

| <b>DOCKETED</b>         |   |
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| <b>Docket Number:</b>   | 26-OPT-01   |
| <b>Project Title:</b>   | Vaca Dixon Power Center Project   |
| <b>TN #:</b>            | 268168-1  |
| <b>Document Title:</b>  | Appendix J Community Benefits Plan_VDPC   |
| <b>Description:</b>     | Provides the Applicant's plan and timeline to obtain agreements with Solano County community-based organizations to make significant investments over the next ten years with community-based initiatives and programs in the County, prior to Project certification, consistent with Public Resources Code section 25545.10. |
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| <b>Organization:</b>    | Rincon Consultants, Inc.  |
| <b>Submitter Role:</b>  | Applicant Consultant  |
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# Appendix J

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Community Benefits Plan



## **Community Benefits Plan**

Vaca Dixon BESS LLC and Arges BESS LLC

Applicants for the Vaca Dixon Power Center (Project)

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

### **Community Engagement Approach**

The Applicants' community engagement approach is designed to ensure that local priorities inform both project development and the structure of community benefits.

Engagement has begun early in the Project lifecycle and is intentionally iterative, allowing feedback to shape decisions while changes, improvements, and optimization opportunities remain feasible.

Outreach efforts to date have included one-on-one meetings with local organizations, agricultural stakeholders, civic institutions, and public safety officials. These discussions have focused on understanding community concerns and priorities related to safety, land use compatibility, agricultural stewardship, environmental protection, food security, workforce development, and long-term economic resilience.

The Applicants' parent company is an experienced independent power producer with 3 gigawatts of operating assets across the United States, including 2 gigawatts in California. While the Applicants recognize that they are not yet a fixture in the local community, the Applicants and their parent company value engagement in the communities they serve. Accordingly, the Applicants place a strong emphasis on listening, learning, and adapting. Engagement efforts are designed not only to inform stakeholders about the Project, but to identify opportunities for durable partnerships that deliver tangible, place-based benefits.

As the Project advances, further engagement activities are organized to include additional meetings, listening sessions, and working groups focused on refining community benefit priorities and shaping the scope of future Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs).

### **Community Partnership Priorities**

Consistent with PRC Section 25545.10, the Applicants have identified several key "Community Partnership Priorities" that will guide the development and implementation of the CBAs. These priorities reflect themes discovered through early outreach and are intended to provide a flexible framework for collaboration customized to meet the unique priority needs of the local communities.

#### **A. Local Workforce and Skills Development**



The Applicants are engaged in pursuing opportunities to support workforce development initiatives that expand access to high-quality careers associated with California's clean energy transition. This Local Workforce and Skills Development focus includes partnerships with organizations that provide job readiness, skills training, and career pathways, with an emphasis on increasing access for historically underrepresented populations. The Applicants remain in contact with counterparties, who will be identified, consistent with the requirements of the Public Resources Code and each organization's own internal review and approval processes.

#### **B. Food Security and Basic Needs**

The Applicants are engaged in pursuing opportunities to support organizations that address food insecurity and basic community needs within Solano County. This pillar reflects the importance of strengthening local food systems and supporting essential services that contribute to community health and stability. The Applicants remain in contact with counterparties, who will be identified, consistent with the requirements of the Public Resources Code and each organization's own internal review and approval processes.

#### **C. Community Capacity and Civic Institutions**

The Applicants are engaged in pursuing opportunities to support community-based institutions that serve as hubs for local leadership, philanthropy, and civic engagement. These partnerships may focus on strengthening organizational capacity, attracting additional local partners to grow organizational impact, and enabling community-driven investment decisions. The Applicants remain in contact with counterparties, who will be identified, consistent with the requirements of the Public Resources Code and each organization's own internal review and approval processes.

#### **D. Emergency Preparedness and Community Resilience**

In addition to project-specific safety measures, the Applicants are engaged in pursuing opportunities to support broader emergency preparedness and resilience efforts. This may include partnerships that enhance public safety capacity, emergency response readiness, and/or continuing education for first responders preparing to assume emergency response oversight of new infrastructure proposed by the Applicants. The Applicants remain in contact with counterparties, who will be identified, consistent with the requirements of the Public Resources Code and each organization's own internal review and approval processes.



## **E. Anticipated Agreements and Implementation**

The Applicants intend to execute these legally binding CBAs consistent with PRC Section 25545.10. One agreement has been finalized and will be announced consistent with the Public Resources Code processes, with additional agreements or beneficiaries identified through continued engagement, again, respecting each organization's internal review and approval processes. The scope, duration, and specific terms of these additional agreements are currently in their final planning and execution phases. Agreements may include financial contributions, capacity-building support, programmatic collaboration, or other mutually beneficial arrangements consistent with the priorities outlined above.

The Applicants currently anticipate that initial CBAs will be finalized and announced following the CEC's determination that the Project application is data complete, though earlier announcements may occur, depending on the counterparties approval processes and their own outreach needs.

## **F. Ongoing Engagement and Accountability**

Community engagement will continue throughout the permitting and development process. The Applicants are committed to maintaining open lines of communication with local stakeholders and to providing updates as community benefit initiatives are refined and implemented.

The Applicants will track the implementation of CBAs and community benefit activities internally and will provide information to the CEC as required to demonstrate compliance with PRC Section 25545.10. Feedback received through public comment and ongoing engagement will be considered as part of this process and may inform future agreements or program adjustments.

## **Conclusion**

The Vaca Dixon BESS LLC and Arges BESS LLC are intended not only to support California's clean energy and reliability goals, but also to serve as an example of how infrastructure development can be aligned with community values. Through early engagement, a pillars-based framework, and the execution of legally binding Community Benefits Agreements, the Applicants are committed to delivering meaningful, community-informed benefits that extend beyond the Project site and endure over time.