



Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, December 16, 2024

6:00 pm

In Person:

The Lake Merritt Room
Cal State East Bay - the Oakland Center
In the Transpacific Centre
1000 Broadway, Suite 109
Oakland, CA 94607

Or from the following remote locations:

1343 Fairview Ct, Livermore CA 94550
4563 Meyer Park Circle, Fremont, CA 94536
4664 Rousillon Ave, Fremont, CA 94555
Starbucks at 1857 11th St. Tracy, CA 95376
1234 W Oak St, Stockton CA, 95204
2720 Castro Valley Blvd Castro Valley, CA 94546

Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84794506189>

Or join by phone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 929
205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free)
Webinar ID: 847 9450 6189

Meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the meeting materials, should contact the Clerk of the Board at least 2 working days before the meeting at (510) 906-0491 or cob@avaenergy.org.

If you have anything that you wish to be distributed to the Committee, please email it to the clerk by 5:00 pm the day prior to the meeting.

C1. Welcome & Roll Call

C2. Public Comment

This item is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on any Ava Community Energy-related matters that are not otherwise on this meeting agenda. Public comments on matters listed on the agenda shall be heard at the time the matter is called. As with all public comment, members of the public who wish to address the Committee are customarily limited to three minutes per speaker and must complete an electronic [speaker slip](#). The Committee Chair may increase or decrease the time allotted to each speaker.

C3. Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2024

C4. CAC Chair Report

C5. Ad Hoc Committee Formation (CAC Action Item)

C6. Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC) Grant Agreement (Board Action Item)

Requesting approval to award a grant to ECC (and negotiate the grant agreement) of up to \$300k over 18 months for the Resilience Hub grant initiative

C7. CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items on future CAC agendas

C8. Adjourn

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

The Lake Merritt Room
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Oakland, CA 94607



Draft Minutes

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, November 18, 2024

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C1. Welcome & Roll Call

Present: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, DiFranco, Harper, Lutz and Chair Souza

Not Present: Members: Swaminathan, Lakshman, Pacheco, Kaur and Hernandez

Vice-Chair Souza served as Chair for this meeting.

C2. Public Comment

This item is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on any Ava Community Energy-related matters that are not otherwise on this meeting agenda. Public comments on matters listed on the agenda shall be heard at the time the matter is called. As with all public comment, members of the public who wish to address the Committee are customarily limited to three minutes per speaker and must complete an electronic [speaker slip](#). The Committee Chair may increase or decrease the time allotted to each speaker.

(3:54) Public Comment – Audrey Ichinose urged Ava to persevere in its clean energy work, especially given anticipated challenges to climate action. She stated that Ava’s mission is supported by the communities that it serves.

(5:14) Public Comment – Susan Silber, a Berkeley resident, urged Ava to allocate a significant portion of its 2023-24 budget surplus toward resilience hubs. Silber spoke about the need for additional funding beyond existing solar and storage programs to support schools, community centers, and health clinics.

C3. (7:21) Approval of Minutes from October 15, 2024

Member Weiner motioned to approve the minutes. Member Balkisson seconded the motion, which was approved 7/0/0/5 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

Yes: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkisson, Stephenson, Harper, Lutz, and Chair Souza

No: none

Abstain: none

Recuse: none

Not Present: Members Swaminathan, Lakshman, Pacheco, Kaur and Hernandez

C4. (8:27) CAC Chair Report

CAC Chair Souza spoke about the success of the October Meet and Greet and Strategic Planning Session. She encouraged members to be proactive in exploring innovative technologies, fostering local job opportunities, and addressing community needs. Chair Souza also spoke about anticipated future discussions on topics such as resilience hubs, offshore power, and local workforce development.

C5. (14:30) CAC Work Plan Update (CAC Action Item)

Alex DiGiorgio spoke about a proposed CAC work plan, which categorizes priorities into recurring board items, non-recurring topics like local development, and CAC-initiated ad hoc projects. He also spoke about the committee's role as in providing feedback to the board on agenda items and also researching topics for presentation to the board.

Member Lutz motioned to approve the Work Plan Update with updates to the Work Plan Update category titles as follows:

- 1. Category 1 "Recurring Board Items" to be renamed to "Recommendations to the Board on Recurring Items"**
- 2. Category 3. "CAC initiated Items" to be renamed to "CAC initiated items for recommendations to the Board"**

Member Landry offered a friendly amendment that Category 2 include a link to the document titled "Responses Collected from the CAC Member Survey", from the October 15, 2024 CAC Agenda Item C4. CAC Strategic Planning Session power point (<https://avaenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/C4.-CAC-Strategic-Planning-Session.pdf>).

Member Lutz accepted the friendly amendment.

Member Weiner seconded the motion, which was approved 7/0/0/0/5 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

Yes: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Harper, Lutz, Souza

No: n/a

Abstain: n/a

Recuse: n/a

Not Present: Members Swaminathan, Lakshman, Pacheco, Kaur and Hernandez

C6. (1:14:41) 2024 Legislative Year in Review (Board Informational Item)

2024 Legislative session update

Todd Edmister and **Dan Chia** provided a comprehensive overview of Ava Community Energy's legislative activities during 2024, highlighting the organization's positions and outcomes on key state bills related to energy affordability, decarbonization, and community choice aggregation (CCA) stability. They discussed specific legislation, such as AB 2672 and SB 130 supporting low-income energy subsidies, and addressed the fate of bills like SB 1221, which involved regulatory oversight of CCA rates. The presentation concluded with a forward-looking discussion on anticipated legislative priorities for 2025, including reauthorization of the cap-and-trade program and opportunities to strengthen relationships with newly elected officials in the state legislature.

Topics discussed by Committee Members include:

- **Member Balkissoon** inquired whether SB 1374 applied to microgrids.
- **Member Landry** asked about the details of SB 1221 and its implications for rate oversight by the CPUC.
- **Member Weiner** sought clarification on the reasons for the veto of SB 1292 and expressed interest in the transparency of certain legislative decisions.
- Members engaged in discussions about AB 1834 and the challenges related to resource adequacy and capacity procurement, with concerns raised about potential impacts on CCAs.
- **Member Lutz** asked about the possibility of reintroducing certain bills, such as AB 817, related to Brown Act flexibility for remote meetings.
- **Member Weiner** asked about opportunities for Ava to propose legislation addressing community development.
- **Member Landry** raised concerns about how federal funding changes, particularly related to the Inflation Reduction Act, might affect California's budget and Ava's operations.
- **Member Lutz** highlighted the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's NOx regulations and their implications for electrification, urging Ava to engage more actively in this area.

(2:02:53) Public Comment – Alan Marling, a Livermore resident, criticized Governor Gavin Newsom and the CPUC for alleged corruption and policies that he believes have harmed community solar efforts and benefited PG&E's interests.

C7. (2:04:31) Bill Credits (Board Action Item)

Surplus revenue bill credits

Kelly Brezovec presented an overview of Ava's plan for allocating surplus revenue from fiscal year 2023-2024 as on-bill credits, focusing on equitable distribution among residential, non-residential, and CARE/FERA customers. She outlined several options for credit distribution, with the recommended approach providing \$75 credits for CARE/FERA customers and increased allocations for other customer groups compared to previous years. The proposal aims to offset rising energy costs and maintain affordability, with potential implementation starting as early as December pending board approval.

Topics discussed by Committee Members include:

- Members, including **Member Weiner** and **Member Landry**, raised concerns about ensuring meaningful financial relief for low-income

customers and discussed the possibility of reallocating surplus funds directly to these groups.

- **Member Lutz** asked about CARE/FERA enrollment rates
- **Member Harper** proposed exploring broader customer input and flexibility in surplus allocation, including options like emergency funds for low-income customers and opt-out donation programs for commercial entities.
- Members sought detailed clarification on credit amounts, particularly for small and medium businesses, and whether credits are one-time or ongoing.

Member Balkissoon motioned to approve Option 1 and to consider a wider range of options to spend the surplus. Member Weiner seconded the motion, which was approved 6/0/1/0/5 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present)

Yes: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Harper, Souza

No: n/a

Abstain: Member Lutz

Recuse: n/a

Not Present: Members Swaminathan, Lakshman, Pacheco, Kaur and Hernandez

C8. (2:36:41) CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items on future CAC agendas

- **Member Lutz** requested a presentation on resilience hubs to be added to a future CAC agenda.
- **Member Balkissoon** and **Chair Souza** requested to agendaize a discussion of the Local Development Business plan at a subsequent meeting.

C9. Adjourned at 8:46pm.

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**CAC Item C6
Staff Report Item 14**

To:	Ava Community Energy Authority
From:	Heidy Ramirez, Sr. Reporting Analyst
Subject:	<p>Award of one Community Investment Grant for Community Organizing and Capacity Building for Resilience Hubs</p> <p><i>NOTE: Resolution of the Board of Directors of Ava Community Energy Authority for Community Organizing and Capacity Building for Resilience Hubs Community Investment Grant to Emerald Cities Collaborative (“ECC”)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Approving a resolution to execute a Grant Award with Emerald Cities Collaborative, for Community Organizing and Capacity Building for Resilience Hubs Community Investment Grant, of up to \$300,000 over 18 months.</i>
Date:	December 18, 2024

Summary and Recommendation

This memo proposes approval of the recommendation, authorizing the CEO, to negotiate and execute one Grant Agreement of up to \$300,000 over 18 months, to Emerald Cities Collaborative (“ECC”), for the purposes of leading Community Organizing and Capacity Building for Resilience Hubs.

Financial Impact

Award one Grant of up \$300,000 from the previously approved Local Development - Community Investment Grant budget.

Analysis and Context

Ava staff completed a community workshop in June of 2023 to solicit ideas for Community Grants that foster program enrollment, education, awareness, and workforce development. One outcome of the workshop was the need to develop more local support and community engagement to facilitate local resilience.

Ava staff developed a request for proposals for local organizations to facilitate Community Owned Resilience Hubs within the service territory. The Request for Proposals (“RFP”) was issued in July 2024.

Grantees were asked to submit proposals to identify and develop a catalog of potential resilience hub sites through community outreach and organizing, educational efforts, collaborative learning, and research related to energy resilience. The selected Grant recipient(s) will be responsible for working with local communities to identify viable community owned locations or “sites”. All sites are required to be in an Ava service area and take electricity service from Ava.

Ava received two proposals, which were evaluated by staff using the following criteria:

- Quality of Proposed Plan: Meeting Grant Program Goals (35%)
- Organizational Capacity: Budget(s) & History of Meeting Grant Deliverables (20%)
- Demonstrated Capacity of Delivering: Local Community Benefits (20%)
- Prioritizing Equity Priority Communities (12.5%)
- Ava Energy Special Procurement Preferences (12.5%)

The proposal from ECC was the stronger proposal, reached priority regions and constituencies within the Ava service territory as well as coordinating with other local community-based organizations such as Local Clean Energy Alliance. ECC is a national non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., with affiliate offices in Boston, Los Angeles, New York, Oakland, San Francisco, and Seattle. Founded in 2009, ECC has the stated goal of creating "high-road" local economies that are sustainable, just, and inclusive.

ECCs proposal provides a strong plan to engaging with the Community through focus groups and collaboration with other CBOs to help define Resilience needs in the community, as well as defining eligibility criteria for Resilience Hubs. ECC will develop case studies of successful Resilience Hub models and provide an assessment tool to help prospective resilience hub sites confirm their resilience needs and apply for Ava’s Resilience Hub Technical Assistance Program and Solar and Storage incentive. ECC has identified 14 potential sites for Resilience Hubs. This Grant would deliver the identification of approximately 50 eligible Resilience Hubs sites.

Ava staff has worked with ECC over the last months to refine the approach with this grant. Through this process both parties agrees that shortening the grant term from three years to eighteen months was the right approach to focus on early learnings and community engagement as Ava ramps up the associated Resilience Hub Programs. Both parties agreed to focus on early engagement and initial Resilience Hub opportunities, focusing on quality of prospective sites over quantity.

Considering the need for this important work and the current funding in the Community Investment Grant budget, staff recommends issuing one Grant to Emerald Cities Collaborative.

Committee Recommendation

N/A

Attachments

- A. Resolution: Community Organizing and Capacity Building for Resilience Hubs
Community Investment Grant Award to ECC
- B. Draft ECC Grant Agreement
- C. Presentation: Resilience Hub Initiative

RESOLUTION NO. R-202x-XX
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF AVA COMMUNITY ENERGY AUTHORITY
Community Organizing and Capacity Building for Resilience Hubs
Community Investment Grant
Award to Emerald Cities Collaborative

WHEREAS The Ava Community Energy Authority (“Ava”) was formed as a community choice aggregation agency (“CCA”) on December 1, 2016, Under the Joint Exercise of Power Act, California Government Code sections 6500 *et seq.*, among the County of Alameda, and the Cities of Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Piedmont, Oakland, San Leandro, and Union City to study, promote, develop, conduct, operate, and manage energy-related climate change programs in all of the member jurisdictions. The Cities of Newark and Pleasanton, located in Alameda County, along with the City of Tracy, located in San Joaquin County, were added as members of Ava and parties to the JPA in March of 2020. The City of Stockton, located in San Joaquin County was added as a member of Ava and party to the JPA in September of 2022. The City of Lathrop, located in San Joaquin County, was added as a member to Ava and party to the JPA in October of 2023. On October 24, 2023, the Authority legally adopted the name Ava Community Energy Authority, where it had previously used the name East Bay Community Energy Authority since its inception.

WHEREAS The Ava Board of Directors has approved funding for Community Investment Grants for local Community-Based Organizations working on local initiatives that support community development;

WHEREAS Community Investment Grants are intended to re-invest Local Development funds and empower communities within Ava’s service area;

WHEREAS Ava issued a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for projects that enable and foster community led energy resilience, and Ava received one conforming, proposal from Emerald Cities Collaborative (“ECC”) for the purpose of leading Community Organizing and Capacity Building for Resilience Hubs; including community workshops, design of a resilience readiness assessment tool, identification and reporting on approximately 50 potential resilience hubs, and facilitation in lead generation for Resilience Hub Technical Assistance or Solar and Storage Incentive programs;

WHEREAS Ava staff and ECC have agreed upon the major terms of the Grant and are preparing a Grant Agreement for execution.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF AVA COMMUNITY ENERGY AUTHORITY DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Approve recommendation authorizing the CEO to negotiate and execute a Grant Agreement and award for a Community Organizing and Capacity Building for

Resilience Hubs, Community Investment Grant of up to \$300,000 over 18 months to Emerald Cities Collaborative.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 18th day of December, 2024.

Jack Balch, Chair

ATTEST:

Adrian Bankhead, Clerk of the Board

Ava Community Energy Grant Agreement

{NAME,
ORGANIZATION,
ADDRESS}

{DATE}

Dear {Grant recipient organization representative},

Congratulations! {ORGANIZATION} has been selected to receive an {TYPE OF GRANT} grant of up to \$300,000, over 18-months, from Ava Community Energy (Ava), for the purpose of empowering local communities to own and lead Resilience Hub efforts that best understand and can respond to the communities unique needs. Please have an authorized representative of your organization sign this Grant Agreement and return to Heidi Ramirez, Sr. Reporting Analyst at grants@avaenergy.org.

THIS AGREEMENT is made and effective as of {Start date}, by and between the Ava COMMUNITY ENERGY AUTHORITY ("Ava"), and {ORGANIZATION} a California {nonprofit corporation, or please name exactly the type of organization as defines on their tax form} ("Recipient"). In consideration of the mutual covenants, conditions and undertakings set forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. Recitals. This Agreement is made with respect to the following facts and purposes which each of the parties acknowledge and agree are true and correct:

A. Recipient is a {non-profit corporation} providing [brief description of services] in Alameda County.

B. "Community Organizing and Capacity Building for Resilience Hubs" is part of Ava's Community Investments, an effort to reinvest funds into the local community. The grant initiative will support the development of community owned and led energy Resilience Hubs.

C. In consideration of the benefits provided by the Community Organizing and Capacity Building for Resilience Hubs Grant, part of Ava's Community Investment program, Ava is willing to provide a grant to Recipient to continue its work as provided in this Agreement.

2. Grant. Ava hereby agrees to provide funding to Recipient for the operation of the Community Organizing and Capacity Building for Resilience Hubs Grant in the amount of \$300,000 over 18-months (2025-2026) subject to the provisions of this Agreement ("Grant Funds").

3. Use of Grant Funds.

A. Recipient shall use the Grant funds to support the operations of the Clean Energy Jobs and Training for Youth Awareness Grant and for no other purposes. Those operations include the following:

Ava Brand Awareness and Messaging

- 1) Brand Assets
 - a) Ava may provide brand assets to share knowledge, increase awareness, familiarity, and understanding of Ava Community Energy.
 - (1) Brand Assets may include, yet are not limited to, digital designs or logos, promotional equipment, event booth tents, educational materials, informational pamphlets, giveaway products, magnets, aprons, hats, t-shirts, and more, as directed by Ava.
 - b) Recipient is responsible for utilizing Ava branded assets provided by Ava throughout the term of the grant, at all grant-sponsored events unless instructed otherwise by Ava.
- 2) Content Review
 - a) Any and all content, emails, communications, or promotional event messaging for distribution by grant Recipient, referencing or promoting grant-sponsored events, must be co-branded and include Ava's digital assets.
 - b) Any and all content, emails, communications, or promotional event messaging for distribution by grant Recipient, referencing or promoting grant-sponsored events, must be submitted for Ava to review prior to content release. Recipient must allow at least 7 business days for Ava to review content and request edits. Edits must be implemented before content release.

Outreach and Engagement

- 3) Community Engagement and Collaboration
 - a) Recipient may conduct outreach efforts and organize events to engage community members, disseminate information about Energy Resilience and about Ava Community Energy.
 - (1) Initial outreach will involve direct communication with community leaders to explain the project's environmental and economic benefits and gauge their interest in participating.
 - b) Recipient may develop collaborations with community-based organizations, experts, or educators to increase buy-in, promote consistent participation and community use of Resilience Hubs.
 - c) Recipient will facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing across site hosts, leveraging the expertise of key partners.
 - d) Recipient will foster and strengthen existing relationships with clean energy institutions, advocates, site hosts, and other community members to gain buy-in of site development, increase customer

access, and expand the number of community-owned Resilience Hub sites.

- e) Recipient will collaborate with sites to establish usage policies that allow non-community members access.

Key Performance Metrics

- o Resilience Hub Definition Workshops
 - Conduct 1 Resilience Hub community workshop to gather feedback to support refinement of a collaborative definition and eligibility criteria of Resilience Hubs for Ava’s Resilience Hub Technical Assistance and Solar + Storage Incentives
- o Resilience Hub Case Studies:
 - Conduct research in an integrated, public-facing document on existing or proposed Resilience Hubs, including definition of services provided, and role in supporting community resilience.
 - Identify and analyze (energy) delivery methods employed by different hubs. Collaboration among CBOs is encouraged.
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of current Resilience Hubs, highlighting what has been successful and areas that need improvement.
- o Community Outreach Workshops
 - Conduct 2 workshops to gather Community feedback regarding Community Resilience needs
 - CBO partner outreach for community education and awareness to support identification of potential sites
 - Promote awareness
- o Development of Resilience Readiness Tool
- o Identification of [50] Eligible Resilience Hub Sites

B. Kick-off Meeting

1) After grant is awarded, Ava will hold kick-off meetings with grantee to discuss project plans, deliverables, and areas where Ava can support in developing customized messaging or marketing assets for intended audience.

C. Quarterly Check-in

1) Quarterly check-ins will be held virtually and will focus on progress to date, revisions (when necessary) to program plan in original grant proposal, and relevant milestones.

D. Grant Funds shall not be used to support or oppose any candidates for elected or appointive office or to support or oppose any ballot measure on local or state ballots.

4. TERM. This Agreement shall commence on January 2025, and shall remain and continue in effect until June 2026, unless sooner terminated pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement. Ava reserves the right to withhold Grant Funds or terminate this Agreement for any reason upon 30 days’ written notice to the Recipient.

5. GRANT REPORT. Recipient shall provide a grant report that includes the following information and documentation:

A. Grant Progress Reporting – Program and Participation

- 1) Provide (a minimum of) quarterly updates on progress and development of grant efforts.
- 2) Recipient is responsible for (electronically) tracking, managing, and reporting on the data listed under Key Performance Metrics (Section 3.A.6-7) to be provided to Ava at a minimum of quarterly cadence, unless stated otherwise.
- 3) Utilize engagement surveys, interviews, and additional open feedback opportunities to actively improve satisfaction, reduce turnover, and enrich the renewable energy workforce.
- 4) Collect and track quantitative and qualitative data to understand grant impact and reach in the community, Ava service regions.

B. Financial Reporting

- 1) Recipient is to provide an annual budget, listing itemized use of grant Funds, including all direct and indirect costs associated, prior to the disbursement of grant funds. Due as described in Section 6, PAYMENT.
- 2) Recipient is to provide organizational audited financial statements, prior to the disbursement of grant funds. Due as described in Section 6, PAYMENT.

C. Annual Reports are to include:

- 1) Produce and deliver reports delineating grant progress with qualitative and quantitative findings.
- 2) Invoice for following grant payment.
- 3) Lessons learned and recommendations for Ava that would benefit the target audience.
- 4) Minimum of two high quality photos per event, with signed participant waivers allowing Ava to use the images in future marketing and/or outreach materials.

D. In addition to the information listed here, Recipient must provide any other information requested by Ava as it relates to Grant Funds. Reports are to be submitted via email to hramirez@avanergy.org by mutually agreed upon date.

6. PAYMENT. Payment will be made to [RECIPIENT] upon receipt of a fully executed Grant Agreement, an invoice, and a W9 form. Invoices should be sent to ap@avaenergy.org.

7. LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES. Recipient shall keep itself informed of all local, State and Federal ordinances, laws and regulations which in any manner affect those employed by it or in any way affect the performance of its service pursuant to this Agreement, including without limitation, prevailing wage laws, and such laws prohibiting discrimination against protected groups. Recipient shall at all times observe and comply with all such ordinances, laws and

regulations. The Ava, and its officers and employees, shall not be liable at law or in equity occasioned by failure of Recipient to comply with this section.

8. ASSIGNMENT. Recipient shall not assign the performance of this Agreement, nor any part thereof, nor any monies due hereunder, without prior written consent of the Ava Manager.

9. NOTICES. Any notices which either party may desire to give to the other party under this Agreement must be in writing and may be given either by mail or e-mail to the following addresses:

AVA: Ava Community Energy Authority
1999 Harrison Street, Suite 2300
Oakland, CA 94612
Attention: Heidi Ramirez
Email: hramirez@avaenergy.org

RECIPIENT: Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC)
[ADDRESS]
Attention:
Email:

10. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.

A. Recipient shall at all times remain as to Ava a wholly independent contractor. The personnel performing the services under this Agreement on behalf of Recipient shall at all times be under Recipient's exclusive direction and control. Neither Ava nor any of its officers, employees, agents, or volunteers shall have control over the conduct of Recipient or any of Recipient's officers, employees, or agents except as set forth in this Agreement. Recipient shall not at any time or in any manner represent that it or any of its officers, employees or agents are in any manner officers, employees or agents of Ava. Recipient shall not incur or have the power to incur any debt, obligation or liability whatever against Ava, or bind Ava in any manner.

B. No employee benefits shall be available to Recipient in connection with the performance of this Agreement. Except for the fees paid to Recipient as provided in the Agreement, Ava shall not pay salaries, wages, or other compensation to Recipient for performing services hereunder for Ava. Ava shall not be liable for compensation or indemnification to Recipient for injury or sickness arising out of performing services hereunder.

11. INDEMNIFICATION. Recipient shall indemnify, protect, defend and hold harmless Ava, its elected officials, officers, employees, volunteers, and representatives from any and all suits, claims, demands, losses, defense costs or expenses, actions, liability or damages of whatsoever kind and nature which Ava, its officers, agents and employees may sustain or incur or which may be imposed upon them for injury to or death of persons, or damage to property arising out of Recipient's negligent or wrongful acts or omissions arising out of or in any way related to the performance or non-performance of this Agreement.

12. SUPPLIER DIVERSITY. Ava is required to report to the California Public Utilities Commission on their diverse suppliers, as defined by CPUC General Order 156. Consistent with the California Public Utilities Code and California Public Utilities Commission policy objectives, Recipient agrees to document and provide information to Ava regarding Recipients' status and any engagement of women, minority, disabled veteran, and LGBT owned business enterprises in its provision under this Grant Agreement. Specifically, Recipient agrees to complete Ava's Supplier Diversity questionnaire, which may be updated or revised during the term of the Grant Agreement, and otherwise reasonably cooperate with Ava to provide the information described above. Recipient shall provide such information in the timeframe requested by Ava and in no event later than January 31 of the year following the Effective Date of this Agreement.

13. ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Agreement contains the entire understanding between the parties relating to the obligations of the parties described in this Agreement. All prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, representations and statements, oral or written, are merged into this Agreement and shall be of no further force or effect. Each party is entering into this Agreement based solely upon the representations set forth herein and upon each party's own independent investigation of any and all facts such party deems material.

DRAFT

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed the day and year first above written.

AVA COMMUNITY ENERGY AUTHORITY

Howard Chang
Chief Executive Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Inder Khalsa, General Counsel

[ORGANIZATION]

By: _____
Name:
Title:

By: _____
Name:
Title:

*[*Note: Signatures of two corporate officers are required for corporations – First signature must be one of the following: 1) the chairman of the board; 2) the president; or 3) any vice president.. The second corporate signature must be one of the following: 1) the secretary; 2) any assistant secretary; 3) the chief financial officer; or 4) any assistant treasurer.*



Community Organizing and Capacity Building for Resilience Hubs Community Investment Grant

December 18, 2024 ~ Board of Directors Meeting



Agenda

Community Investment Grant Overview:

- Resilience Hub Initiative

Grant Recommendation:

- Award Grant to Emerald Cities Collaborative
- Outcomes
- Partnerships
- Organizational Budget
- Evaluation Criteria

Timeline Overview:

- Proposed Timeline for Grant Initiative



Resilience Hub Initiative

Objective: Response to community feedback and expressed desire for community-ownership initiatives.

The grant will empower customers by facilitating communities to own and lead operations of Resilience Hub sites that are best suited to understand and address the community’s unique needs and deliver energy resilience services.

Community Organizing and Capacity Building for Resilience Hubs

Workshops & Case Studies

- Gather existing resilience hub site data and community feedback to aid in Resilience Hub definition and project development.

Resilience Readiness Tool

- Development of resilience readiness site evaluation scoring tool and outcomes summary

Identification of 50 Sites

- Support identifying site eligibility and requirements criteria
- Refer to TA or S+S



Technical Assistance

- **Provide technical support** to community-based sites, helping them transition from resilience concept plans to identification of key parameters needed for solar and storage project development
- **\$2M** has been approved for this phase. The goal of this phase is to provide technical assistance to up to 200 sites



Solar + Storage Incentives

- Provide incentives for community resilience hubs to **install solar and storage** and connect with Ava’s managed battery program
- 40% of the 23/24 excess revenues have been allocated to this Program with half allocated to upfront incentives for Resilience Hubs and CARE/FERA customers.



Grant Recommendation

Award a Community Organizing and Capacity Building for Resilience Hubs Grant of up to \$300,000, over 18-months*, to Emerald Cities Collaborative

Grant Objective:

Empower local communities to own and lead Resilience Hub operations; as local constituents are well positioned to better understand and therefore successfully respond to the community's unique needs.

Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC):

A national nonprofit promoting sustainable, inclusive economies through green infrastructure and equity-focused development. ECC operates with a \$12M budget and regional chapters nationwide. With Northern California Chapter specializing in equitable climate policy, outreach, and stakeholder engagement.

ECC Partnership Opportunity:

- Skilled and Dedicated Team
- Focus on Economic Inclusion
- Collaborative and Holistic Approach
- Proven Expertise in Equity-Centered Development
- Specialized Regional Experience
- Deeply Rooted Community Relationships and Trust



Grant Outcomes

Outcomes aim to empower communities, refine resilience hub definitions, and ensure effective implementation aligned with Ava's goals.

Community Engagement and Capacity Building:

- Resilience Hub Case Studies and research.
- Defined Resilience Hubs collaboratively and identified site eligibility criteria.
- Engaged communities through 3-4 workshops to identify resilience needs and potential hub sites.
- **Deliverables:** Facilitate workshops, deliver summaries, case studies, proposed Resilience Hub definition and eligibility criteria

Resilience Readiness Tool Development:

- Created a standardized tool to assess site readiness for hosting Resilience Hubs.
- Evaluated community needs, site characteristics, and operational plans.
- **Deliverables:** Tool for assessments, readiness evaluations, and referral plan for Technical Assistance and Solar & Storage incentives.



Grant Outcomes (continued)

Eligible Resilience Hubs for TA/Incentive

- Provide 50 potential hub sites confirmed through the Readiness Tool.
- Shared readiness scores and site data with Ava for TA and S+S Incentive programs alignment.
- **Deliverables:** Evaluation summary and referrals to TA or S+S opportunities

Project Management and Reporting:

- Meeting coordination, progress updates, and reports.
- **Deliverables:** Detailed progress reports on achievements, challenges, and budget use.

* Original 3-year grant term revised to 18-months in order to better achieve the following:

- This adjustment enables Ava to frontload key activities—workshops, case studies, and research—to accelerate the impact and learning outcomes of the broader Resilience Hub Initiative, particularly for Technical Assistance and Solar + Storage Incentives.
- Revised term enhances collaboration with key community partners, including Little Manila Rising, Reclaim Our Power, APEN, and others, while prioritizing BIPOC, frontline, underserved, and Equity Priority Communities.
- Larger annual disbursements will expedite project work and fund CBO stipends, ensuring timely program benefits.



Organizational Budget Narrative

*Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC) operates with an **annual organizational budget of \$12 million**, supporting its programs, staff, and operational activities across multiple U.S. regions.*

Overview of Organizational Capacity:

- ECC has a proven track record of managing large-scale grants exceeding \$1M across multi-year projects focused on community resilience, workforce development, and climate equity.
- Experienced in financial oversight, ECC adheres to strict fiscal accountability standards, ensuring grant compliance and timely reporting.
- Administrative Infrastructure: Robust systems for budgeting, procurement, and reporting, supported by an experienced grants administration team.

Demonstrated Success with Comparable Budgets:

- Managed grants up to \$500K across 12-24 months, delivering results on time and within budget.
- Successfully implemented multi-stakeholder initiatives such as the Anchors in Resilient Communities and the RENEW Multi-Family Decarbonization Program, showcasing ECC's ability to manage complex, outcome-driven programs.

Conclusion:

- ECC is equipped to effectively manage a grant of \$300,000, delivering high-impact results aligned with grant objectives within the 18-month period.



Community Based Organizational Partnerships

Local Clean Energy Alliance (LCEA) of the Bay Area:

Prominent membership organization working at the local, state, and national level to promote a clean energy future through the development and democratization of local renewable energy

Project Role: Serve as a support role in curriculum development and Resilience Readiness Tool testing.

Collective Resilience:

The only nonprofit organization in the country with the sole focus of supporting resilience hubs. While work is based in the Bay Area California region, online resources are used by organizations and agencies from around the country. **Project Role:** Resilience Hub case studies and site research

Proposed CBO Partners:

Asian Pacific Environmental Network
 Collective Resilience
 Communities for a Better Environment
 East Oakland Collective
 Little Manila Rising
 Reclaim Our Power

Entity / Expense	Allocated Budget*	% Total*
ECC	\$81,869	27%
LCEA	\$110,000	37%
CBOs	\$60,001	20%
Indirect Costs, Travel, Meeting Expns	\$39,130	16%
Total:	\$300,000	100%

*final budget allocations TBC in grant agreement



Grant Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Technical Evaluation Criteria	Weight
<p>Quality of Proposed Plan: Meeting Grant Program Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality for proposal to achieve goals, requirements, and deliverables. • Detailed description of proposed energy resilience hub models and concepts. • Plan for community involvement, awareness-building, and site identification. • Plans for community-ownership revenue model 	35%
<p>Organizational Capacity: Budget & History of Meeting Grant Deliverables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed grant budget and workplan are reasonable and sufficient to achieve proposed outcomes. Budget considerations for equipment, events, or grant deliverables are justified, demonstrating cost-effectiveness. • List of all FTE existing and/or proposed additional staff. • Experience in developing and implementing similar programs. 	20%
<p>Demonstrated Capacity of Delivering: Local Community Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes demonstrated experience and impact conducting outreach in Ava's service territory. • Demonstrated ability to engage community and local business or other organizations effectively. 	20%
<p>Prioritizing Equity Priority Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference for outreach plans focused on historically marginalized populations or geographic regions. • Preference for reaching low to medium income households. 	12.5%
<p>Ava Energy Special Procurement Preferences The following four categories will receive extra points in Ava's evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization sited within Ava service territory or employing at least 25% of the workforce residing in <u>Ava's territory (5%)</u> • Organizations sited within CalEnviroScreen 4.0 <u>Disadvantaged Community (2.5%)</u> • Organizations employing <u>Union Labor (2.5%)</u> • Disabled-Veteran Owned Business (2.5%) 	12.5%



Proposed Timeline

