

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	23-OPT-02
Project Title:	Darden Clean Energy Project
TN #:	253022
Document Title:	Appendix E Community Benefits Plan_Darden Clean Energy
Description:	Provides the Applicant's plan and timeline to obtain agreements with Fresno county community-based organizations to make significant investments over the next ten years with community-based initiatives and programs in the Western Fresno County area, prior to project certification, consistent with Public Resources Code section 25545.10.
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Appendix E

Community Benefits Agreement Narrative

Community Benefits Agreement Narrative

Overview

IP Darden I, LLC and Affiliates¹ (Applicant) strives to be an active member and steward of the communities where we develop, own, and operate clean energy projects. We aim to create long-term relationships and positive impacts that serve our local communities. As part of the Community Benefits Agreement for the Darden Clean Energy Project (Project), the Applicant plans on making significant investments over the next ten years with community-based initiatives and programs in the Western Fresno County area.

The Community Engagement Team, with the assistance of a Fresno based Public Affairs consultant, has been actively researching and meeting with local community-based organizations that align with the Applicant's companywide social investment strategy. In every project development area, the Applicant actively seeks to fund community-based organizations that focus on education programs, health and human service organizations, conservation and sustainability initiatives, and community specific needs.

Community Organizations Under Review

As of early October 2023, the Applicant has met with multiple Fresno County based community organizations to better understand their immediate and long-term needs and how their mission directly supports the residents of Western Fresno County. A short description of several of the opportunities currently under consideration is included below. Upon execution of the Community Benefits Agreement, the CEC permit application will be updated with complete community organizations information.

- A county wide transportation agency partnership focused on transportation for workforce development opportunities. The communities located around the Project are populated with low-income residents with limited to no means of transportation to address everyday needs, including workforce development and training opportunities. The Applicant is evaluating financially supporting the construction of a new electric vehicle charging center providing transportation for community use for workforce development opportunities.
- A county wide food bank that fights hunger by gathering and distributing food, engages partnerships that advance self-sufficiency and provides community leadership on issues related to hunger. Specifically, the Applicant is discussing the possibility of sponsoring several local "markets" in the Five Points area, providing food assistance to the population immediately adjacent to the Project site.
- An advocacy services organization that offers a broad range of programs in local rural areas that are designed to assist crime victims, support families and children, promote health and wellness, and encourage civic engagement. The Applicant is exploring potential opportunities to partner with this organization to directly support local families seeking assistance with unmet needs.

¹ "Affiliates" means IP Darden II, LLC, IP Darden III, LLC, IP Darden IV, LLC, IP Darden BESS I, LLC, IP Darden BESS II, LLC, IP Darden BESS III, LLC, IP Darden BESS IV, LLC, IP Darden I H2, LLC, IP Darden II H2, LLC, and IP Darden BAAH, LLC. IP Darden I, LLC and Affiliates are indirect subsidiaries of Intersect Power, LLC.

- An elementary school located approximately two miles from the Project site, serving as a “community hub” for the area. The Applicant is in discussions regarding support for significant upgrades that are needed due to lack of funding in recent years.
- An education foundation scholarship program seeking funding for a scholarship program that benefits local high school students pursuing higher education opportunities. The Applicant is considering financial support for the scholarship program.
- A Fresno based non-governmental organization that aims to provide education and direct services, build regional capacity and advocate for sensible policies that improve health and address inequities by reducing environmental impacts and emphasizing the prevention and management of chronic disease, including asthma. The Applicant is evaluating a monetary donation to further support the organization’s mission.

Additionally, a portion of the funds allocated for the Community Benefits Agreement will be utilized for local sponsorships and events to ensure the support of initiatives that create and foster a sense of community within the Project area.

Anticipated Timeline

Initial conversations have occurred with several of the key community organizations that are being considered as part of the Community Benefits Agreement. Additional conversations are scheduled to occur with additional organizations in the upcoming weeks and the Applicant is planning follow up conversations to occur through November 2023. Between November and early 2024, the Applicant will execute legal agreements with one or more of the organizations included in the Community Benefits Agreement, satisfying the Assembly Bill 205 opt-in requirements. A complete Community Benefits Agreement plan will be submitted no later than 45 days after completeness review to be in compliance with Assembly Bill 205, Section 25545.10.

Community Based Organization	Community Interest	Timeline for Execution of Agreement
Rural Transportation Agency	Workforce Development	Q4 2023/Q1 2024 ¹
Food Bank	Food Insecurity	Q4 2023/Q1 2024
Advocacy Services Organization	Rural Assistance Programs	Q4 2023/Q1 2024
Elementary School	Site Improvements	Q4 2023/Q1 2024
Education Foundation	Higher Education Opportunities	Q4 2023/Q1 2024
Asthma Organization	Chronic Disease Prevention	Q4 2023/Q1 2024

¹ Q = Quarter