the road ahead may present its share of obstacles, the enthusiasm at our conference was a reminder that there are a lot of smart people in the room firmly committed to developing solutions. Let’s embrace the power of community, nurture our partnerships, and strive toward a sustainable energy future for California.

Beth Vaughan
Executive Director, CalCCA
CalCCA is thrilled to welcome our newest team member, Desik Somasundaram. Desik holds a master’s degree in environmental data science from UC Santa Barbara’s Bren School of Environmental Sciences and Management and bachelor’s degrees in environmental engineering and energy and environmental policy from the University of Delaware. Desik’s skills, knowledge, and passion for utilizing data science to drive efficient and equitable solutions for the clean energy transition will greatly contribute to advancing CalCCA’s mission.

CalCCA hosted its inaugural Community Impact Awards in May to celebrate outstanding and innovative CCA programs. Congratulations to this year’s winners: Sonoma Clean Power (Decarbonization), Peninsula Clean Energy (Equity), and Redwood Coast Energy Authority (Reliability). And big kudos to the runners-up: Peninsula Clean Energy, East Bay Community Energy and Silicon Valley Clean Energy (Decarbonization); Silicon Valley Clean Energy (Equity); and Valley Clean Energy (Reliability).

California Community Power issued a request for information for offshore wind, seeking information for projects targeted to be developed in the Humboldt and Morro Bay Wind Energy Areas, along with other possible offshore wind developments. Issued in April, the RFI will help to identify offshore wind readiness and opportunities and guide future procurement decisions.

The California Community Choice Financing Authority (CCCFA) has successfully issued more than $5 billion in clean energy revenue bonds. This milestone achievement enables member agencies to deliver substantial cost savings, estimated at $840 million, for electricity customers across California over the course of the next three decades. Through these bonds, CCCFA is empowering the state to advance its renewable energy goals while providing tangible financial benefits to the community.

CCA is an efficient, equitable, and cost–effective policy tool for providing competitive pricing and renewable power to electricity consumers, according to a report published in June by the Local Energy Aggregation Network. The study examines the market status of CCA in several states, evaluates national implications, and analyzes the capacity of CCAs to expedite environmental, social, and economic objectives of both state and national governments in the energy sector.
From May 17 to 19, over 600 people gathered in San Diego for the CalCCA Annual Conference, which served as a platform for representatives from community choice aggregators, energy industry professionals, policymakers, and other stakeholders to collaborate and discuss the latest developments in the field of renewable energy and community choice. The meeting provides a unique opportunity for attendees to share best practices, explore innovative solutions, and address common challenges in advancing clean energy goals and local control over energy sources. Through engaging presentations, panel discussions, and networking sessions, the CalCCA annual meeting plays a vital role in fostering cooperation and driving the transition towards a sustainable and resilient energy future in California. Thank you to everyone who attended!

Senator Steve Padilla addresses other elected officials at the CalCCA Elected Officials Luncheon

CalCCA Executive Director Beth Vaughan shares valuable expertise on community choice energy trends and the role of CCAs in advancing clean energy goals.

A panel discussion featuring (left to right) Beth Vaughan/CalCCA, Ted Bardacke/CPA, Siva Gunda/CEC, Delphine Hou/Department of Water Resources, and Mark Rothleder/CAISO sparks lively debates and innovative ideas.
CalCCA ANNUAL MEETING (cont.)

State Treasurer Fiona Ma discusses the transformative power of local energy initiatives.

California Energy Commission Vice Chair Siva Gunda delivers a thrilling keynote.

U.S. Department of Energy’s James Strange talks about the importance of prioritizing justice in the clean energy transition.

“Beachside Chat” featuring CPUC President Alice Reynolds.
The inaugural Community Impact Awards honored the innovative initiatives of CCAs across California that are driving decarbonization, promoting equity, and enhancing energy reliability.
Teams in an interactive Resource Adequacy market simulation competed to buy and sell RA resources.

Attendees enjoyed lots of mingling time and delicious food during the event’s many breaks.

The waterfront dinner and reception included a variety of food options and live music.
Over the last year, Partners were front and center at CalCCA’s 2023 Annual Conference in San Diego, Gala Celebration in San Francisco, and our biannual “State of CCA” briefings. Throughout the year, CalCCA also promoted targeted, Partner-hosted events to our members, generating strong attendance and valued business development opportunities for our Partners. Partner Program enrollment is now underway for 2023–2024!

Thank you, 2022–2023 Partners!

**Capstone**
- AES Clean Energy
- Calpine Corporation
- Calpine Energy Solutions
- Terra-Gen

**Select**
- Arctrade
- Avantus
- Aypa Power
- Braun Blaising & Wynne
- Depcom Power
- LS Power
- Idemitsu Renewables
- Nexamp
- NextEra Energy Resources
- Renewable America

**Supporting**
- Richards, Watson & Gershon
- Shell Energy North America
- Siemens
- Stem
- UtilityAPI
- Wärtsilä
- California Energy Markets
- Cat Creek Energy
- Central Coast Energy Services
- Citadel Energy Marketing
- CLEAResult
- Clearway Energy Group
- Constellation
- cQuant.io
- Eavor
- EDF Renewables
- EDP Renewables North America
- EES Consulting
- Enbala
- ENGIE North America
- First Republic
- Fluence Energy
- Goldman Sachs
PARTNER PROGRAM (cont.)

Keyes & Fox LLP  Ormat Technologies  The Energy Authority
Langan  Pacific Energy Advisors  The Energy Coalition
Leap  PFM Asset Management  Tierra Resource Consultants
Longroad Energy  Powerex  Tosdal APC
Marathon Capital  RBC Capital Markets  TransAlta
Meyers Nave  Recurve  TRC Companies
Morgan Stanley  River City Bank  Vitol
Middle River Power  SMUD  Westlands Solar Park
MRW & Associates  Solar Energy Industries Association  ZGlobal
NewGen Strategies & Solutions  Strata Clean Energy
NRG/Direct Energy  Tenaska
OhmConnect  TerraVerde Energy

Becoming a CalCCA Partner

CalCCA Partners strengthen their connection to the CCA community through exclusive event, networking, and information-sharing opportunities. Eligible partners may include vendors, suppliers, developers, service providers, nonprofit organizations, trade associations, or individuals that provide services to or work in coordination with California CCAs. There are three Partner levels to choose from—Capstone, Select, and Supporting—each offering ways to raise a Partner’s profile in a large and growing segment of California’s electric sector.

To find out more about CalCCA’s Partner Program, contact Sandra McCafferty at sandra@cal-cca.org.
Launched in 2017 by the cities of Lancaster and San Jacinto, the California Choice Energy Authority (CalChoice) helps cities in Southern California Edison territory participate in Community Choice Aggregation. CCA programs associated with CalChoice include Lancaster Choice Energy (LCE), San Jacinto Power (SJP), Apple Valley Choice Energy (AVCE), Pico Rivera Innovative Municipal Energy (PRIME), Pomona Choice Energy (Pomona Choice), Rancho Mirage Energy Authority (RMEA), Santa Barbara Clean Energy (SBCE), and Energy for Palmdale’s Independent Choice (EPIC).

CalChoice CCAs Accelerate EV Adoption
Pomona Choice Energy and Energy for Palmdale’s Independent Choice are actively promoting the adoption of electric vehicles. Pomona Choice is currently in the design phase for EV charging stations at Palomares Park, with completion anticipated in early 2024. Meanwhile, EPIC is in the planning stage of a residential EV charging rebate program called “Your Ride is EPIC.” Set to launch later this year, EPIC’s program will provide residents with valuable incentives for EV charging, further encouraging the transition to clean transportation options.

EPIC Launches Commercial Service
After launching service for residential customers in October 2022, EPIC is thrilled to announce it officially extended its service to commercial customers in March 2023. With a participation rate exceeding 90%, this marks a significant milestone in Palmdale’s journey toward a greener and more sustainable future.

EPIC Continues Bill Credits for CARE and FERA Customers
EPIC will continue providing a $12 bill credit to qualifying CARE and FERA customers, thanks to the Palmdale ARPA grant funds. With an allocation of $2.5 million, these funds are intended to support bill credits for customers falling under the “Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities” category. Customers who are already pre-qualified as low-income through SCE’s CARE and FERA programs are eligible. The bill credits aim to alleviate the financial burden faced by low-income households, particularly those significantly impacted by the pandemic. It is estimated that the funds will be depleted within a year, and adjustments to the monthly credit amount may be made to avoid overutilization as the funds are near depletion. For more information on qualification details, refer to SCE’s website: sce.com/residential/assistance/fera-care.

PRIME Forms Partnership to Develop Climate Action Plan
Pico Rivera is partnering with Cascadia Consulting Group, David J. Powers & Associates, and Day One to develop a Climate Action Plan. Some of the main goals of the document are to develop a greenhouse gas inventory; set reduction targets that are aligned with policies, programs, and actions; highlight efficiencies when integrating with existing plans; partake in robust community engagement; and position for immediate implementation to begin monitoring, measuring, and reporting progress. The city understands the value of implementing a CAP to advance its commitment to environmental sustainability and address climate change. Past proactive measures are highlighted by the establishment of Pico Rivera Innovative Municipal Energy. Creating a CAP is the obvious next step to align planning and studies intended to improve the health of the community and natural environment.
RMEA Extends $500 Solar Rebate Program to Battery Storage
RMEA has announced that its $500 solar rebate program has been expanded to include batteries as well. Now, in addition to solar installations, residents who choose to install batteries to store excess energy can also benefit from this program. The rebate aims to incentivize the adoption of solar energy and energy storage solutions, allowing homeowners to reduce their reliance on the traditional grid and contribute to a more resilient energy infrastructure.

Santa Barbara Clean Energy Celebrates One Year of Full Service
This spring, SBCE celebrated one year of bringing carbon-free power to the entire Santa Barbara city. In October 2021, SBCE service was launched for residential accounts, and in March 2022, SBCE service for commercial accounts was launched. Today, residential, commercial, and municipal buildings are all powered by carbon-free electricity.

SBCE Offers Home Power Program Partnership
SBCE is partnered with Santa Barbara Home Power Program to bring resilience to SBCE customers. The program covers the costs of a complete and customized solar power and battery storage system by Electriq Power, including installation and maintenance. It is designed to accommodate all residents including low-income households. To make it more accessible for homeowners, there is no credit check, no financing, and no lien on the property. SBCE is proud to bring resilience and clean energy to its community through innovative partnerships like the Santa Barbara Home Power Program.

SBCE’s Heat Pump Water Heater Promotion
In partnership with Willdan and SCE to reduce barriers to building electrification, SBCE is offering a low- to no-cost commercial heat pump water heater replacement when qualifying customers switch to an electric HPWH. Qualifying customer building types are places of assembly, grocery stores, hospitals, medical office buildings, office buildings, hotels, motels, nursing homes, refrigerated warehouses, restaurants, and multistory retail buildings. With this rebate, SBCE’s customers can save when they switch!

Promo sent to Santa Barbara residents informing them of low- to no-cost water heater replacements.
Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) is a public agency that sources competitively priced electricity from clean and renewable energy resources. Revenue generated by 3CE stays local and helps keep electricity rates affordable for customers, while also funding innovative energy programs designed to lower greenhouse gas emissions and stimulate economic development. 3CE provides service to approximately 450,000 customer meters, or more than 1 million people throughout the Central Coast, including residential, commercial, and agricultural customers in communities located within Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz counties.

3CE Announces New Executive Leadership Team
3CE is proud to announce a series of leadership appointments that position the agency to meet its renewable energy goals while continuing to deliver value to customers and investment in communities through programs and rate savings.

Seasoned administrative executive Dewayne Woods has been appointed Chief Financial Officer at 3CE bringing deep experience in public utilities and enterprise operations. Catherine Stedman, who joined 3CE in 2022 to lead communication and outreach efforts, has been appointed Chief Communications Officer. With more than 25 years of experience in the electric and natural gas markets, Dennis Dyc-O’Neal has moved from Director of Power Supply Resources to Interim Chief Operating Officer for 3CE.

San Luis Obispo County Votes to Join 3CE
The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors voted 3–2 on March 21 to join 3CE, bringing the total number of member agencies served to 35. The communities that have joined 3CE share the goal of reducing GHG emissions, supporting the growth of clean and renewable energy, and accessing economic and environmental benefits.

3CE Partners with California’s First Geothermal Power Plant in 30 Years
Central Coast Community Energy and Silicon Valley Clean Energy recently celebrated the first geothermal power plant built in the last 30 years within the California Independent System Operator balancing authority. Casa Diablo-IV (CD4) is a 30 MW geothermal power plant developed by Ormat Technologies Inc. in Mammoth Lakes, California, that provides stable and reliable renewable benefits 24 hours a day, with zero carbon emissions.

3CE and SVCE each receive 7 MW of geothermal power under a 10-year power purchase agreement. Southern California Public Power Authority receives the remaining 16 MW of geothermal power under a 25-year agreement. The power plant achieved commercial operation in July 2022, but this June marked the celebration of this innovative new resource for California.
and 3CE customers, capable of producing clean and renewable electricity for 22,000 homes and offsetting 160,000 tons of carbon emissions.

3CE Policy Board Approves New Project Selection Criteria Focused on Local Workforce
On June 21, based on feedback solicited from community members and project stakeholders, the Policy Board of 3CE voted to adopt a new Project Selection Methodology for considering workforce development and investment opportunities.

Under the new criteria, 3CE’s investments in future projects will reflect the sustained demand for a skilled workforce and the ongoing need for training and apprenticeship positions, while prioritizing local and/or historically marginalized workers and disadvantaged communities.

The adoption of this methodology, which was developed with the support of local labor and community groups, reemphasizes 3CE’s commitment to a strong local workforce, establishes a clear market signal in support of upskilling and training, and encourages developers to directly engage with the communities where they propose to do business, while retaining 3CE’s ability to contract for and develop cost-competitive renewable energy projects that benefit our local community.

3CE Launches Rebates for Electric Buses
Heavy-duty, fossil fuel–powered vehicles such as buses are the most significant contributors of nitrogen oxide air pollution, which is known to cause serious respiratory issues and contributes to GHG emissions. 3CE has reserved $1.4 million to help schools and farmworker–transport businesses provide healthier transportation alternatives to children and agricultural workers in our communities.

The Electric Bus Program will contribute up to $200,000 per school bus and up to $150,000 per agricultural transport bus to support progress toward California’s 2045 zero–emissions goal, in addition to health benefits.

3CE also offers rebates for electric vehicle chargers and charging infrastructure through the Commercial track for its Electrify Your Ride Program. Schools and agricultural transport businesses can receive up to $3,000 for chargers and up to $5,000 for charging infrastructure, including materials and labor costs. Clean air is linked to better cognitive functioning, improved physical and academic performance, and increased school and work attendance, and according to the U.S. Bureau of Transportation, people riding an electric bus are happier, healthier, and safer. Since 2019, 3CE has helped fund 20 electric buses, and last year the agency granted $1 million in rebates for buses.
Clean Power Alliance (CPA) is the locally operated not-for-profit electricity provider for 30 cities across Los Angeles and Ventura counties, and the unincorporated areas of both counties. Now celebrating its fifth anniversary of service, CPA is the fourth-largest electricity provider in California and leads the nation in serving the most customers with 100% renewable energy. CPA serves approximately 3 million residents and businesses and provides clean renewable energy at competitive rates.

**Power Response Program Provides Customers Financial Incentives to Save Energy**
Clean Power Alliance has now launched all pathways in its demand-response program Power Response, which provides residents, businesses, and public-sector entities an array of financial incentives to reduce energy use by responding to energy-saving alerts. Power Response offers four distinct program areas so all CPA customers have a way to participate: Smart Home (saving energy via registered smart devices), Home (manual adjustment of thermostats and appliances), Multifamily Community (property owners and residents reduce energy together), and Commercial Leaders (businesses and public-sector customers receive incentives for their environmental leadership). Power Response can help reduce strain on the electric grid and provides a strategic opportunity to decrease harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Learn more at [CleanPowerAlliance.org/PowerResponse](http://CleanPowerAlliance.org/PowerResponse).

**Prepay Green Bonds to Save CPA More Than $14M Annually**
CPA arranged for the issuance of a second municipal non-recourse Clean Energy Project Revenue Bond this spring through the California Community Choice Financing Authority (CCCFA). The approximately $1 billion bond issuance is expected to reduce CPA’s renewable energy costs by approximately $31.9 million over the initial five-year period of the bonds, or an average of $6.4 million annually. The savings from the prepay transaction are locked in until 2028, at which time the bond will be repriced. The bond received an investment-grade Baa1 rating from Moody’s and a ‘Green Bonds’ designation by Kestrel Verifiers. CPA issued its first Clean Energy Project Revenue bond in February 2023. The combined average annual savings for the two bonds is approximately $14.7 million.

**New Sheila Kuehl Fellowship Created to Grow Pipeline of Local Clean Energy Experts**
CPA has launched the Sheila Kuehl Clean Energy Fellowship Program in honor of the retired Los Angeles County Supervisor’s environmental leadership. The fellowship recognizes Kuehl’s long commitment to career development of younger generations and strengthens the pipeline of clean energy experts in Southern California. Each fellowship position will focus on projects that further the clean energy goals of CPA, including sustainability, public policy, legislative/regulatory issues, and law. Fellows will have the opportunity to learn about CPA’s business model as a Community Choice Aggregator. After successful completion of the program, fellows will have the chance to become full-time employees of CPA.
CLEANPOWERSF

CleanPowerSF offers renewable, affordable, and accessible electricity to approximately 385,000 residential and business accounts in San Francisco. To date, CleanPowerSF has contracted 467 MW of new wind and solar projects in California and signed four solar-plus-battery-storage contracts. CleanPowerSF delivers at least 50% renewables portfolio standard-eligible renewable energy for its default Green product and 100% RPS-eligible renewable energy for its voluntary SuperGreen product.

Break Up with Gas and Electrify Your Home Campaign Wraps Up
CleanPowerSF recently wrapped up a campaign to encourage San Franciscans to electrify their homes and install heat pump water heaters. The campaign theme, “Break Up with Gas,” used playful imagery and messaging to encourage residents to move on from their toxic relationship with gas appliances. The goals of the campaign were to increase the adoption of heat pump water heaters and raise awareness of the benefits of electrification.

The impetus for the campaign included a partnership between CleanPowerSF and BayREN (Bay Area Regional Energy Network) to provide customers with up to $2,000 in savings on a high-efficiency heat pump water heater when working with a BayREN participating contractor. Contractors installing heat pump water heaters also qualified for incentives. As a result of the campaign, the CleanPowerSF electrification webpage became the top viewed page on the website, with nearly 10,000 visitors. From the CleanPowerSF website, 700 visitors followed links to contact BayREN and learn more about the incentives. Additionally, there was high interest from visitors in using the Rewiring America Inflation Reduction Act Savings Calculator.

Customers Encouraged to Go 100% Renewable at ‘Super Green’ Apartment
Since April, CleanPowerSF staff have attended community events with an eye-catching, “Super Green” apartment set to encourage customers to upgrade to SuperGreen, CleanPowerSF’s 100% renewable energy service. Visitors were also encouraged to take a photo inside the apartment and tag the SFPUC and CleanPowerSF on social media. The campaign made sure to prioritize equity, too. Staff attended a variety of events throughout San Francisco, including the Cherry Blossom Festival in Japantown, Earth Day in Golden Gate Park, and a San Francisco Giants Watch Party in the Mission, organized by the Latino Task Force. Interpreters were available at each event, along with translated materials in Spanish, Chinese, and Filipino. The online advertising component was crafted to make sure in-language messaging resonated across different cultures in San Francisco as well.
Launched in 2018, East Bay Community Energy serves approximately 635,000 customers in the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Pleasanton, San Leandro, Tracy, and Union City. The unincorporated areas of Alameda County are also served by EBCE. EBCE will begin serving the city of Stockton in 2025.

**EBCE Finances First-of-Its-Kind Electric Truck Charging Depot**

In June 2023, EBCE announced a new financing program to support the transition to zero-emission heavy-duty trucks. The EBCE board approved providing $4.5 million in financing to Forum Mobility, a zero-emission truck solutions provider, to support the development of an innovative electric truck charging depot in Livermore, California. This site is part of a new network of electric charging depots that Forum Mobility is building for drayage trucking carriers moving freight in and out of the Port of Oakland.

The EBCE loan will support the development of Forum’s Greenville Community Charging Depot on a 4.4-acre site just off Interstate 580 in Livermore. The depot will be capable of charging up to 96 trucks simultaneously. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, heavy-duty vehicles are responsible for 23% of the carbon emissions from the transportation sector, as well as 45% of NOx and 57% of PM 2.5 pollution in the US—with disproportionate impacts on communities of color. A transition to zero-emission vehicles will mean cleaner air for our communities, a safer climate and, if done well, lower costs per mile for truckers.

The California Air Resources Board recently approved rules requiring all of California’s in-state drayage fleet—approximately 33,000 trucks—to be zero-emission by 2035. Charging infrastructure is a key ingredient for success—the California Energy Commission estimates that to comply with these and other proposed vehicle regulations, California will need 157,000 medium- and heavy-duty vehicle chargers by 2030.

**Budget Includes Better Value for Customers, More Low-Income Bill Credits**

EBCE’s board approved the fiscal year 2023–24 budget on June 21, 2023, and it includes a lot of good news for electricity customers in the East Bay:

- Customers on EBCE’s Bright Choice service will now enjoy a 5% discount compared with Pacific Gas & Electric rates.
- Renewable 100 (sourced from 100% California wind and solar) will have a lower premium, now only one-quarter of a cent per kilowatt-hour—about $1 per month above PG&E rates for the average home.
- EBCE will issue $50 bill credits to all customers on CARE and FERA rates (equal to $6.6 million for approximately 121,670 homes!).
- EBCE will increase carbon-free content for Bright Choice electricity to 76% carbon-free in 2023 and 81% in 2024.
MCE offers renewable, locally controlled, and cost-competitive electricity to more than 1.5 million residents and businesses in 37 Bay Area communities in Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, and Solano counties. MCE customers are part of the long-term solution to green California’s electricity supply while investing in local energy programs. For more information about MCE’s services, visit mceCleanEnergy.org or sign up for our monthly eNewsletter.

MCE Doubles Down on 24/7 Renewable Electricity
MCE has added 134 MW of geothermal power to its portfolio, supplying power to 195,000 Bay Area residents and businesses yearly. The energy purchased in these contracts will fill critical evening hours when power costs are high and emissions are highest. MCE is helping make California’s grid more reliable with power resources that can power homes and businesses 24/7. This helps cut emissions and reduce long-term costs for customers.

Novato Solar Farm Provides Bill Savings to Over 340 Bay Area Homes
MCE recently invited over 140 low-income residents in Antioch, Richmond, and Vallejo to save on their energy bills with Local Sol. Local Sol is MCE’s 100% solar service option, powered by a local solar farm in Novato. As of 2023, Local Sol is MCE’s lowest-cost service option for customers. A total of 340 residents in underserved areas are now enrolled in Local Sol. MCE has 48 MW of local, renewable energy projects serving just under 20,000 homes in its service area.

Concord Votes to Become MCE’s Newest ‘Deep Green’ Partner
The Concord City Council voted unanimously on June 13, 2023, to opt the city’s facilities into MCE’s Deep Green 100% renewable energy service option. With this action, the city will cut around 2,729 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually, equal to taking 607 cars off the road.

MCE’s Deep Green service is powered by 50% wind and 50% solar. Half of premiums collected are invested in local projects and programs that benefit the community. These projects include rebates for electric vehicles, EV charging ports, and electric heat pump water heaters.

MCE Launches 4–9 Campaign
Especially critical during summer months, MCE launched a creative campaign to encourage residents and businesses to reduce energy use during peak hours from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., when electricity rates are most expensive and more fossil fuels are used to support the grid. Check out the campaign at mcecleanenergy.org/4–9/. What are some unusual things you do to reduce your use? Illuminate MCE with your wisdom! Share your ideas on Facebook and Instagram with #4to9 and tag @mceCleanEnergy.
In April, OCPA celebrated one year of providing municipal and commercial service to customers in its four member cities with an 86% commercial participation rate, equivalent to purchasing 1.4 million MW per hour of renewable energy. Another milestone came in June, when OCPA brought on its 200,000th residential customer. OCPA is continuing to offer its Basic Choice (38% renewable) plan to customers that costs 2% less than the investor-owned utility’s equivalent generation rate.

New Solar+Storage Project
OCPA entered into a long-term power purchase agreement with Grace Orchard Energy Center LLC to develop a solar-plus-battery-storage project in Riverside County. This project will guarantee capacity of 90 MW of solar production—equivalent to approximately 262,000 MWh per year, enough to power 400,000 homes—and up to 30 MW of battery storage capacity with fixed energy prices for a 20-year term.

OCPA in the Community
OCPA sponsored and participated in various community events including Earth Day events, the Caltrans Clean California Community Day, Irvine Korean Cultural Festival, and Fullerton World Music Day. In June, OCPA hosted informational briefings for more than 30 multicultural leaders representing diverse organizations throughout Orange County. OCPA is working with these organizations to inform their constituencies about the benefits of Community Choice Aggregation.

New Budget to Build Financial Strength
OCPA’s board of directors recently approved a balanced fiscal year 2023-24 operating budget that projects $329 million in net revenues and $288 million in total operating and non-operating expenses. This will result in a contribution to reserves of $41 million, with projected growth to $88 million in the Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund—31% of its operating expenses—by June 30, 2024. The budget also includes a plan to hire four additional full-time employees and two interns to ensure adequate coverage of essential functions; increase funding for marketing and public outreach to raise awareness of OCPA’s clean energy mission and goals; implement a scalable data-analytics platform to improve access to customer data; and provide reliable, affordable, clean electricity and electrification.
Peninsula Clean Energy is the official electricity provider for San Mateo County and for the City of Los Banos. Founded in 2016, with a mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the agency serves a population of 810,000 by providing 3,600 GWh annually of electricity that is 50% renewable and 100% clean and at lower cost than Pacific Gas & Electric. Peninsula Clean Energy is on track to deliver electricity that is 100% renewable by 2025.

Shawn Marshall Named as New CEO
Peninsula Clean Energy’s board of directors selected Shawn Marshall as the agency’s new chief executive officer effective July 1. Marshall will succeed Jan Pepper, who is retiring after leading the agency to prominence over the past seven years as the CEO since its inception in 2016.

45 MW Battery Storage Deal with Terra-Gen
Peninsula Clean Energy reached a 15-year deal to exclusively receive 45 MW of battery storage that is the agency’s second stand-alone storage deal and assists the goal of providing renewable energy at all hours of the day and night.

EV Ride-Hailing Program Surpasses 250,000 Rides
The Ride-Hail Electrification Pilot Program, a first-of-its-kind effort in California launched in spring 2022 by Peninsula Clean Energy, Lyft, and one of its Express Drive rental partners, Flexdrive, reached a significant milestone by providing more than 250,000 electric vehicle rides across more than 3 million all-electric miles driven in the Bay Area.

Innovative Solar Agreements Reached with County, Cities
As one of the first public agencies nationwide to utilize newly expanded federal renewable energy incentives, Peninsula Clean Energy has reached innovative agreements to install 1.7 MW of solar power and future battery storage on 12 public buildings. This is estimated to result in $17 million in lifetime energy savings, with more than 40 additional sites under development in an upcoming round of the program.

Peninsula Clean Energy Maintains 5% Rate Discount for ECOplus
The agency is keeping its ECOplus electric generation rates for its San Mateo County and City of Los Banos customers at least 5% below PG&E’s baseline electric generation rate. This has saved customers more than $107 million, including $17 million in 2022.

64 Youth Climate Ambassadors Graduate Program
The Youth Climate Ambassadors Program is a knowledge-to-action leadership program for 9th–12th grade students in San Mateo County. During this eight-month program, youth leaders strengthen their knowledge of climate change and environmental issues and build leadership skills by planning and implementing a community impact project that addresses a local environmental issue and seeks to mitigate climate change.
Launched in 2017, the Redwood Coast Energy Authority serves over 63,000 customers in Humboldt County, including the Blue Lake Rancheria, the Yurok Tribe, Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna, Ferndale, Blue Lake, Rio Dell, and Trinidad. RCEA offers “REpower” 32+% renewable and “REpower+” 100% renewable and carbon-free energy service options.

**Humboldt’s Electric Future Project to Increase Public Input**
RCEA launched the Humboldt’s Electric Future project this spring to increase public understanding of and engagement in its integrated resource planning process. After publishing a readable and engaging report about RCEA’s power procurement and the state’s Integrated Resource Plan process, staff organized workshops with presentations and interactive activities where people cast votes on their preferred power portfolios and program revenue allocations, choosing to focus more on renewable energy procurement or other priorities. Workshop outcomes are being incorporated into a final Humboldt’s Electric Future report for presentation to RCEA’s Community Advisory Committee and board of directors and will be considered in 2024 IRP planning. The process will be a recurring part of RCEA’s biennial IRP cycle.

**Yurok Tribe and Blue Lake Rancheria Join RCEA Board of Directors**
The Yurok Tribe became the first sovereign tribal government to join RCEA in February 2023, followed by the Blue Lake Rancheria in April. RCEA has worked with both tribes on several projects over the last 20 years, and both tribes will now participate government-to-government in planning and developing long-term renewable energy projects and services.

**RCEA Recognized with Two Microgrid Awards**
RCEA received two distinguished awards in May for its Redwood Coast Airport Microgrid project. In addition to a first-place Impact Award in the Reliability category at CalCCA’s annual conference in San Diego, RCEA also accepted the “California Microgrid” award during Microgrid Knowledge’s 2023 Greater Good Award ceremony in Anaheim. Since its launch, RCAM’s solar-powered battery storage system has repeatedly provided backup power to the U.S. Coast Guard Humboldt Bay Air Station, the California Redwood Coast–Humboldt County Airport, and the neighboring community during power outages. The RCAM microgrid is a collaborative partnership project between the Schatz Energy Research Center at Cal Poly Humboldt, the County of Humboldt, Pacific Gas & Electric, Tesla, The Energy Authority, TRC, and Schweitzer Engineering Labs.

**Over $177M in Energy Efficiency Funding Approved for New Rural Regional Energy Network**
On June 29, the California Public Utilities Commission approved forming a Rural Regional Energy Network (RuralREN) to provide energy efficiency services to underserved and hard-to-reach public, commercial, and residential customers across nearly half the state. The seven-member partnership, which includes public and nonprofit agencies, will serve more than 7 million customers, or 18% of California’s population, spanning over 70,000 square miles in 31 rural California counties and 66 tribal government lands.
REDWOOD COAST ENERGY AUTHORITY (cont.)

The programs are scheduled to launch in January 2024, and RCEA will be the RuralREN’s program administrator. The four-year budget is just over $84 million, with another $93 million reserved for the following four years.

The locally implemented programs will help customers find financing options for energy projects and access energy assessments, rebates and incentives for cleaner, energy efficient equipment. Programs will also address energy codes and standards implementation, as well as workforce education and training.

RuralREN member organizations include the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments and the County of San Luis Obispo on the Central Coast; the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization in the San Joaquin Valley; the High Sierra Energy Foundation; Sierra Business Council in the Sierra; and the Redwood Coast Energy Authority on the North Coast in partnership with the Lake Area Planning Commission and Mendocino Council of Governments, as well as the County of Ventura as a non-implementing partner.

The seven members of the Rural Regional Energy Network will provide services to 31 rural California counties, about half the state.

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY POWER

San Diego Community Power (SDCP) is the electricity provider for the cities of Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, National City, and San Diego, as well as the unincorporated communities of San Diego County. Formed in 2019, SDCP is now serving nearly 1 million customers and is the second-largest CCA in California.

SDCP Names Jack Clark as Chief Operating Officer

SDCP welcomed veteran sustainability leader Jack Clark as its new Chief Operating Officer in June. Jack has over 20 years of experience in the environmental space, including leadership roles at the Clean Power Alliance and the Center for Sustainable Energy. While at the City of San Diego, Jack was responsible for the feasibility study that was critical to transforming the concept of Community Choice in the greater San Diego region into the reality of SDCP being the second-largest CCA in California. Jack is skilled at strategizing and executing large-scale market-transformation programs and initiatives that strengthen and stabilize the relationship between people and the environment.
SDCP Signs Power Purchase Agreements
The board of directors of SDCP unanimously approved two solar-plus-storage projects to boost the amount of renewable power it delivers by 2025 to its nearly 1 million customers. The Yellow Pine III project in Clark County, Nevada, will deliver 35 MW of solar power capacity and 35 MW/140 MWh of lithium-ion battery storage capacity to the electric grid. The second project, the Brawley Solar and Storage Project, will contribute 42 MW of clean energy to the grid—enough to power approximately 31,500 homes. The project’s storage component will provide 35 MW/140 MWh of capacity, which is enough to provide four hours of electricity during peak consumption periods when solar is not operating.

Enrollment of Unincorporated San Diego County and National City
Nearly 1 million electricity customers throughout the San Diego region now have access to cleaner, more affordable, renewable power from SDCP with the successful enrollment of customers from National City and unincorporated areas of San Diego County. “National City is thrilled to be joining SDCP to help fight climate change with sustainable solutions that support healthier communities,” said Ditas Yamane, National City councilmember and SDCP board member. “By being a part of SDCP, customers get all the health and future-focused benefits of cleaner energy at competitive rates while investing in our community and making a difference locally.”

Community Power Plan Will Guide SDCP Program Development
In May 2023, SDCP’s board of directors approved SDCP’s Community Power Plan, the five-year strategic plan for selecting, developing and offering local customer energy programs. These programs are targeted to meet community needs and fill in gaps in program offerings. SDCP developed the Community Power Plan between July 2022 and May 2023. In March 2023, SDCP released a public draft of the Community Power Plan in English, Spanish and Filipino (Tagalog) and sought feedback for 30 days before its finalization. This plan is critical to ensuring that SDCP continues to focus on the programs its customers are seeking.

SAN JOSE CLEAN ENERGY
San José Clean Energy (SJCE) serves approximately 350,000 customers in the City of San José, the largest city in the Bay Area and one of the nation’s most diverse. SJCE launched service in February 2019 to most residents and businesses. SJCE’s total annual load is approximately 4 TWh and peak demand is approximately 1 GW. SJCE offers two clean energy options: GreenSource is SJCE’s standard service with 60% renewable energy, and TotalGreen is SJCE’s premium service for 100% renewable energy. SJCE also offers SJ Cares, which gives customers with low incomes an extra 10% discount off SJCE’s rates.

Lori Mitchell Recognized as a Woman of Influence
SJCE Director Lori Mitchell has been honored as a Woman of Influence by the Silicon Valley Business Journal. The award celebrates her exceptional leadership, innovative vision, and outstanding contributions in the San José community. As leader of SJCE, Mitchell is tackling one of the most important parts of meeting the City of San José’s climate goals—decarbonizing the energy that powers San José. Under her leadership, SJCE has contracted for over 600 MW of new cost-effective renewable energy and storage resources.
That's enough clean energy to power over 300,000 San José homes each year. She is also focused on equity and inclusion for all customers in San José and lowering the energy burden for those who need it most. SJCE is proud to be one of the first CCAs to offer extra monthly discounts to customers enrolled in CARE or FERA and to make outreach in multiple languages a standard.

Peak Rewards Program Launch
Just in time for summer, SJCE launched a pilot demand-response program for businesses in San José called Peak Rewards. As part of this program, businesses will get paid to reduce energy when a Peak Event is called. Peak Rewards encourages commercial partners to help balance the grid in times of high demand or when power prices are high. This program is open to all commercial customers to ensure all San José businesses have an opportunity to participate and do their part. The goal of the program is to reduce load by 3 MW during Peak Events. Learn more about this program and how it works at SanJoseCleanEnergy.org/peak-rewards.

Driving Change through Equity-Centered Community Outreach and Education
SJCE is focused on increasing electric vehicle adoption in San José through community outreach and education, especially among residents with lower incomes and those who face the highest barriers to adoption. This spring, SJCE has engaged neighborhood groups, schools, and community organizations to empower community members with the information they need to make their electric ride a reality. As part of these efforts, SJCE supported a “community dinner” wherein dozens of residents enjoyed a meal together. Then, they heard from various environmental organizations about how e-mobility solutions can help them take air quality into their own hands. When asked what they were excited to have learned, participants were most pleased to hear about financial incentives, the prospect of more ride-and-drives, and SJCE benefits like bill discounts.
Launched in April 2017, Silicon Valley Clean Energy serves 277,000 residential and business 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. As a public agency, net revenues are returned to the community to keep rates competitive and promote clean energy programs. SVCE is advancing innovative solutions to fight climate change by decarbonizing the grid, transportation, and buildings. Learn more at SVCleanEnergy.org.

Celebrating New Clean Geothermal Electricity
Silicon Valley Clean Energy joined 3CE and the City of Colton to celebrate the first geothermal power plant built within the California Independent System Operator balancing authority in the past 30 years. Casa Diablo-IV (CD4) is a 30 MW geothermal power plant developed by Ormat Technologies Inc. in Mammoth Lakes, California, that provides stable and reliable renewable benefits 24 hours a day, with zero carbon emissions.

CD4 achieved commercial operation in July 2022 and produces clean and renewable electricity for 22,000 homes, offsetting 160,000 tons of carbon emissions. CD4 is the first geothermal power plant in Ormat’s portfolio to sell its output to Community Choice Aggregators.

Speakers included California Energy Commission member Noemí Otilia Osuna Gallardo, CAISO Vice President Joanne Serina, Bureau of Land Management California State Director Karen Mouritsen, District Ranger Fred Wong, City of Colton Assistant Director of Utility Operations Ren Zhang, and Ormat CEO Doron Blachar.

Contract Executed to Help Meet Resource Adequacy Requirements
Procuring for clean energy resources in the California energy markets has become increasingly challenging due to market conditions such as high prices and project delays caused by supply chain issues. This has led to increased difficulty to cost-effectively meet state mandates for resource adequacy capacity. Therefore, SVCE has been exploring new technology options to meet its regulatory procurement requirements. SVCE has executed a contract with the Hanford Hybrid Natural Gas and Battery Storage facility to help meet the agency’s regulatory procurement obligations in a cost-effective way, with minimal emissions impacts.
The Hanford Hybrid Natural Gas Peaker Plant is paired with a new battery energy storage system that offers emissions-reduction benefits and retains the peaker facility for reliability purposes. This hybrid plant offers a novel solution during this transition period where the state grid still relies on natural gas until enough new clean resources and technologies are built to get to a carbon-free grid by 2045, as mandated by Senate Bill 100.

**SVCE Launches Its First Rebate for Small and Medium Businesses to Electrify**

To help local businesses make the upgrade to electric heat pump equipment, SVCE has launched small and medium business (SMB) rebates—the first offer that SVCE has made available to small and medium commercial customers.

SMBs can receive up to $20,000 per project (up to $25,000 for nonprofits) for electrifying space and water heating equipment. Rebates are available for packaged and split-system heat pump HVACs, residential-style heat pump water heaters, commercial-grade heat pump water heaters, and point-of-use electric water heaters.

**A New Rate to Encourage Electrification**

SVCE is taking Pacific Gas & Electric’s Electric Home rate to the next level by offering even deeper discounts. Customers that shift electricity use to off-peak hours could see up to a 20% discount on their electric generation charges. By increasing the difference between off- and on-peak rates, customers have the opportunity to save big when they use this rate intentionally. Through this rate, SVCE plans to test behavior-change tactics to further shift customer electricity use and track usage patterns. Customers must have a heat pump (water heater or HVAC) and/or an electric vehicle to qualify for the E-ELEC rate. SVCE is piloting this rate for the first 1,000 customers to enroll; the discount is guaranteed through January 1, 2027.

**‘CHOICE’ WORDS**

CCAs’ total annual renewables portfolio standard (RPS) procurement expenditures for fixed-price contracts increased from $286 million in 2021 to $537 million in 2022, while renewable generation also increased from 6,965 GWh in 2021 to 12,357 GWh in 2022, resulting in a 2022 RPS percentage of retail load of 52%.

--2023 Padilla Report to the Legislature
Sonoma Clean Power provides cleaner electricity and energy-related climate solutions to Sonoma and Mendocino counties. In downtown Santa Rosa, SCP operates the only Advanced Energy Center in the United States, dedicated to helping customers transition to 100% renewable energy for their homes, businesses, and cars. SCP is also the only power provider in California offering 100% renewable, locally generated energy 24 hours per day, every day of the year.

New Solar & Storage PPA
SCP recently signed a power purchase agreement with Idemitsu Renewables, a leading renewable energy developer. Under the terms of the PPA, Idemitsu Renewables will supply SCP with 60 MW (AC) of solar and 38 MW/152 MWh of storage from its Azalea project. The Azalea project is located in Kern County and is expected to achieve commercial operation in 2025. “This project will allow us to continue offering our customers electricity that is more than 50% renewable and competitively priced, while also adding a substantial amount of reliability through battery storage. We are excited to partner with Idemitsu Renewables to utilize more in-state renewable power with fewer greenhouse gas emissions,” said Deb Emerson, Managing Director of Power Procurement at SCP.

7,000 SCP Customers Enroll in Demand-Response Program
SCP recently launched a new offering for its residential customers aimed at reducing strain on the state’s electric grid and encouraging mindful energy habits at home. Unlike most residential demand-response programs out there, no smart devices other than a standard Pacific Gas & Electric-installed smart meter are needed to participate, and the approach for reducing energy is left completely up to the household. Similar to the “Flex Alerts” issued by the California Independent System Operator, SCP calls energy-saving events when the grid is stressed due to severe weather events and other instances. Customers earn $2 for every kilowatt-hour saved during each event, which is about how much electricity it takes to run one dishwasher cycle. There are no penalties for not reducing energy usage, only rewards when they do.

To date, close to 7,000 SCP customers have signed up for GridSavvy Rewards Alerts, with the number growing each week. With the help of these customers, the potential load that SCP can offset from the grid during impacted summer days is anticipated to reach 2 MW.
Valley Clean Energy Alliance—or VCE—is the official electricity provider for residential and commercial customers in the cities of Woodland, Winters, and Davis, and unincorporated Yolo County. We’ve been serving a customer base of over 60,000 since 2018.

Five-Year Anniversary
In June 2018, Valley Clean Energy flipped the switch and began serving residential and commercial customers in the cities of Davis and Woodland and unincorporated Yolo County, followed by the city of Winters. Throughout June and July, VCE celebrated its fifth year of providing clean, affordable electricity to its customers with events in Davis, Woodland, and Winters. At one event, VCE received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from U.S. Representative Mike Thompson. Also in attendance were California Public Utilities Commission member Darcie Houck and California Energy Commission Vice Chair Siva Gunda, as well as VCE Board Chair Tom Stallard and VCE Director Lucas Frerichs.

Celebrating VCE’s five-year anniversary (left to right): VCE Board Chair Tom Stallard, U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, CPUC member Darcie Houck, VCE board member Lucas Frerichs, CEC Vice Chair Siva Gunda, and VCE Executive Officer Mitch Sears.

CalCCA TIP

Learn how the resource adequacy supply shortage in California and the West is impacting the ability of load-serving entities to meet their RA obligations and increasing costs for ratepayers in CalCCA’s new white paper, California’s Constrained RA Market: Ratepayers Left Standing in a Game of Musical Chairs.
CALCCA MEMBERS

- Apple Valley Choice Energy
- Central Coast Community Energy
- Clean Energy Alliance
- Clean Power Alliance
- CleanPowerSF
- Desert Community Energy
- East Bay Community Energy
- Energy for Palmdale’s Independent Choice
- Lancaster Choice Energy
- MCE
- Orange County Power Authority
- 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
- Santa Barbara Clean Energy
- Silicon Valley Clean Energy
- Sonoma Clean Power
- Valley Clean Energy

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

- Butte Choice Energy
- City of Corona
- City of Hermosa Beach
- King City Conservation District
- Tuolomne County