



# Redwood Coast Energy Authority

633 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Eureka, CA 95501

Phone: (707) 269-1700 Toll-Free (800) 931-7323 Fax: (707) 269-1777

E-mail: [info@redwoodenergy.org](mailto:info@redwoodenergy.org) Web: [www.redwoodenergy.org](http://www.redwoodenergy.org)

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**Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **THIS IS A VIRTUAL MEETING.**

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 of March 17, 2020, and revised Brown Act provisions signed into law on September 16, 2021, this meeting will not be convened in a physical location. CAC members will meet via an online Zoom video conference.

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**To participate in the meeting by phone**, call (669) 900-6833 or (253) 215-8782. Enter webinar ID: 822 2338 1610. **To participate in the meeting online**, join the Zoom webinar at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82223381610>.

**To make a comment during the public comment periods**, raise your hand in the online Zoom webinar, or press star (\*) 9 on your phone to raise your hand. When it is your turn to speak, a staff member will ask you to unmute your phone or computer. You will have 3 minutes to speak.

**You may email written comments** to [PublicComment@redwoodenergy.org](mailto:PublicComment@redwoodenergy.org). Please identify the agenda item number in the subject line. Comments will be included in the meeting record but not read aloud during the meeting.

While downloading the Zoom application may provide a better meeting experience, Zoom does not need to be installed on your computer to participate. After clicking the webinar link above, click "start from your browser."

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In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any member of the public needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting or access the meeting materials should email [LTaketa@redwoodenergy.org](mailto:LTaketa@redwoodenergy.org) or call (707) 269-1700 at least 3 business days before the meeting. Advance notification enables RCEA staff to make their best effort to reasonably accommodate access to this meeting and its materials while maintaining public safety.

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Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, all writings or documents relating to any item on this agenda which have been provided to a majority of the Community Advisory Committee, including those received less than 72 hours prior to the Committee's meeting, will be made available to the public at [www.RedwoodEnergy.org](http://www.RedwoodEnergy.org).

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Agenda Item / What	How / Action <u>Underlined actions</u> indicate that a vote is needed.	When
1. Open	<u>Roll Call:</u> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> Norman Bell  Elizabeth Burks  Colin Fiske  Catherine Gurin,  Vice Chair  Larry Goldberg  Roger Hess  Chris Honar  Sarah Schaefer,  Board Liaison </div> <div> Richard Johnson  Luna Latimer  Ethan Lawton  Dennis Leonardi,  Chair  Kit Mann  Emily Morris  Jeff Trirogoff </div> </div> <b>Review meeting agenda and goals.</b>	6:00 p.m.
2. Non-Agenda Item Public Comment	This item is provided for the public to address the Committee on matters not on the agenda. At the end of public comments, the Committee may respond to statements, or refer requests requiring action to the Executive Director or the Board of Directors.	6:00 – 6:05 p.m. (5 min.)
3. Consent Calendar	All matters on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine by the CAC and are enacted in one motion. There is no separate discussion of any of these items. If discussion is required, that item is removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately. At the end of the reading of the Consent Calendar, CAC members or members of the public can request that an item be removed for separate discussion.  <b>Actions:</b>  <b>3.1. <u>Approve November 8, 2022, CAC Meeting Minutes.</u></b>  <b>3.2. <u>Undertake a full CAC goal setting process every two years, adjusting goals every other year as necessary,</u></b>  <u><b>Continue work on existing CAC 2022 work goals in 2023, and</b></u>  <u><b>Authorize the Chair and Vice-Chair to assist RCEA staff in finalizing the Community Advisory Committee Annual Report and present it to the RCEA Board of Directors.</b></u>  <b>3.3. <u>Accept Local Major Projects Staff Notification List – No projects at this time.</u></b>	6:05 – 6:10 p.m. (5 min.)
4. Items Removed from Consent Calendar	This time is set aside for discussion of items removed from the Consent Calendar.	6:10 – 6:15 p.m. (5 min.)

<b>Agenda Item / What</b>	<b>How / Action</b> <u>Underlined actions</u> indicate that a vote is needed.	<b>When</b>
5. Offshore Wind Auction Results	<b>Hear report from Executive Director on offshore wind auction and next steps.</b> (Information only.)	6:15 – 6:30 p.m. (15 min.)
6. Cannabis Grow Greenhouse Gas Impact	<b>Actions:</b> <b>Hear report on County’s cannabis cultivator renewable energy program and RCEA’s current ability to support additional cannabis renewable energy programs.</b> <b>If appropriate, solicit volunteers for a subcommittee to explore options to support the use of renewable energy systems for off-grid cannabis businesses.</b>	6:30 – 6:50 p.m. (20 min.)
7. Bonds Subcommittee Update	<b>Action: <u>Recommend that the RCEA Board of Directors direct staff to issue a request for proposals for bond development and issuance services to identify suitable financing mechanism(s) for one or more of the shortlisted projects.</u></b>	6:50 – 7:05 p.m. (15 min.)
8. In-Person Hybrid Meetings	<b>Action: Review new meeting location and participation procedures.</b> (Information only.)	7:05 – 7:15 p.m. (10 min.)
9. Member and Board Liaison Reports	This time is provided for Committee members and the Board liaison to share information on topics not on the agenda. At the end of member reports, the Executive Director will set requests requiring action to a future agenda or refer requests to staff or the Board.  9.1. Board Liaison 9.2. Committee Members	7:15 – 7:30 p.m. (15 min.)
10. Close & Adjourn		7:30 p.m.

**NEXT REGULAR CAC MEETING** – Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 6 - 7:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Community Center Auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA 95501.



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## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

**November 8, 2022 - Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

The agenda for this meeting was posted on November 4, 2022. Community Advisory Committee Chair Dennis Leonardi called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., stating that the meeting was being conducted by teleconference pursuant to revised Brown Act provisions signed into law on September 16, 2021. Chair Leonardi stated that the posted agenda outlined instructions for public participation in this meeting.

#### **Members present:**

Norman Bell

Colin Fiske

Larry Goldberg

Catherine Gurin, Vice Chair

Roger Hess

Christopher Honar

Richard Johnson

Luna Latimer

Ethan Lawton

Dennis Leonardi, Chair

Kit Mann

Jeff Trirogoff (arrived 6:09 p.m.)

Scott Bauer, Alt. Board Liaison (non-voting)

**Members absent:** Elizabeth Burks, Emily Morris, Jerome Qiriaz

#### **Staff present:**

Richard Engel, Power Resources Director

Matthew Marshall, Executive Director

Nancy Stephenson, Community Strategies Manager

Lori Taketa, Board Clerk

Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director

#### **Minutes Approval**

No member of the public or committee commented on the draft minutes. Chair Leonardi closed the public comment period.

**Motion Johnson, Second Goldberg: Approve minutes of September 13, 2022, CAC meeting.**

**The motion passed with a roll call vote. Ayes: Fiske, Goldberg, Gurin, Hess, Johnson, Latimer, Lawton, Leonardi, Mann. Noes: None. Abstain: Bell, Honar. Absent: Burks, Morris, Qiriaz, Trirogoff.**

#### **Non-Agenda Item Public Comment**

No member of the public submitted comment or requested to speak. Chair Leonardi closed the non-agenda public comment period.

#### **Biomass Discussion**

Power Resources Director Engel reported on the CAC Alternative Biomass Uses

Subcommittee's input on potential Biomass Technical Advisory Group (BTAG) membership makeup and on the Humboldt Sawmill Company (HSC) and RCEA annual alternative biomass uses discussion process. The CAC members were asked whether they wanted to recommend that the Board commit to a biomass energy procurement sunset date to facilitate meeting RCEA's strategic plan goal 4.1.11.6 – Plan for a Long-Term Transition Away from Direct Combustion of Forest-Derived Biomass and Toward Lower-Impact Uses of this Material.

The committee members supported the potential BTAG member list's emphasis on public health but expressed concern about relying on the Humboldt Area Foundation-affiliated CORE Hub to organize BTAG membership due to the process' perceived lack of public transparency. Members both supported and expressed reservations about setting a biomass combustion energy procurement sunset date.

Members expressing specific end date concerns cited RCEA's need to meet California resource adequacy mandates which may change and are beyond RCEA's control. Biomass energy currently helps RCEA fulfil SB 100 renewable resource and SB 350 long-term renewable energy contract requirements as well as resource adequacy mandates to provide capacity during evening and other critical need periods. It has become increasingly difficult for California power providers to fulfil these resource adequacy requirements. There was discussion on other energy offtakers for HSC's electricity should RCEA not renew its contract, the high cost of building replacement renewable energy resources of similar scale, and the logic of forming the BTAG before setting a sunset date.

Members supporting ending direct combustion biomass procurement at the end of the HSC contract in 2031 pointed to newly-developed alternate biomass uses, how a sunset date could catalyze lower-emission biomass use and alternate RA source planning, and how RCEA should prioritize public health rather than HSC's economic well-being. Staff expressed preference for setting and working toward a goal and revisiting the goal should it become impossible to meet.

Member of the public Dan Chandler supported setting a biomass combustion energy procurement end date, pointing out available lower carbon intensity biomass waste uses and the cost of emissions impacts.

Member of the public Wendy Ring referred to a letter the Humboldt Del Norte Medical Society submitted to the RCEA Board of Directors opposing new, extended or expanded biomass contracts due to public health concerns. Dr. Ring asked that the CAC advise the Board to stop prioritizing local renewable energy development and instead to prioritize public health and welfare of local communities. Dr. Ring expressed concern that load growth from Nordic Aquafarms and electrification would result in increased biomass energy procurement.

Member of the public Martha Walden supported a biomass sunset deadline, opposed classifying biomass as a clean energy source, and supported the CAC recommending a biomass end date to the Board. Chair Leonardi closed the public comment period.

Written public comments were submitted by members of the public:

- Wendy Ring, requesting the CAC ask the board to honor the RePower Strategic Plan's commitment to end biomass combustion.
- John Schaefer, supporting Wendy Ring's recommendation, adding that RCEA

- should only contract for biomass energy if it is from gasification and pyrolysis.
- Sue Parsons, asking for a resolution against pursuing further biomass combustion contracts.
- Emily Siegel, requesting the CAC call on RCEA to make no further biomass combustion contracts.
- Walt Paniak, opposing extension of HSC's biomass contract.

**Motion Fiske, Second Johnson: Approve proposed Biomass Technical Advisory Group formation methods and Humboldt Sawmill Company-RCEA Memorandum of Understanding implementation improvements, and request the Biomass Technical Advisory Group, within one year of that group's formation, make a recommendation for a combustion-based biomass procurement sunset date no later than the end of the current contract in 2031, and preferably sooner.**

**The motion passed with a roll call vote. Ayes: Bell, Fiske, Goldberg, Gurin, Honar, Johnson, Latimer, Lawton, Leonardi, Mann, Trirogoff. Noes: None. Abstain: Hess. Absent: Burks, Morris, Qiriazzi.**

### **PG&E Southern Humboldt Grid Issues**

Executive Director Marshall described recently reported electricity transmission constriction issues that limit load growth in areas including Southern Humboldt County, parts of Eureka and Arcata including Sunnybrae and Cal Poly Humboldt, and regions served by the Hoopa substation such as Soames Bar and Yurok Tribe areas. Potential ways RCEA could assist were described: working with PG&E on deploying distributed resources such as battery storage in the Eel River Valley area to lessen constriction issues while PG&E upgrades infrastructure; investigating whether microgrids could feasibly address Garberville 1102 circuit constriction issues; and advocating for transmission upgrades to export offshore wind energy through parts of southern Humboldt County to potentially improve transmission-level issues.

The Committee members discussed starting an ad hoc transmission committee to assist in developing options, the transmission infrastructure limits' potential effects on countywide Climate Action Plan implementation, and the importance of publicizing RCEA's actions to address the issue. A request was made for grid issue updates and to discuss ad hoc transmission committee formation at that time.

Written public comment was submitted by Siskiyou Land Conservancy Director Ken Miller, asking RCEA to support development of widespread distributed solar and nested community microgrids on available rooftops and parking lots to sustainably electrify without degrading habitat. Chair Leonardi closed the public comment period.

### **CAC Work Goals & Annual Report**

Members expressed support for expanding the CAC's goal setting process timeframe from one to two years, adjusting goals annually as necessary. The group will determine if their existing annual goals need to be adjusted at the January meeting.

The above-mentioned written public comment by the Siskiyou Land Conservancy was submitted for this agenda item.

### **RCEA Policy Platform**

Executive Director Marshall requested member input on the Draft 2023 RCEA Policy Platform prior to presentation to the Board in December. Members commented that the

platform did not mention supporting climate action outside of energy procurement, whereas this is part of RCEA's mission. There were concerns that prioritizing local control could lead to the agency opposing state-level actions which align with RCEA's objectives. Staff stated they would add a climate action section to the coming year's policy platform and bring the question of local control and local renewable energy development back for future discussion.

The above-mentioned written public comment by the Siskiyou Land Conservancy was submitted for this agenda item.

### **Local Major Projects**

Due to lack of time, discussion of this item was postponed to the January 2023 CAC meeting.

The above-mentioned written public comment by the Siskiyou Land Conservancy was submitted for this agenda item.

### **Member Reports**

Member Goldberg requested the CAC form an ad hoc subcommittee to pursue RCEA and Cal Poly Humboldt research on the off-grid cannabis industry's greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts to provide a scientific basis for pursuing more funding than what is currently provided by the County's Water Storage and Renewable Energy System Grants program. The County program's \$2.5 million is inadequate to address existing GHG impacts.

Vice Chair Gurin requested continuing to list committee member objectives prominently in staff reports and providing a standing agenda item or more opportunities for Board liaison input to increase dialog between the CAC and the Board.

Chair Leonardi adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Lori Taketa  
Clerk of the Board



**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STAFF REPORT  
Agenda Item # 3.2**

AGENDA DATE:	January 10, 2023
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Matthew Marshall, RCEA Executive Director
SUBJECT:	CAC Annual Report & 2023 Goals

**SUMMARY**

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In 2021, the Community Advisory Committee agreed to report the group's past year accomplishments and upcoming year goals annually to the RCEA Board of Directors to better organize the body's work within the framework of the agency's work goals and to help the Board thoughtfully utilize the committee as a resource to support Board decision-making and agency public engagement efforts.

The Community Advisory Committee approved 2022 goals (below) at its January 11, 2022, meeting. These goals were presented to the RCEA Board of Directors in February 2022.

During 2022, the CAC's work on several goals has been delayed due to factors beyond RCEA's control. These circumstances, and next steps are noted below following the approved goals:

- a. **Help guide community outreach and messaging for RCEA programs.** *A subcommittee was formed to assist in community education and messaging regarding customer programs in March 2022. Staff anticipated Rural Regional Energy Network (Rural REN) implementation in early 2023, which would involve new customer program development. The application review process was delayed and approval and implementation are now expected in 2024. In 2023, staff will engage with the Customer Programs Outreach Subcommittee in Q1 to provide input on program design, and in Q2 to begin developing outreach strategies. Programs are expected to launch in 2024.*
- b. **Monitor and advocate for implementation of RePower Humboldt Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy goals and notify staff of community activities and projects that may have significant impact on the ability to reach these goals.** *The CAC received clarification from the Board of Directors on the process to discuss local major projects as it relates to this work goal. Staff has added a standing agenda item to each CAC meeting for members to bring projects to the attention of the RCEA Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director. The CAC drafted and presented comments to the North McKay Ranch Development project's draft environmental impact report. Since that time the CAC has not identified any*



additional local major projects as it relates to work goal B. A RePower Strategic Plan metrics dashboard will be added to the semi-annual RePower updates to the CAC.

- c. **Support and help guide offshore wind energy community outreach.** A subcommittee was formed to assist in community education and messaging regarding offshore wind development in March 2022. The group met once to discuss concerns voiced by the public and prioritize project information for general outreach. Further engagement with the CAC subcommittee was delayed until after the offshore wind lease auction, which took place on December 6-7, 2022. In 2023 Q1, staff will re-engage with the subcommittee for help developing an outreach action plan in coordination with CORE Hub and other partners. Beginning in Q2, the CAC will be asked for assistance with outreach at community events.
- d. **Provide input on the development of new and expanding RCEA customer programs.** CPUC approval processes changed for the Rural Regional Energy Network (Rural REN), which would administer new and expanded energy efficiency programs in RCEA's service area and throughout California in Rural and Hard-to-Reach areas. Instead of beginning services in 2023, programs will now begin in 2024, if the Rural REN is approved. Staff anticipates engaging the Customer Programs Outreach Subcommittee in Q1 to provide input on program design, and in Q2 to begin developing outreach strategies. Programs are expected to launch in 2024.
- e. **Assist with identifying and prioritizing critical facilities and at-risk communities that would benefit from enhanced energy resilience infrastructure, including future microgrid deployment and/or facility-level renewable back-up power systems.** CAC members volunteered to serve on a Critical Facilities Subcommittee in March 2022. Limited staff bandwidth and focus on pressing deadlines prevented staff from developing a subcommittee scope of work and engaging with the subcommittee. RCEA created and filled a new position to focus on this topic and anticipates significant opportunities for state and federal funding. Staff will engage the Subcommittee in Q1 of 2023 to develop work plans.
- f. **Finalize recommendations to the RCEA Board and County Board of Supervisors for energy-project bond and/or alternative financing opportunities, support any resulting implementation efforts as appropriate.** Staff investigated a potential solar project at the We Are Up community housing development but determined it was not well-suited for micro-bond financing. Staff continued to seek other potential micro-bond financing projects, including substation microgrids and solar-plus-storage projects, and assessed the viability of traditional municipal bond financing for these projects. Staff re-engaged with the Subcommittee about updated project options, more detailed financing and next steps. Recommendations will be discussed later in this meeting. In 2023, the CAC will request that the RCEA Board of Directors direct staff to engage in next steps to identify an ideal financing mechanism to bring the selected project(s) to fruition. This would likely include issuing a request for proposals for the necessary consulting firm and services to facilitate the development and issuance of bonds.
- g. **Help facilitate community input on the finalization and adoption of the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan.** A subcommittee was formed in March

*2022 to assist in community education and messaging for Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan finalization and adoption. RCEA is awaiting direction from Humboldt County on how the Subcommittee can assist with outreach efforts. Additionally, the Subcommittee decided that outreach efforts would be most effective after the County releases the Notice of Preparation and Environmental Impact Report. The subcommittee will meet again when the County has further updates. Timing of further Subcommittee work is yet to be determined.*

The CAC's work in 2022 is summarized in the attached draft Community Advisory Committee Annual Report. Staff recommends that the Chair and Vice-Chair edit this report, which will be brought back to the full CAC for approval in March 2023, prior to presentation to the Board later that month.

Due to the timeframes of the RCEA initiatives with which the CAC is being asked to assist, staff also recommends undertaking the work goal setting process every two years, rather than annually. Goals may be adjusted during non-goal setting years, if needed.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Undertake a full Community Advisory Committee goal setting process every two years, adjusting goals every other year as necessary,

Continue work on existing Community Advisory Committee 2022 work goals in 2023, and

Authorize the Chair and Vice-Chair to assist RCEA staff in finalizing the Community Advisory Committee Annual Report and present it to the RCEA Board of Directors.

(Committee members may remove this item from the Consent Calendar if they wish to adjust work goals.)

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Draft Community Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report

# Redwood Coast Energy Authority

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### ANNUAL REPORT TO THE RCEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### March 2023

The Community Advisory Committee meets on the second Tuesday of odd-numbered months, supports RCEA public engagement efforts and provides decision-making support and input to the RCEA Board.

<b>2022 Committee Members</b>	<b>Representing Jurisdiction:</b>
<b>Norman Bell</b>	Arcata
<b>Elizabeth Burks</b>	Fortuna
<b>Colin Fiske</b>	At-Large
<b>Larry Goldberg</b>	At-Large
<b>Catherine Gurin, Vice Chair</b>	Eureka
<b>Roger Hess</b>	Rio Dell
<b>Christopher Honar</b>	County 3 (Southern Humboldt)
<b>Richard Johnson</b>	Trinidad
<b>Luna Latimer</b>	County 1 (Eastern Humboldt)
<b>Ethan Lawton</b>	Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
<b>Dennis Leonardi, Chair</b>	Ferndale
<b>Emily Morris</b>	At-Large
<b>Kit Mann</b>	Blue Lake
<b>Jerome (Carman) Qiriaz</b>	County 2 (McKinleyville Area)
<b>Jeff Trirogoff</b>	At-Large
<b><u>Other Members in 2022:</u></b>	
<b>Pam Halstead</b>	At-Large, January-March

**Board Liaison:**

Sarah Schaefer, Scott Bauer (alternate)

**Staff Liaison:**

Matthew Marshall, Executive Director

#### **I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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The CAC was involved in the following activities in 2022:

Dennis Leonardi was elected to serve as Chair and Catherine Gurin was elected to serve as Vice Chair.

The Committee was updated on:

- a. RePower Humboldt Strategic Plan status (biannually)
- b. Redwood Region Climate & Community Resilience (CORE) Hub
- c. RCEA comments on the North McKay Ranch Project
- d. Net Energy Metering Successor Tariff changes
- e. Countywide Climate Action Plan development
- f. Public Agency Solar Program and CalSHAPE (California Schools Healthy Air, Plumbing and Efficiency Program)
- g. Offshore Wind Project update by Aker Offshore Wind and Mainstream Renewable Power
- h. RCEA's Policy Platform
- i. Humboldt Sawmill Company biomass plant operations (tour)
- j. PG&E's Humboldt County grid issues.

The CAC ad hoc subcommittees accomplished the following in 2022:

**Alternative Biomass Uses** (Staff Liaison: Power Resources Director Richard Engel)

- a. Received report on first annual RCEA-HSC alternative biomass uses meeting resulting from a 2021 MOU reviewed by the subcommittee.
- b. Received report on Firm Clean Resources joint procurement via California Community Power JPA. Geothermal and biomass companies responded. No biomass energy was procured.
- c. Provided input on interests to be represented on the Biomass Technical Advisory Group and suggestions for group formation. The Alternative Biomass Uses Subcommittee will sunset upon formation of this group.
- d. The full CAC requested that the Biomass Technical Advisory Group, within one year of formation, make a recommendation to the Board for a combustion-based biomass procurement sunset date no later than the end of the current contract in 2031, and preferably sooner.

**Bond Subcommittee** (Staff Liaisons: Executive Director Matthew Marshall and Legislative & Regulatory Policy Manager Aisha Cissna)

- The Subcommittee heard a presentation from clean energy financing company RaiseGreen on crowd funding and micro-bonds.
- At RaiseGreen's suggestion, staff looked for specific projects for RaiseGreen to consider and visited the We Are Up community housing project as a potential solar project site. Staff determined the site does not seem well-suited for utility-scale solar development.

- Staff began investigating other micro-bond financing projects, including substation microgrids and solar-plus-storage projects. Staff also assessed the viability of potential project financing through traditional municipal bonds.
- Staff re-engaged the Subcommittee to share project option updates, detailed financing information and discuss next steps.
- The Subcommittee recommended that the Board direct staff to issue a request for proposals for bond development and issuance services to identify suitable financing mechanisms for one or more projects from the Subcommittee's shortlist.

**Climate Action Plan Outreach Subcommittee** (Staff Liaison: Legislative & Regulatory Policy Manager Aisha Cissna)

- a. The Subcommittee received a report and overview of the Climate Action Plan timeline. RCEA staff reached out to Humboldt County to determine initial 2023 outreach strategy and is waiting for a response. RCEA staff assisted in selection of the County's Environmental Impact Report consultant.
- b. The ad hoc subcommittee decided to start outreach efforts after the County releases the Climate Action Plan Notice of Preparation and distributes the Climate Action Plan's EIR. Staff will publicize the Notice of Preparation's publication. The Notice has not yet been published.

**Critical Facilities (and At-Risk Communities) Subcommittee** (Staff liaison not yet assigned.)

The scope of work and sunset date for this subcommittee are yet to be determined.

**Customer Programs Outreach Subcommittee** (Staff Liaison: DSM Director Kullmann)

The scope of work for this subcommittee are yet to be determined, pending CPUC approval of the proposed Rural Regional Energy Network in late 2023/early 2024.

**Offshore Wind Outreach Subcommittee** (Staff Liaison: Executive Director Matthew Marshall)

- a. Received updates on offshore wind development and expected timelines.
- b. Subcommittee members provided staff input on their four (4) most important points for the community to know about Humboldt County offshore wind development. Staff will compile this material into future educational material.
- c. Subcommittee members provided staff input on who should be in a short social media/website video about Humboldt County offshore wind development.

## II. GOALS FOR COMING YEAR

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At their January 10, 2023, meeting, the Community Advisory Committee revised the timing of their goal setting process to be done every two years, with adjustments made annually as necessary.

The following adjustments (in red) were made to the CAC 2022 work goals:

- a. Help guide community outreach and messaging for RCEA programs.
- b. Monitor and advocate for implementation of RePower Humboldt Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy goals and notify staff of community activities and projects that may have significant impact on the ability to reach these goals.
- c. Support and help guide offshore wind energy community outreach.
- d. Provide input on the development of new and expanding RCEA customer programs.
- e. Assist with identifying and prioritizing critical facilities and at-risk communities that would benefit from enhanced energy resilience infrastructure, including future microgrid deployment and/or facility-level renewable back-up power systems.
- f. Finalize recommendations to the RCEA Board and County Board of Supervisors for energy-project bond and/or alternative financing opportunities, support any resulting implementation efforts as appropriate.
- g. Help facilitate community input on the finalization and adoption of the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan.



## STAFF REPORT

### Agenda Item # 3.3

AGENDA DATE:	January 10, 2023
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Local Major Projects

#### BACKGROUND

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Prior to the adoption of the CAC goals in February 2022, the CAC formed a Major Project Ad Hoc Subcommittee to draft and present recommended comments on the North McKay Ranch Development project's draft environmental impact report. The evaluation and input provided by the CAC focused on the proposed project's impact on RePower Humboldt strategic plan goals. The CAC Major Project Ad Hoc Subcommittee sunset date coincided with the approval of the comment letter by the Board and the designation of a process for the CAC to provide input for local projects moving forward.

Based on the feedback from this process the CAC created work goal B, *monitor and advocate for implementation of RePower Humboldt Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy goals and notify staff of community activities and projects that may have significant impact on the ability to reach these goals.*

Further clarification from the Board outlines the process for the CAC to discuss local major projects as it relates to work goal B as follows:

1. If CAC members see a need to comment on or engage with a local project in development in ways that are within RCEA's scope, they notify the RCEA Executive Director.
2. If staff agrees that engaging with project developers is appropriate for RCEA, then staff will follow up or request volunteers for an ad hoc CAC Major Projects Subcommittee specific to a particular project for assistance in drafting comments.
3. If it is unclear whether engagement falls within RCEA's scope, staff will ask the Board for direction.
4. It is more productive for RCEA to engage and provide input early in the development process, rather than when the project is soliciting public comment (e.g. RCEA provided the County with technical input related to Nordic Aquafarms prior to the solicitation for public comments).
5. If RCEA has not been invited to provide input and RePower strategies are not accounted for in project plans, then it is appropriate for RCEA to comment during the public comment phase.

#### SUMMARY

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Staff proposed a standing agenda item at each CAC meeting to provide an opportunity for CAC members to bring forward any upcoming projects or plans that may impact RCEA's ability to meet the Repower goals. If staff agrees that a project is within RCEA's scope, staff will engage with developers of the project in early stages or a project-specific CAC ad hoc subcommittee will be formed to develop comments to present to the Board if the project is in the public comment phase.

As of January 6, 2023, there are no upcoming projects or plans that the CAC has identified to discuss.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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Accept Local Major Projects Staff Notification List – None as of agenda publication.

(Committee members may remove this item from the Consent Calendar If there are projects to discuss.)



**STAFF REPORT**  
**Agenda Item # 5**

AGENDA DATE:	January 10, 2023
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Matthew Marshall, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Offshore Wind Auction Results Report

**SUMMARY**

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Executive Director Matthew Marshall will report on the December 6-7, 2022, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management California Offshore Wind Energy Auction and next steps.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

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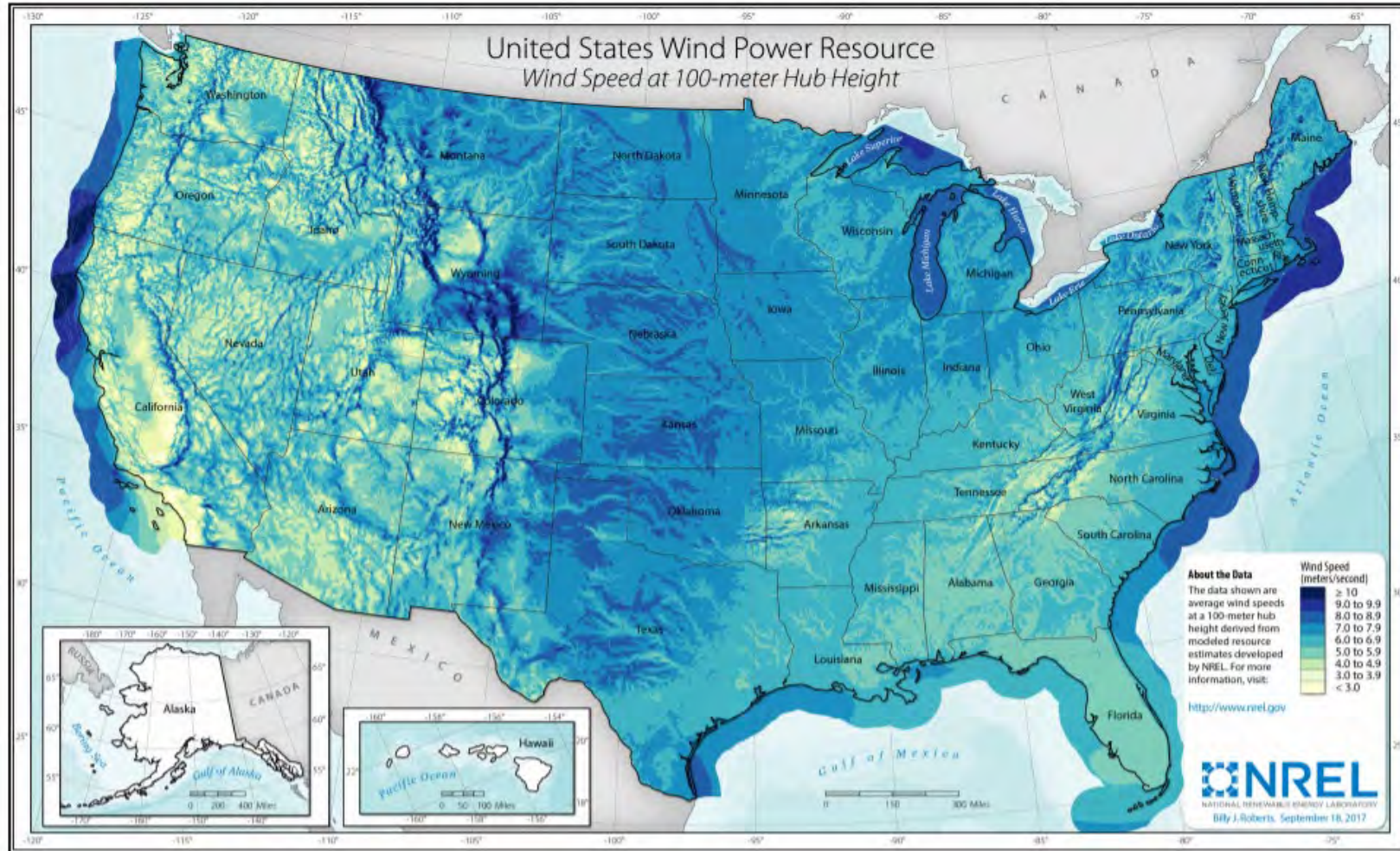
None-information only.



# Offshore Wind Update



# The North Coast has a world-class wind resource offshore.

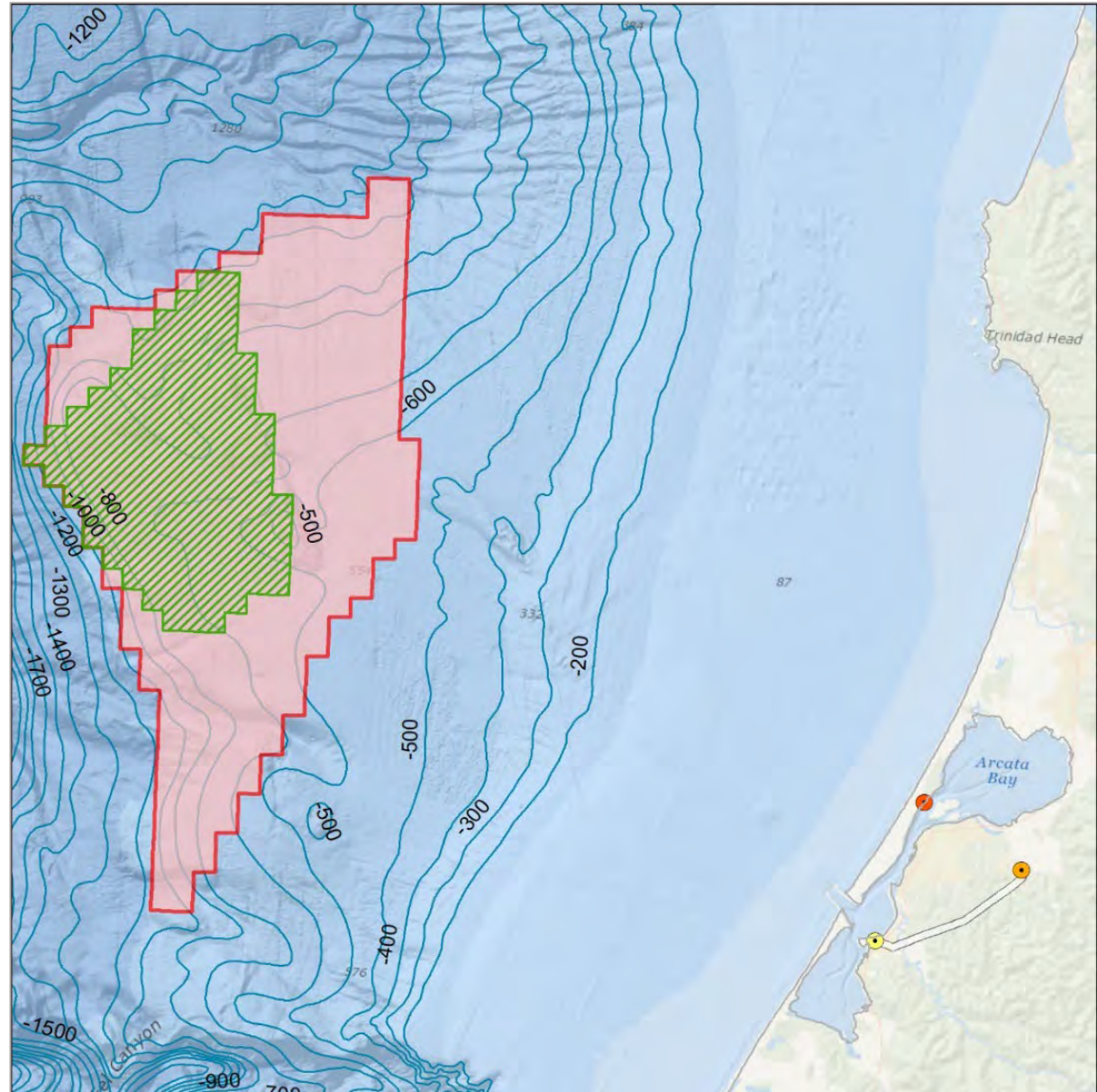






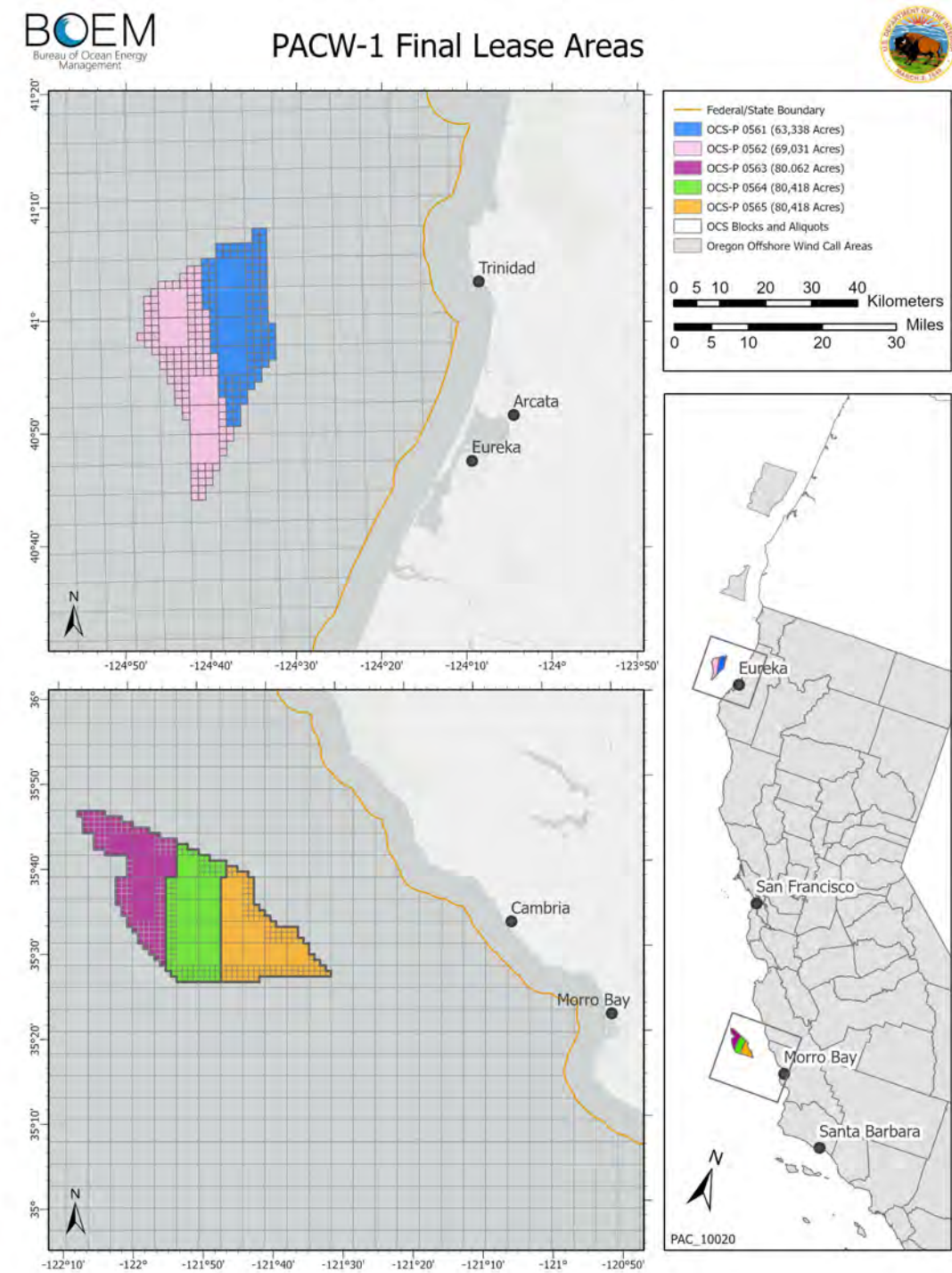
Federal Bureau of  
Ocean Energy  
Management  
(BOEM) Humboldt  
Wind Energy Area –  
eastern edge of area  
25 miles off the  
coast.

RCEA original 2018  
proposed lease area  
in green.





# Humboldt and Morro Bay auction held on December 6-7, 2022





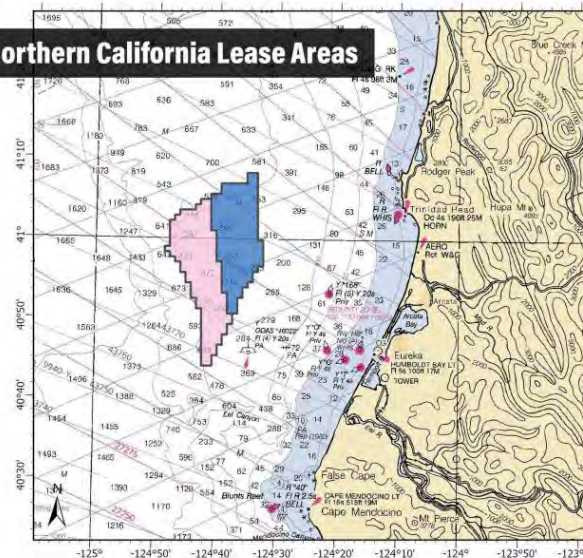
LEASE  
AREA

# Provisional Winners of the California Lease Areas, \$757,100,000 in High Bids

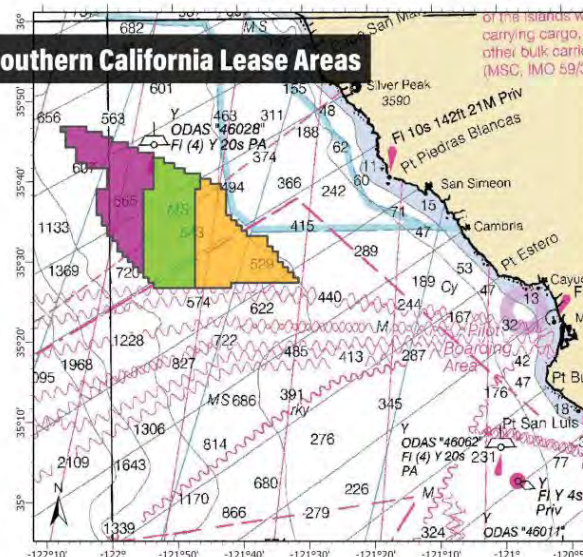
OCS-P0561	RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC	\$157,700,000
OCS-P0562	California North Floating LLC	\$173,800,000
OCS-P0563	Equinor Wind US LLC	\$130,000,000
OCS-P0564	Central California Offshore Wind LLC	\$150,300,000
OCS-P0565	Invenergy California Offshore LLC	\$145,300,000

**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

Northern California Lease Areas



Southern California Lease Areas

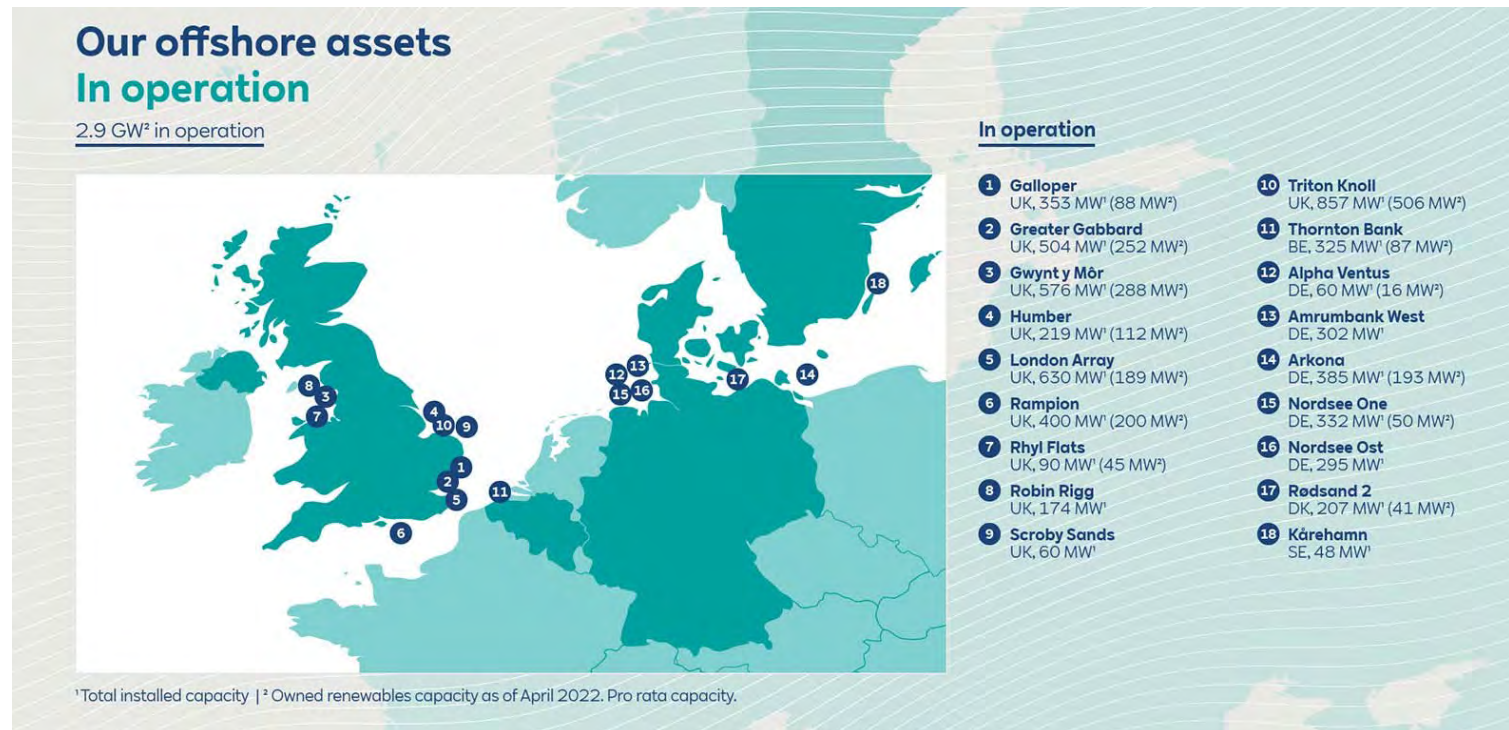






- Global energy company, based in Germany
- Number 2 worldwide in offshore wind capacity

- 





Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners

**Owns “California North Floating LLC”**

- “CIP is a fund management company specialized in offering tailor-made investments in energy infrastructure assets globally – in particular within renewables”



COPENHAGEN  
OFFSHORE  
PARTNERS

**Will develop and operate the project**

- Partner company: provides project development, construction management, and operational management services to offshore wind projects. The company is headquartered in Denmark and has offices in Taiwan, USA, Australia, Japan, Korea, UK and Vietnam and is owned by the management.



# Next Steps

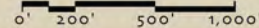
## Floating Offshore Wind in California by 2030





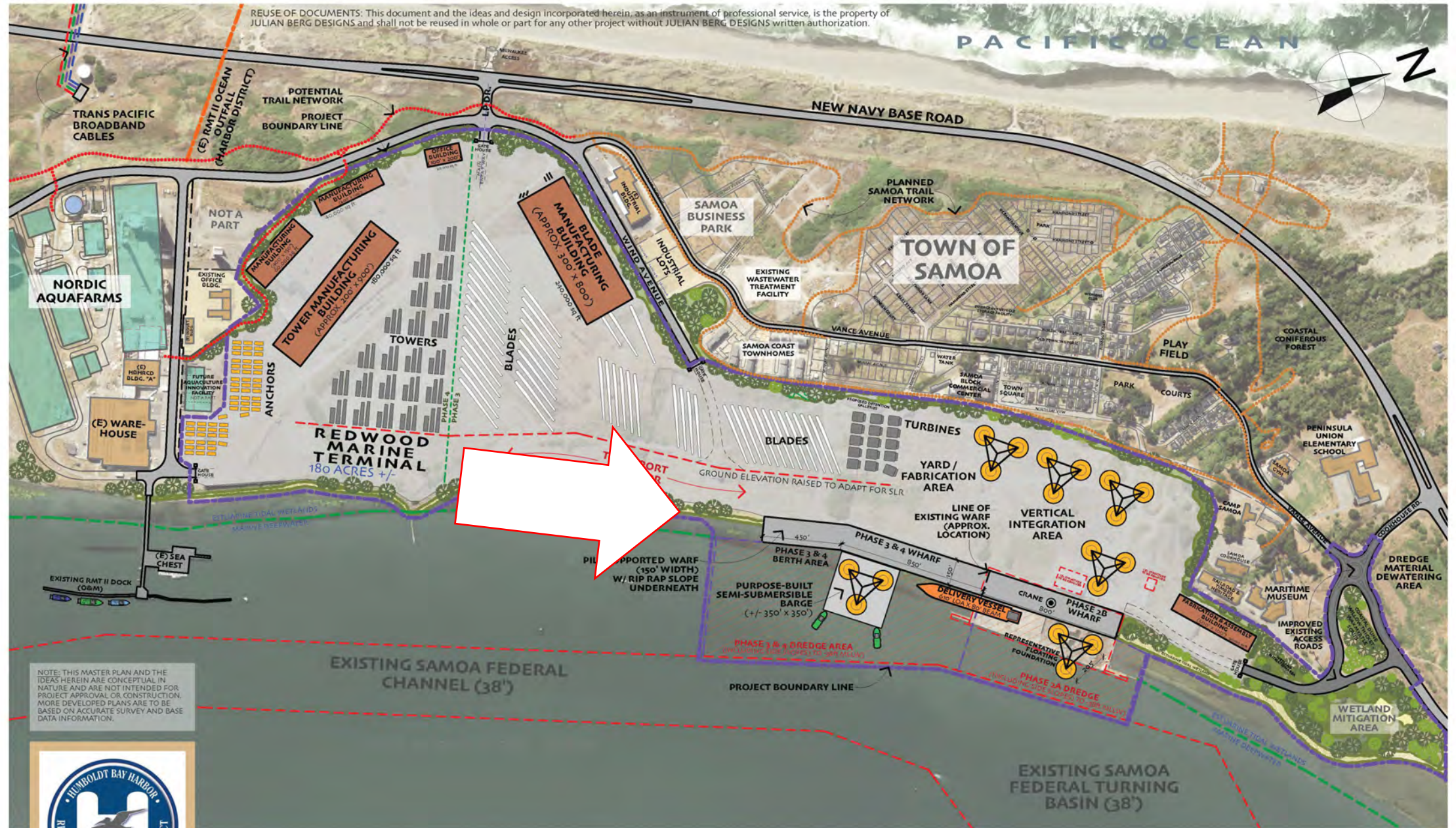
Harbor Development





5.7.22





NOTE: THIS MASTER PLAN AND THE IDEAS HEREIN ARE CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE AND ARE NOT INTENDED FOR PROJECT APPROVAL OR CONSTRUCTION. MORE DEVELOPED PLANS ARE TO BE BASED ON ACCURATE SURVEY AND BASE DATA INFORMATION.



0' 200' 500' 1,000'

# HUMBOLDT BAY OFFSHORE WIND & HEAVY LIFT MULTIPURPOSE MARINE TERMINAL CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN



**JULIAN BERG DESIGNS**  
ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING  
julianbergdsgns.com  
707 • 407 • 8870

5-7.22









Aker Offshore Wind





Aker Offshore Wind

# California's adopted offshore wind planning targets

## 2 to 5 GW by 2030

- Morro Bay area plus ~150 MW in Humboldt

## 25 GW by 2045

- Will require additional wind energy areas, target aligns with two additional areas on the North Coast
- Will require new transmission lines for anything beyond ~150 MW off Humboldt





# Conceptual rendering of 150MW project





An aerial photograph of an offshore wind farm. In the foreground, a large white wind turbine stands on a yellow tripod foundation. A red and white service vessel is positioned near its base. In the background, two more wind turbines are visible on the horizon over a blue sea under a cloudy sky.

# Discussion & Questions



REDWOOD COAST  
**EnergyAuthority**



## STAFF REPORT Agenda Item # 6

AGENDA DATE:	January 10, 2023
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Stephen Kullmann, Demand Side Management Director
SUBJECT:	Off Grid Cannabis Renewable Energy Program

### SUMMARY

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Members of the CAC have expressed interest in promoting renewable energy projects for off-grid cannabis cultivators to reduce fuel use from generators and resulting greenhouse gas emissions. In order to determine the appropriate actions for RCEA to pursue, the following information is needed:

- Scope: Approximately how many off-grid cannabis cultivators are there and how much fuel do they consume?
- Cost: What will the reduction in GHG emissions cost?
- Acceptance: What percent of project funding is needed to encourage switching to renewable energy?
- Funding: Where will the funding for this project come from? Can we use ratepayer funds to support projects for non-ratepayers? What other funding mechanisms are there?
- Relative benefit: How does this project compare with other GHG reduction efforts in terms of efficiency and chances of success? How will success be measured and monitored?
- Appropriateness: How well does this project meet RCEA's strategic goals?

In 2022, the County of Humboldt released a funding opportunity for cannabis cultivators to switch to renewable energy, which closed September 2, 2022. There was no distinction between off-grid and grid-connected cultivators. The program funding was awarded by the California Department of Cannabis Control's (DCC) Environmental Compliance and Equity Fund. The Humboldt County Planning Department will be submitting a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to fund 84 applicants for a total of \$2.48 million in grants and resulting in an estimated reduction of 166,397 gallons of generator fuel/year. The state also has approximately \$620,000 in funding allocated but not released for a second round, for which the county has 21 backlisted applicants.

RCEA currently has no discretionary funding to support an off-grid cannabis renewable energy grant program, and staff time is constrained to support development of a new program while fulfilling the requirements of existing programs.

If the CAC desires, a subcommittee could be formed to consult with Cal Poly Humboldt and/or the County to research and determine the value in greenhouse gas reductions and to the community of an off-grid cannabis renewable energy program and explore funding options.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Form a subcommittee to explore options to support the use of renewable energy systems for off-grid cannabis businesses.



**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STAFF REPORT  
Agenda Item # 7**

AGENDA DATE:	January 10, 2023
TO:	Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Aisha Cissna, Legislative and Regulatory Policy Manager
SUBJECT:	Energy Independence and Resilience Bond Subcommittee Update

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**BACKGROUND**

The CAC Ad-Hoc Bond Subcommittee was formed at the July 14, 2020, CAC regular meeting to work with RCEA staff to evaluate and assess the feasibility of potential options for a county revenue bond to fund local energy independence and resilience.

The Subcommittee is an *ad hoc* group not subject to Brown Act open meeting requirements. As such, it must serve a specific purpose with a defined endpoint rather than operate as a standing body for an indefinite period. When formed, the Bond Subcommittee was intended to sunset after a revenue bond project proposal was developed for consideration by the County Board of Supervisors (BOS), per direction provided by the BOS in their March 17, 2020, meeting.

At the May 2021 CAC meeting, staff, on behalf of the CAC Subcommittee, sought input from the full CAC membership to expand the scope of the Subcommittee's work to seek funding for non-revenue generating projects and to extend the sunset date for the Subcommittee to the end of 2022. The CAC membership expressed support for the expanded scope and extension.

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**SUMMARY**

The last Subcommittee meeting took place in October 2021, during which RaiseGreen delivered a presentation focused on crowdfunding. Raise Green is a company that specializes in clean energy financing and investments. Of particular interest to RCEA was RaiseGreen's work in the micro-bond space, where RaiseGreen has facilitated the financing of clean energy projects through the issuance of bonds in small denominations of about \$100 to \$1,000. Following the October meeting, RaiseGreen suggested that RCEA determine a specific project for which RaiseGreen could conduct a viability analysis.

In July, RCEA initiated discussions with the founders of the We Are Up community housing project, whose developers expressed interest in an on-site solar project. Staff visited the site in early August to discuss the feasibility of a solar project. Upon further assessment, staff

determined this project was not an ideal fit. Subsequently, staff began considering other viable bond financing projects that aligned with criteria previously set by the Subcommittee. Potential projects include the following:

1. A substation microgrid in Hoopa
2. A substation microgrid in Willow Creek
3. A storage project in Blue Lake (presumably sited where the old biomass plant is currently located)
4. A solar plus storage project in Southern Humboldt/Eel River Valley (intended to help relieve some of the interconnection and transmission constraints they've been experiencing)

While winnowing down potential projects, staff began to assess the viability of financing projects through traditional municipal bond issuance which could complement micro-bond financing for sizable projects to expedite development.

Staff recommend that the CAC posit a request to the RCEA Board of Directors to direct staff to engage in next steps to identify an ideal financing mechanism to bring the selected project(s) to fruition. This would likely include issuing a request for proposals for the necessary consulting firm and services to facilitate the development and issuance of bonds.

RCEA staff have engaged in preliminary, no-cost conversations with numerous firms and experts over the last several months to inform this recommendation.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH [RCEA'S STRATEGIC PLAN](#)**

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The RCEA Strategic Plan references “local economic development entities and/or financial institutions.” RCEA is currently engaging non-local financial institutions to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with the goal of leveraging financing and funding to deploy regional energy independence strategies closely aligned with strategy 1.3.4 below.

**1.3.4 Implement Energy Project Financing.** Work with local economic development entities and/or financial institutions to develop and implement financing programs that enable residents and businesses to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Facilitate Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and other financing programs that access the needed capital to deploy regional energy independence strategies.

#### **EQUITY IMPACTS**

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The RCEA 2022 Policy Platform contains a section on “Environmental Justice” which states that RCEA will “Engage in regulatory and legislative developments which directly or indirectly impact the ability of rural, low-income, and underserved communities in the RCEA service territory to have affordable, reliable and clean energy.”

This section also includes support for policies that “strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change” and “enable all communities...to



participate in the decarbonization of the state's electrical grid, building stock, and the transportation sector in a cost-effective manner.”

The energy resilience and independence projects this subcommittee is investigating for bond or alternative financing would further progress toward the environmental justice goals listed above.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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None at this time, but the financing opportunities that RCEA is assessing would bring in funding for projects that would supplement or supplant the use of RCEA's existing budget to actualize new projects and programs.

Additionally, as RCEA continues to assess various financing opportunities, RCEA may need to allocate funds to hire a consultant or firm to assist with analysis and financing administration.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Submit recommendation to RCEA Board of Directors to direct RCEA staff to issue an RFP for bond development and issuance services to identify suitable financing mechanism(s) for one or more of the shortlisted projects.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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None.



## STAFF REPORT Agenda Item # 8

AGENDA DATE:	January 10, 2023
TO:	Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director
SUBJECT:	In-Person Hybrid Meetings

### BACKGROUND

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In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and in compliance with emergency Brown Act meeting law changes, the RCEA Board of Directors, Community Advisory Committee and the subcommittees of those bodies have been meeting online via the Zoom teleconference platform since April 2020. In September 2021 Governor Newsom signed AB 361 into law. This bill authorized legislative bodies to meet virtually provided there is a state of emergency, and either 1) state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or 2) the legislative body determines by majority vote that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees.

Governor Newsom announced that the COVID-19 State of Emergency will end on February 28, 2023. After this date the public meetings cannot be conducted fully virtual under AB 361 unless another state of emergency is declared.

Recently the State Senate passed AB 2449 which provides a new avenue for a minority of a local agency's board or committee to meet remotely without noticing or providing public access to their remote meeting location under modified Brown Act requirements. Under the provisions of AB 2449, agencies would not be obligated to post agendas at all teleconference locations, would not be obligated to identify all teleconference locations in the meeting agendas, and would not be obligated to make each teleconference location open to the public.

However, for an agency to proceed under AB 2449 procedures, **at least a quorum** of the legislative body members must participate in-person from a single, physical location clearly identified on the agenda which is open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction. Another departure from AB 361 rules is that remote AB 2449 participation must be done for specified reasons — either because of a "just cause" or as a result of "emergency circumstances."

Just cause is defined as childcare or caregiving needs that require remote participation, a contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person, a need related to physical or mental disability that requires remote participation, or travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency. Remote participation for just cause reasons



shall not be utilized by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year. Emergency circumstances is defined as a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person. Under either case (just cause or emergency circumstances) AB 2449's provisions do not permit any member to participate in meetings solely by teleconference from a remote location for a period of more than three consecutive months or 20 percent of regular meetings within a calendar year.

The agency must also be prepared to host a robust remote meeting allowing participants to listen and participate verbally.

## **SUMMARY**

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In anticipation of returning to in-person meetings, staff reserved the Jefferson Community Center auditorium (1000 B Street Eureka, CA 95501) for upcoming Board and CAC meeting times. The Jefferson Community Center has hybrid meeting capabilities.

After February 28, 2023, all meetings will be in person and hybrid options will comply with AB 2449.

In addition to the options under AB 2449, the option still exists for remote participation if the agenda is posted at the teleconference location, and the teleconference location is identified in the meeting agenda and open to the public.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Review new meeting location and participation procedures.