

DOCKETED

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**East Bay Community Energy Comments on May 9, 2023
Interconnection Workshop**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



May 23, 2022

California Energy Commission
Docket Number 23-IEPR-05
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

**EBCE Comments on the Commissioner Workshop on Clean Energy Interconnection –
Electric Distribution Grid**

East Bay Community Energy (“EBCE”) applauds the California Energy Commission (“CEC”) for efforts to improve interconnection processes and distribution system planning. Ensuring timely interconnection will be crucial for California to transition to zero-carbon energy, respond to the housing crisis, and mitigate harm to state and local economies.

EBCE would like to bring the attached letter to the CEC’s attention. In this letter, a coalition of over 35 organizations highlights the harm caused by current interconnection delays. To represent the scale of this problem, this letter provides examples of delayed service extensions to new and upgraded load in several counties, and delayed interconnection of CCA utility-scale renewable energy projects. The coalition urges California policy makers to take immediate and decisive action to ensure interconnection and service extensions are completed in a timely manner.

EBCE appreciates the opportunity to provide this response and looks forward to collaborating with the CEC and other stakeholders moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,

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Planning and Development Department
Office of Energy and Sustainable Development

April 26, 2023

Over 35 organizations urge the California Legislature to address the state’s interconnection crisis and ensure timely and equitable access to the electrical grid

We the undersigned parties — representing cities, towns, and counties; Community Choice Aggregators; and energy, rural, business, and environmental and climate groups — urge California policy makers to take urgent action to address unacceptable delays in connecting new construction, critical services, renewable energy, building decarbonization, and other projects to the state’s distribution and transmission grids.

California is facing an unprecedented climate crisis and is pursuing bold efforts to transition to zero-carbon energy. At the same time, California has a housing availability and affordability crisis which demands the rapid construction of new housing. These goals cannot be realized because many projects cannot connect to the power grid. Interconnection delays, ranging from months to years, harm residents, businesses, local job creation and economic development efforts, and state and local economies.

Severely delayed and abandoned electrical projects are a growing problem in communities throughout California. Hundreds of local projects spanning rural to urban have been delayed or cancelled, including service extensions to new affordable housing units and critical service sites ranging from hospitals to police/fire stations. Hookups for new electric vehicle charging stations and utility-scale and customer-sited renewable energy projects are also in peril. Examples of impacted projects are provided in the attached appendix.

Interconnection delays and resulting project cancellations threaten California's ability to respond to the climate and housing crises; prevent Californians from accessing important critical services; and harm communities by increasing project costs and reducing job opportunities.

We respectfully urge California policy makers to take immediate and decisive action to ensure interconnection and service extensions to new construction, renewable energy, building decarbonization, and other electrical projects are completed in a timely manner.

We stand ready to partner with you to identify the root problems and develop solutions to ensure that the state can achieve its ambitious climate, housing equity, and economic development goals.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Cities, Towns, and Counties:

The County of Humbolt

The City of Arcata

The City of Eureka

The City of Fortuna

The City of Rio Dell

The City of San Jose

The City of Berkeley, Office of Energy and Sustainable Development

The City of Piedmont

The City of Oakland

The City of Pleasanton

The City of San Jose

The Town of Danville

The Town of San Anselmo

Devin T. Murphy, Mayor, The City of Pinole

Kerry Hillis, Councilmember, The Town of Moraga

Laura Hoffmeister, Mayor, The City of Concord

Kevin Haroff, City Councilmember and Former Mayor, The City of Larkspur

Chance Cutrano, Mayor, and Barbara Coler, Vice Mayor, The Town of Fairfax **The opinions expressed are those of these individual Councilmembers and are not representative of the entire Council or Town of Fairfax unless otherwise stated.*

Community Choice Aggregators:

Central Coast Community Energy
East Bay Community Energy
Valley Clean Energy
Redwood Coast Energy Authority
MCE
Pioneer Community Energy
Sonoma Clean Power
San Diego Community Power
Silicon Valley Clean Energy
Desert Community Energy
Clean Power Alliance
Peninsula Clean Energy

Energy Groups:

California Energy Storage Alliance
California Solar & Storage Association
Solar Energy Industries Association
Sunnova

Environment and Climate Groups:

Napa Climate NOW!
The Climate Center
California Environmental Justice Alliance

Rural Groups:

Rural County Representatives of California
California Farm Bureau

Business Groups:

Data Center Coalition
Joint Venture Silicon Valley
California New Car Dealers Association

Appendix

Community Choice Aggregator (CCA) Survey:

The interconnection and service extension delays below were compiled by CCAs surveying delayed projects in their territories. While this list is not comprehensive, it is representative of the scale of this problem.

Delayed service extensions to new/upgraded load:

Alameda County	Jail and Net Energy Metering Aggregation (NEMA) structure.
Yolo County	Significant delay for interconnection of a major facility designed to service the agriculture industry in Yolo County, located in a key transportation access parcel. The applicant is considering other business options due to ongoing obstacles.
The City of Albany	Upgrades to residential projects including solar panels.
The City of Berkeley	Solar system for mental health clinic, designed as a Zero Net Energy site.
The City of Davis	Delays in getting electric upgrade for a much-used community facility, and other city capital improvement projects and private development projects. The recent opening of a long-planned community homeless center project required a significant effort by the city, county, and private stakeholders to ensure the center received electrical interconnection so that the project would remain on schedule.
The City of Dublin	Car dealership and a three-building strip mall.
The City of Eureka	Transitional housing, commercial properties, and residential properties.
The City of Rio Dell	Various commercial projects.
The City of San Francisco	The City of San Francisco has reported (here) 136 interconnection delays since October 2018 including 519 units of affordable housing, a library, the Muni, an elementary school, academic buildings, a fire boat, recreational centers, educator housing, traffic signals and safety streetlighting, and water pump stations.
The City of San Jose	Diridon Station Area, which is a critical Bay Area transit hub for BART, light rail, ACE, other commuter trains, and eventually High-Speed Rail, faces delayed interconnection for up to four to five years. It will also include significant office space and 4,000 homes (1,000 of which will be affordable units).
The City of San Leandro	Joint-trench undergrounding project.
The City of Tracy	Commercial development projects.

The City of Winters	New lighting in a city park, new homes, and a pump for a storm drain facility.
The City of Woodland	For the past several years, there has not been a single new construction project that has not suffered some level of financial impact due to interconnection service delays. One company, brought to California through a State Agency grant to help with recycling of carpets for repurposed use, walked away from its multi-million-dollar investment due to the delays in receiving electrical service, even though in 2018 electrical service was promised in a timely manner so the facility could be operated. This has resulted in the loss of over 30 jobs to the city.
The Town of Windsor	Commercial warehouses (500,000 square feet).

Delayed interconnection of CCA utility-scale renewable energy projects:

East Bay Community Energy	3 utility-scale projects totaling 173.13 MWs (nameplate capacity: 1 wind, 1 solar, 1 solar + storage)
California Choice Energy	1 utility-scale renewable energy project of 15 MWs (nameplate capacity: storage)
Central Coast Community Energy	2 utility-scale renewable energy projects totaling 97.5 MWs (nameplate capacity: solar, solar + storage)
Clean Power Alliance	3 utility-scale renewable energy projects totaling 360 MWs (nameplate capacity: 3 solar + storage projects)
Desert Community Energy	1 utility-scale renewable energy project of 50 MWs (nameplate capacity: solar + storage)
Silicon Valley Clean Energy	3 utility-scale renewable energy projects totaling 135 MWs (nameplate capacity)
Sonoma Clean Power	1 utility-scale renewable energy project for 19.6 MWs (nameplate capacity: solar + storage)

Media Coverage:

[Need power in California? Get in line](#)

Politico / April 21, 2023

[Interconnection Delays Disrupting Housing Markets, Causing 'Chaos'](#)

California Energy Markets / March 17, 2023

[New Northern California housing often sits empty, waiting for PG&E to turn on the lights](#)

San Francisco Chronicle / March 10, 2023

[Bills aim to fix California's long delays in connecting construction projects to the grid](#)
North Bay Business Journal / March 10, 2023

[How PG&E Adds Months-Long Delays, Costs to New Housing](#)
KQED / March 10, 2023

[Delays in connecting new homes to power grid get scrutiny in California](#)
Politico / March 3, 2023

[Opening delayed for new Vallejo housing for homeless](#)
Vallejo Sun / January 31, 2023

[Muni Blames PG&E for Spiraling \\$15M Costs, Years of Delays in Train Upgrade Struggle](#)
The San Francisco Standard / December 13, 2022

[PG&E tells some Sonoma County projects that power connections could take up to 18 months](#)
North Bay Business Journal / December 1, 2022

[Power connection work delays local development projects](#)
Bakersfield Californian / November 26, 2022

[PG&E Execs Gets an Earful, Offer Update on SoHum Capacity Problems](#)
Lost Coast Outpost / November 2, 2022

[Jim Wood calls out PG&E over capacity issues in Southern Humboldt](#)
Times Standard / November 2, 2022

[In Power Struggle, Fresno Leaders Threaten to Ditch PG&E](#)
GV Wire / October 31, 2022

[California homes face PG&E delays for power connections. Frustrated leaders seek options](#)
Fresno Bee / October 28, 2022

[PG&E's Electricity Transmission Limits Threaten to Throttle Development Throughout Southern Humboldt, Blindsiding Local Officials](#)
Lost Coast Outpost / September 19, 2022

['Edge of the Cliff': PG&E's Lack of Electricity Capacity Puts Eel River Valley Projects at Risk](#)
North Coast Journal / September 15, 2022

[Opinion: PG&E delays are costing San Franciscans time and money](#)
San Francisco Examiner / February 4, 2022