

To: Executive Committee, Ava Community Energy

From: Audrey Ichinose  
East Bay Clean Power Alliance  
California Alliance for Community Energy

Re: Public Comment to Item # 6, ExCom Meeting, March 6, 2024

I failed to note the new 9am start time for the meeting, but hope that you will still accept this public comment to Item #6.

I appreciate very much all the hard work that goes into the effective operation of this public agency.

I want to raise two points:

1. In Staff's estimation, do these Resilience Hubs fall into the category of "community solar" or "medium-size Utility-scale projects?" If they do, I want to call Staff's attention to today's article in Canary Media (formerly Green Tech Media) by Jeff St. John. It warns that a CPUC Proposed Decision. issued just a few days ago, threatens "midsized solar projects that provide shares of their power to households, businesses and organizations that subscribe to them." The Proposed Decision threatens a three-year effort to "revamp CA's moribund community solar market," an effort "backed by solar industry groups, consumer advocates, environmental-justice organizations, labor unions and the state's homebuilding industry."

[https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/solar/new-policy-proposal-dims-hopes-of-reviving-community-solar-in-california?utm\\_campaign=canary&utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=296995128&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9-eoh-dPz1sPqA03-JrbL5ASQFVYf950K7n5BY3JYcGYxaRLma2Ooa0BTXS3DwpS4sUP2Hbln5ZjlqozSXTPAOh2QMsA](https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/solar/new-policy-proposal-dims-hopes-of-reviving-community-solar-in-california?utm_campaign=canary&utm_medium=email&hsmi=296995128&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9-eoh-dPz1sPqA03-JrbL5ASQFVYf950K7n5BY3JYcGYxaRLma2Ooa0BTXS3DwpS4sUP2Hbln5ZjlqozSXTPAOh2QMsA)

2. Secondly, may I ask: Can Staff somehow—whether by newsletter, public workshops or other public forums—list and describe the various forms of community solar projects that have been proposed or tried—locally as well as nationally. It would be extremely helpful to everyone, especially potential applicants, to fully describe such projects, conceptually as well as technically. In the latter I include software like DERMS programs as well as hardware like inverters and related technology. The Powerpoint presentation cites some of these points—e.g. “case studies”, “Resilience Hub definition”. But I think we need a much more robust discussion about where these facilities would fit in our local clean energy infrastructure. I think one of the first questions to answer is this: Should we regard **Resilience Hubs** as long-lived community solar infrastructure? If we do, we then need to ask “are Community Grants enough?”

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.