



Community Advisory Committee Meeting

July 14, 2025

6:00 pm

In Person:

Large Conference Room
Rotunda Building
300 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland CA 94612

Or from the following remote locations:

1343 Fairview Ct, Livermore CA 94550
4664 Rousillon Ave, Fremont, CA 94555
1234 W Oak St, Stockton CA, 95204

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 June 16, 2025

C4. CAC Chair Report

**C5. Local Development and Customer Programs Strategic Roadmap
Development Overview (CAC Informational Item)**

Overview of the process to develop a strategic roadmap on local electrification efforts

C6. Ad Hoc Committee Update (CAC Informational Item)

**C7. CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items
on future Community Advisory Committee Meeting Agendas**

C8. Adjourn

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, September 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Rotunda Access Instructions

300 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612

Directions

Directions to Parking Garage via Car

Parking is available at the Rotunda Garage, which includes four levels and approximately 350 parking spaces. **Note that the garage's parking fee is \$4/hr with a maximum of \$28 for a full day. Street parking is widely available near the building and free after 6pm.**

There are two garage entrances located on **524 16th St (main entrance)** and **529 17th St**. See a map on the next page and note that both 16th and 17th are one-way streets on either side of the garage.



524 16th St (main entrance):

Turn right from Telegraph onto 16th Street and drive past SP+ Parking. Look for the entrance with **Rotunda Parking Lot** signage—this is a surface lot with garage access. Enter the garage and park your vehicle. Take the elevator or stairs in the garage to the first floor in order to enter through the Rotunda's 16th street entrance on the second floor.

After parking, walk across 16th Street toward Telegraph Avenue (also called Peter Van Kleeef Way).

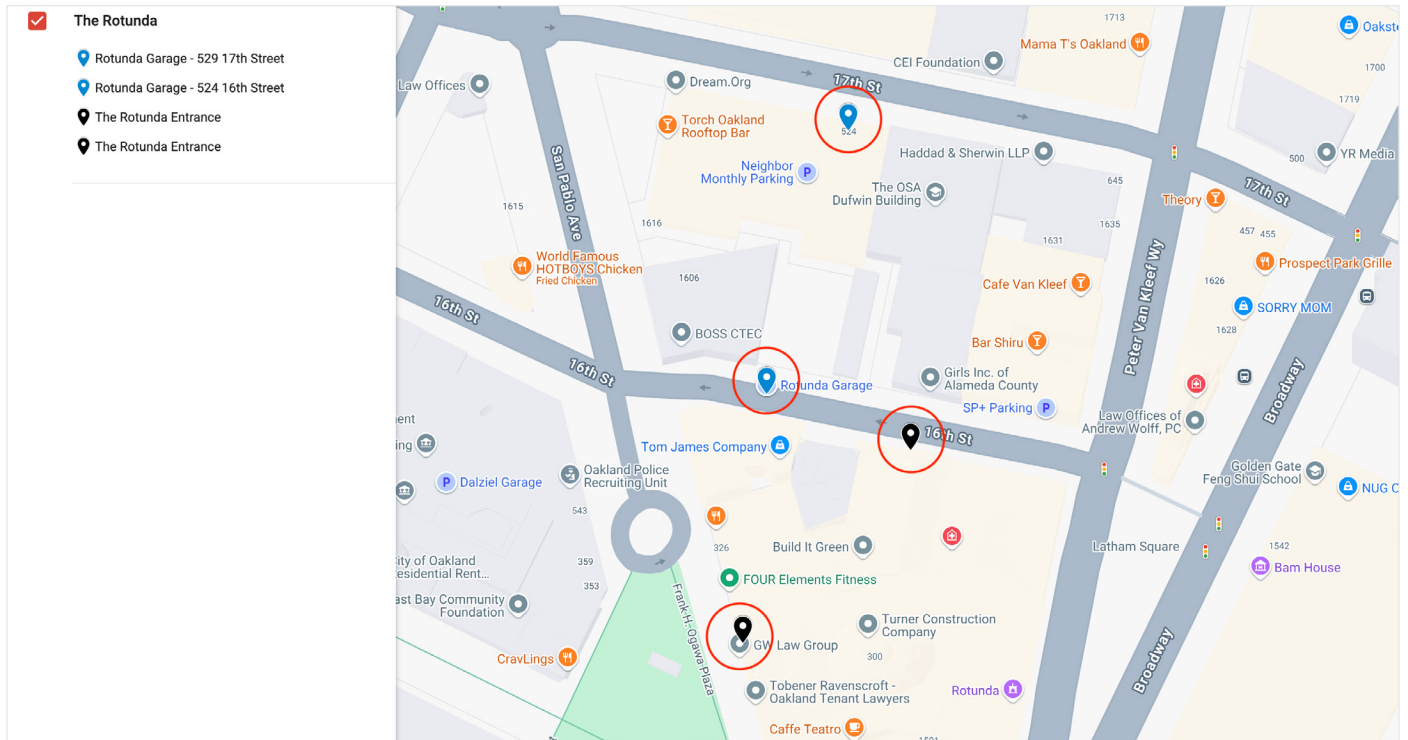


529 17th St (one-way street entrance):

Enter the garage via the 17th Street entrance. Once parked, take the elevator or stairs to the 1st floor of the garage. Exit the garage and walk toward 16th Street (south direction). You will be walking along Telegraph Avenue, which borders the Rotunda Building.

As you approach the corner of 16th Street and Telegraph Avenue (also known as Peter Van Kleeef Way), the Rotunda's main pedestrian entrance will be on your left at 524 16th Street.

Enter through the second-floor glass doors, which lead into the main lobby of the Rotunda Building. From there, check in with security and proceed as directed to the meeting rooms on the lower level.



Directions via BART

The closest BART station to the Rotunda Building is 12th Street / Oakland City Center. From there, it's approximately a 3-minute walk to the building. When exiting the station, use the 14th Street / Ogawa Plaza exit and head towards Frank H. Ogawa Plaza. The Rotunda Building will be in view from the plaza.

Directions via Bike

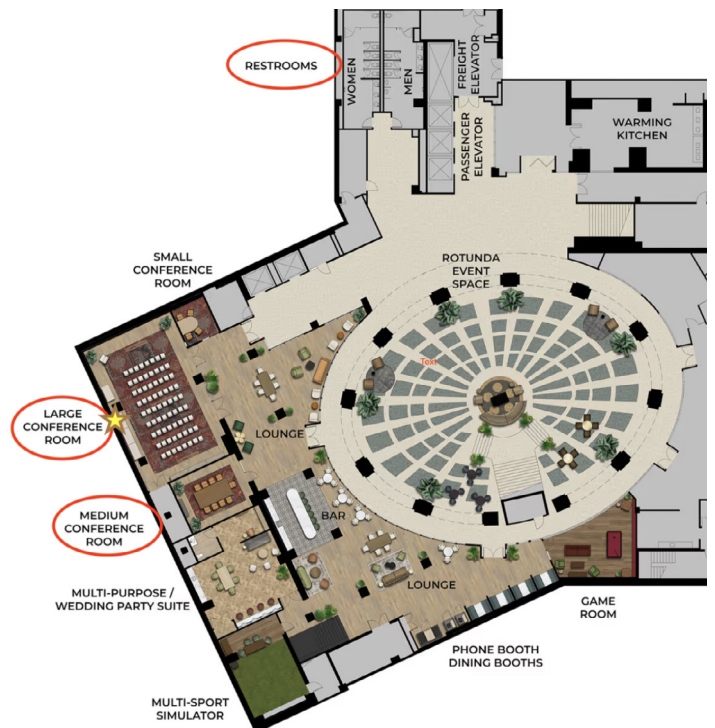
Cyclists may enter through the main building lobby at the lower level to access bicycle parking. Upon arrival, please check in with the building security desk, and you will be provided with directions to the designated indoor bike parking area.

Check-in at Security Desk

When you arrive at the building, please check in with the security desk for directions to the Large Conference Room, where the public meeting will be held. For closed session, please head to the medium conference room, both located next to each other on the lower level. If you have additional questions or need assistance, an Ava representative will be stationed and identifiable in the lobby. They can be reached at: 510-393-0492.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located on the lower level, near both conference rooms.





Draft Minutes

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

June 16, 2025

6:00 pm

In Person:

Conference Room 5
Ava Community Energy
1999 Harrison St
Suite 2300
Oakland CA 94612

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
1234 W Oak St, Stockton CA, 95204

Via Zoom:

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C1. Welcome & Roll Call

Present: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Swaminathan, Pacheco, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez

Not Present: Member Lakshman

C2. (2:46) 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.

There were no speakers for public comment.

C3. (3:25) Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2025

Chair Hernandez requested one clarification to the May 19, 2025 minutes: the minutes should specify that the CAC voted 7-2 to oppose the staff-recommended letter regarding SB 540. This action was later upheld by the Board of Directors, which voted 5-9-1-2 to reject supporting the letter.

Member Landry motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Member Weiner seconded the motion, which was approved 8/0/2/0/2 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

Yes: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez

No: none

Abstain: Members: Swaminathan and Pacheco

Recuse: none

Not Present: Member Lakshman

C4. (5:52) CAC Chair Report

Chair Hernandez opened his report by thanking Vice-Chair Souza for stepping in as chair during his scheduling conflict at the previous CAC meeting. He then summarized the May 21 Board of Directors meeting, where the Board approved the consent agenda and received updates on the FY 2025–26 draft budget, prepaid transactions, and the agency's legislative priorities. The Board also discussed the CMF agreements and authorized staff to move forward with negotiations.

He shared regional updates, including Fremont's move to Renewable 100 and steady enrollment progress in Stockton and Lathrop. Chair Hernandez raised the possibility of CAC participation in the CalCCA annual conference and asked for help drafting a justification to the Board. The Board also reviewed a projected \$187 million revenue gap due to PG&E and PCIA changes, which could affect customer rates, local program funding, and staffing. He urged CAC members to provide feedback during the evening's budget discussion and noted that his full written report would be posted online.

C5. (15:00) FY2025-2026 Budget (BOD Action Item)

Approve the budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

CFO Russell Mills shared Ava's draft FY 2025–2026 budget, warning that new CPUC rules for the PCIA and changes in resource adequacy pricing will cut Ava's revenues by \$187 million over two years. To respond, staff proposes using a combination of rate stabilization funds and part of this year's \$107 million surplus to cover the gap, while keeping customer discounts in place. The budget also includes reduced spending on new REC purchases, fewer new staff positions, and a lower Local Development Business Plan allocation of \$10 million, though community program spending will continue. Mills explained that Ava is carefully balancing cost control with maintaining its clean energy goals and customer rate stability. He asked the CAC to discuss whether this budget strikes the right balance and to decide whether to recommend it to the Board for approval.

Selected topics raised by CAC members include:

- **Member Lutz** urged Ava to take aggressive action to oppose the CPUC's proposed PCIA reform and to prepare for future phases of PCIA adjustments.
- **Member Balkissoon** suggested Ava consider doing its own independent modeling or working with experts like Dr. Richard McCann to challenge PG&E's assumptions and improve advocacy efforts.
- **Member Weiner** asked how Ava is planning for the projected increase in energy demand from AI and data centers, referencing comments from the California Energy Commission about the expected rise in per capita electricity use.
- **Member Weiner** also raised concerns about the growing distribution costs passed on by PG&E, particularly wildfire-related expenses. He asked if Ava is involved in advocacy to shift these costs from ratepayers to taxpayers to make the system more equitable.
- **Member Harper** asked for clarification on how Ava plans to use its 2024 surplus of renewable energy credits to reduce procurement costs for 2025 and 2026 while still meeting clean energy targets.

- **Vice-Chair Souza** questioned whether Ava has access to PG&E's detailed financial modeling and expressed a desire for an audit-like review of PG&E's cost justifications related to the PCIA and resource adequacy charges.

(1:36:53) Public Comment – Ayla Paz, speaking on behalf of the Local Clean Energy Alliance and 17 other organizations, urged Ava to actively oppose the CPUC's proposed PCIA increases, arguing that they threaten the long-term viability of CCAs. She also called for continued funding of Ava's Local Development Business Plan, support for state legislation like SB 332, and the creation of a new, independent community-based organization grant fund.

Member Lutz moved that the CAC support staff's recommended FY 2025–2026 budget, with the added condition that Ava aggressively pursue all available options to oppose the CPUC's proposed PCIA reform and any future phases of PCIA changes. This includes advocacy at the CPUC, legislative action, and any other strategies to protect Ava's financial position and mission.

Member Pacheco proposed a friendly amendment stating that if Ava and CalCCA are successful in reducing the financial impact of the PCIA reform (i.e., if the “upside budget” scenario materializes), then the CAC recommends prioritizing restored funding to the Local Development Business Plan, ideally returning to the \$25 million funding level from prior years.

Member Lutz accepted the friendly amendment.

Member Landry seconded the motion and amendment, which was approved 10/0/0/0/1 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

Yes: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Swaminathan, Pacheco, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez

No: none

Abstain: none

Recuse: none

Not Present: Member Lakshman

C6. Understanding the Drivers of PG&E Rate and Cost Growth (CAC Informational Item)

A presentation on the Policy team's analysis of the drivers of increasing PG&E rates/costs, in the context of the affordability crisis

Michael Quiroz and **Claire Huang** explained that PG&E's rates have increased significantly due to rising distribution and wildfire mitigation costs. Their analysis showed that between 2020 and 2023, PG&E's approved distribution spending

rose by nearly 50%, mainly because of vegetation management and undergrounding projects. They pointed out that these investments, while aimed at reducing wildfire risk, may not be the most cost-effective solutions and are making electricity bills less affordable. Much of PG&E's spending goes unchallenged in CPUC proceedings, making it difficult for the public to track or contest rising costs. Ava staff said they will use this information to support legislative advocacy and transparency efforts. CAC members and staff discussed working with other CCAs, community groups, and advocacy partners like CalCCA and LCEA to promote oversight of PG&E's costs and push for greater transparency and accountability.

Selected topics raised by CAC members include:

- **Member Lutz and Member Balkissoon** questioned whether there is independent verification of PG&E's wildfire mitigation spending, including vegetation management and undergrounding, and whether PG&E is actually completing the work they charge for.
- **Member Weiner** raised concerns about wildfire mitigation costs being passed to ratepayers through regressive rate increases. He argued that some of these costs, like vegetation management, should be treated as public safety expenses paid through taxes, not utility rates.
- **Vice-Chair Souza, Member Balkissoon, and Member Swaminathan** suggested building coalitions with other CCAs and community organizations to increase oversight of PG&E's cost recovery practices and advocate for fairer rates.
- **Member Swaminathan** asked whether CalCCA could expand its role in intervening in PG&E's General Rate Cases to create a statewide, coordinated effort among CCAs to push back on cost increases.

C7. Ad Hoc Committee Update (CAC Informational Item)

Member Balkissoon, reporting on behalf of the **Energy Affordability Ad Hoc Committee**, shared that the committee recently met with economist Dr. Richard McCann of M.Cubed to better understand the drivers behind PG&E's rising rates. Dr. McCann recommended that Ava explore a buyout of the PCIA, noting that many of PG&E's energy contracts have expired. He also urged Ava to pursue a more aggressive public relations strategy to counter misinformation from utilities and educate the public about rising rates and the role of CCAs. The Energy Affordability Ad Hoc Committee plans to meet with TURN (The Utility Reform Network) to continue these discussions and may recommend inviting Dr. McCann to speak with the CAC in the future.

Member Lutz, reporting on behalf of the **Local Development Business Plan (LDBP) Ad Hoc Committee**, raised concerns about the lack of public access to historical LDBP materials. These include draft documents, webinars, and letters

of support that were previously available on EBCE's website but were not migrated to Ava's current site. Member Lutz spoke about the need to restore these materials to promote transparency and help the public and stakeholders better understand Ava's local development initiatives. Member Lutz also highlighted the importance of Ava building internal capabilities, owning local assets, and developing revenue streams beyond customer rates.

Member Lutz motioned to migrate the Local Development Business Plan historical documents and related materials, previously hosted on the EBCE website, to the current Ava Community Energy website. Member Pacheco seconded the motion, which was approved 7/0/0/0/4

(yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present)

Yes: Members: Landry, Stephenson, Swaminathan, Pacheco, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez

No: none

Abstain: none

Recuse: none

Not Present: Members: Weiner, Balkissoon, Lakshman, Harper

C8. CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items on future Community Advisory Committee Meeting Agendas

- **Member Landry** requested that staff provide updates on SB 332 (Golden State Energy Act) in future legislative reports. She noted the bill has passed out of the Appropriations Committee and asked for continued tracking as it progresses through the legislature.
- **Cait Cady and Adrian Bankhead** announced that the July and September CAC meetings will be held at the Rotunda Building in downtown Oakland while tenant improvements are made to Ava's current office space. Ava's staff will work remotely during this period, but the agency will remain fully operational. Board meetings will also be moved to the Rotunda Building temporarily.

C9. Adjourned at 8:59pm

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, July 14, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Please note the temporary location:

*Rotunda Building
Large Conference Room
300 Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612*

Local Development and Customer Programs Strategic Roadmap Development Overview

Executive Committee | July 2025



Objective

Provide an overview of the process for developing a strategic roadmap for the next phase of local development and customer programs* within Ava's territory

** not including commodity supply*

Background

2018-2023

- Prior to start of electricity service in 2018, a team of external consultants developed the Local Development Business Plan (LDBP).
- It was intended to be a roadmap of efforts to be implemented in the first 5 years of service. It had a broad scope (operations to data architecture to procurement) while also very tactical (risk mitigation strategy to rate design).

2024-2025

- Assessment: In December 2024, staff provided an [overview](#) of the work completed under this initial plan and recommended that a future plan be more focused and based on stated priorities. Staff also provided an [update](#) on the Local Development Fund in March 2025.
- Execution: Staff has been focused on ongoing operations, expansion, and execution of committed programmatic initiatives for last several years.
- Initial Planning: Ava staff has strategic goals that drive our annual objectives. The goals are focused on: electrification, affordability, culture & workplace, and agency health (financial, regulatory).

2025-2026

- Strategy and Planning: Focus of this presentation is on the planning for efforts under the electrification goal - crafting a vision for what work Ava will focus on starting in 2027 specific to local development and customer programs. The strategic Roadmap will guide programmatic decisions, funding, and resourcing to meet Ava's goals.

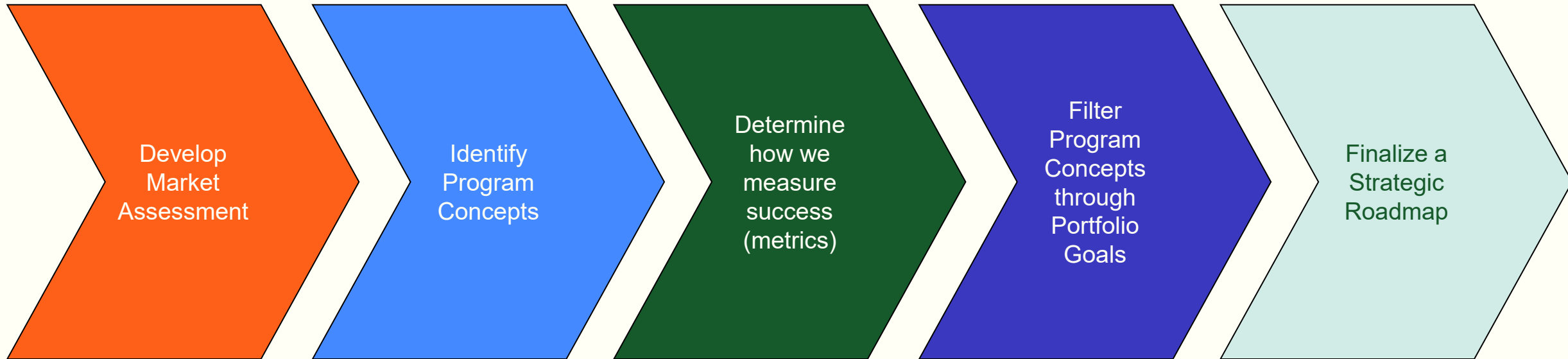
2027-2032

- Implementation: Staff will design and execute on programs and associated services guided by the strategic Roadmap.

Current Committed Roadmap of Programs

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Ava Charge						(to ~2037)
Ava Bike Electric			June 2027			
Building Efficiency Accelerator		May 2026				
Health-e Communities Pilot	Dec 2025					
HPWH support	Mar 2025					
CMF		April 2026				PPAs to 2051
SmartHome Charging			April 2027			
Solar + Storage						(to 2035)

Process Proposal



Stakeholder engagement through Board and Committee meetings, public workshops, & collaboration with municipal staff

Proposed Priority Areas for Market Assessment

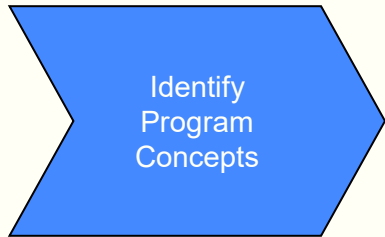


These are the core areas to target decarbonization:

- Transportation Electrification
- Building Electrification
- Energy Efficiency
- Load Management
- Resilience




Within Priority Areas, what program concepts or mechanisms can be applied to achieve goals?




- Staff, along with consultant and stakeholder feedback, will develop a list of potential program concepts
- An example program concept could be:
 - *Mechanism*: Financing for used EVs
 - *Metrics*: \$\$ financed or # EVs financed which lead to resulting emissions reduction
 - *Timeline*: 3 year program
 - *Audience*: Low-moderate income residential customers



Identify Appropriate Metrics



Determine how
we measure
success
(metrics)



Filter Program
Concepts
through Portfolio
Goals

The Roadmap should be informed by outcome metrics. Program concept metrics may include considerations such as:

- Total CO2 reduction
- Total reduction in NG usage
- # customers benefited
- \$\$ savings for Ava
- \$\$ savings for customers

The Roadmap should also consider the composition of programs at a portfolio level and equitable offerings, such as:

- Customer segment/account type
- Market sector/priority area
- Demographic considerations including communities of concern
- Geographic diversity

Primary metrics may vary between programs in order to balance the objectives of the portfolio.

- For example, if decarbonization was the primary metric for all programs, the focus would likely be on our largest commercial customers. We would want to balance our portfolio with programs for residential customers in order to bring benefits to a larger number of customers.



Current Proposed Key Dates

Below are some key dates but not an exhaustive schedule. There will be additional touchpoints with municipal staff and other public meetings.

2025

July	Overview presentation to Executive Committee and CAC
November	Selection of consultant to perform market assessment, program concepts, and metrics analysis

2026

February	Presentation of market assessment report to the Board and CAC
April	Public workshop on market assessment, proposed program concepts, and metrics
May	Presentation of program concepts and metrics to the Board and CAC
August	Public workshop on portfolio metrics
Sept/Oct	Presentation of Roadmap to the board



Ad-Hoc Committee on Local Development, Report To Community Advisory Committee.
July 14, 2025. Prepared by Jim Lutz

The ad-hoc committee has been meeting regularly and also talking with key stakeholders about a future strategic plan for Ava. At our last meeting we reviewed the Local Development and Customer Programs Strategic Roadmap Development Overview presented at the Ava Executive Committee meeting on July 2. This report summarizes the important parts of our discussions to date.

Local energy and economic development have always been the key objectives for Ava and must be a major factor in any future strategic plan. These should be measured by how much clean energy and resource adequacy has been developed within Ava territory and likewise how many good jobs have been added.

The ad-hoc committee has also discussed how to address longer term threats that directly impact Ava survival. We think it is time to prepare plans to sunset the PCIA and to divorce from PG&E. It is important to keep AVA in good financial health with diversified and resilient income streams that do not depend on rising electricity rates, and it is clear that PG&E will continue to increase rates.

Ava should provide clear and obvious benefits to its customers. Programs should have high visibility and impact, including defending its customers from PG&E's rate increases.

Now is the time for Ava to innovate, to be bold and audacious, rather than timid and reactive.

Among the concerns we want to express is the importance of engaging the public (and the CAC) from the very beginning of the process of developing Ava's new strategic plan. Early collaboration with labor, environmental justice communities, environmental advocates, and faith groups is vital. These are the groups who, if engaged respectfully, will be Ava's strongest defenders.

Submitted for the local development ad-hoc committee,

Jim Lutz



Local Development Customer Programs Strategic Roadmap Development

Executive Committee | July 2025



Objective

Provide an overview of the process for developing a strategic roadmap for the next phase of local development and customer programs* within Ava's territory

** not including commodity supply*

Wait. What? This means giving up the goal of local production!

2018-2023

Background

- Prior to start of electricity service in 2018, a team of external consultants developed the Local Development Business Plan (LDBP).
- It was intended to be a roadmap of efforts to be implemented in the first 5 years of service. It had a broad scope (operations to data architecture to procurement) while also very tactical (risk mitigation strategy to rate design).

2024-2025

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- Strategy and Planning: Focus of this presentation is on the planning for efforts under the electrification goal - crafting a vision for what work Ava will focus on starting in 2027 specific to local development and customer programs. The strategic Roadmap will guide programmatic decisions, funding, and resourcing to meet Ava's goals.

2027-2032

- Implementation: Staff will design and execute on programs and associated services guided by the strategic Roadmap.

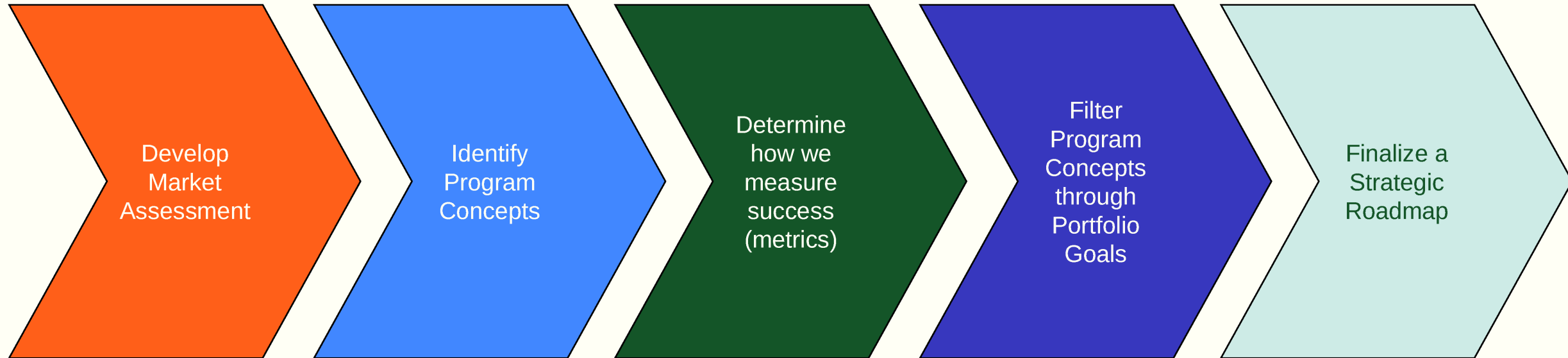
Electrification should be a tool, a method to drive local development and provide good jobs for constituents. Not the only focus of Ava's local development.

Current Committed Roadmap of Programs

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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Ava Bike Electric			June 2027			
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HPWH support	Mar 2025					
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SmartHome Charging			April 2027			
Solar + Storage						(to 2035)

Why aren't any zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty goods movement projects included here? What about other programs from the April 24, 2023 EBCE Local Development Update?

Process Proposal



Stakeholder engagement through Board and Committee meetings, public workshops, & collaboration with municipal staff

Shouldn't community needs and demands assessment be developed in parallel with the market assessment? What about collaboration with labor, EJ communities, environmental advocates, faith groups etc?

Proposed Priority Areas for Market Assessment



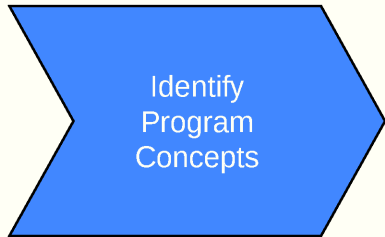
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- Load Management
- Resilience

What about core areas of local development, reducing energy cost burden, promoting local good jobs and community wealth? What about promoting community activation to defend Ava from misguided CPUC regulatory changes and legislative policy changes? What about providing Ava with additional cash streams outside of constituent electricity bills?



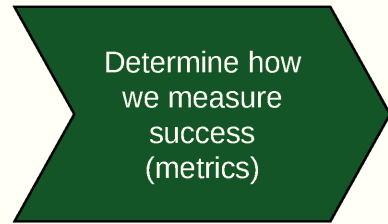
Within Priority Areas, what program concepts or mechanisms can be applied to achieve goals?



- *and CAC,*
- Staff, along with consultant and stakeholder feedback, will develop a list of potential program concepts
- An example program concept could be:
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The Roadmap should be informed by outcome metrics. Program concept metrics may include considerations such as:

Identify Appropriate Metrics



- Total CO2 reduction , diesel, and gasoline,
- Total reduction in NG usage
- # customers benefited
- \$\$ savings for Ava fraction of benefits to low-income customers?
- \$\$ savings for customers

The Roadmap should also consider the composition of programs at a portfolio level and equitable offerings, such as:

- Customer segment/account type
- Market sector/priority area
- Demographic considerations including communities of concern
- Geographic diversity

Shouldn't primary metrics include how much generation, RPS and RA is developed within Ava territory?
Number of high-road jobs added in Ava territory?

Primary metrics may vary between programs in order to balance the objectives of the portfolio.

- For example, if decarbonization was the primary metric for all programs, the focus would likely be on our largest commercial customers. We would want to balance our portfolio with programs for residential customers in order to bring benefits to a larger number of customers.



Current Proposed Key Dates

Below are some key dates but not an exhaustive schedule. There will be additional touchpoints with municipal staff and other public meetings.

2025

July Overview presentation to Executive Committee and CAC

November Selection of consultant to perform market assessment, program concepts, and metrics analysis

2026 Include CAC input in consultant selection process.

February Presentation of market assessment report to the Board and CAC

April Public workshop on market assessment, proposed program concepts, and metrics

May Presentation of program concepts and metrics to the Board and CAC

August Public workshop on portfolio metrics

Sept/Oct Presentation of Roadmap to the board

Shouldn't the public workshops come before the presentations to Board and CAC? Maybe with meetings with key stakeholders before any workshops?





LOCAL
CLEAN
ENERGY
ALLIANCE

Jessica Guadalupe Tovar
339 15th St Suite 208
Oakland, CA 94612
jessica@localcleanenergy.org
415-766-7766

Subject: Feedback on Ava Community Energy's Local Development Business Plan Roadmap

July 14, 2025

Dear Ava Community Energy Board, Community Advisory Committee and Alternates,

The Local Clean Energy Alliance appreciates the effort that staff have put into developing the Local Development Business Plan (LDBP) and forthcoming strategic roadmap. However, we, along with many other community organizations, are deeply concerned by the limited scope, structure, and ambition of the current approach.

This roadmap narrows the focus of the LDBP to customer programming and electrification, at the expense of its broader goals of investment—particularly those related to energy supply. When the LDBP was first adopted, it envisioned community-driven, distributed energy resources and investments in local clean energy supply in addition to programs and projects that make transition accessible. This updated roadmap appears to abandon that original commitment by the agency. Why is Ava Community Energy not including commodity supply in this plan? Why has the focus on energy supply been dropped?

Electrification can and should be a powerful tool for local development. Furthermore, electrification will increase the need for power, but also ignores that other prerequisites like demand and energy efficiency should precede electrification. Following suggestions in the [July 2018 Final LDBP](#), Ava Community Energy could invest in increasing local solar electricity, to offset increased demand from electrification. This would also provide a more resilient source of electricity than dependence on rising costs of long distance transmission lines that are consistently mismanaged and have caused catastrophic mega wildfires. Locally produced energy would help address the utility affordability issue that Ava Community Energy is currently grappling with by being dependent on contracting remote sources of energy.

We are also concerned how the roadmap completely has not addressed growing and urgent political threats on the state and federal levels. Rising rates imposed by PG&E and the CPUC on CCA customers, and Trump slashing renewable energy funding undermine Ava Community Energy's ability to deliver cost savings and community benefits. What political strategies is Ava Community Energy pursuing to push back? Why is there no mention of ratepayer advocacy, legislative resistance, or even litigation to protect clean renewable community energy?

Another troubling aspect is the roadmap's timeline and process. Community engagement is at the final stages of the plan, rather than being included throughout the process. This contradicts Ava Community Energy's stated commitment to building trust and centering community input. Delaying authentic community participation only reinforces mistrust in Ava Community Energy. We ask that community co-governance, education, and input be integrated from the beginning—not as an afterthought.

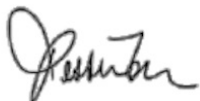
We urge Ava Community Energy to commit to a Local Development Business Plan that is not only more expansive, but also financially resilient and ambitious. Is there a strategy to grow the LDBP even in the face of state and federal uncertainty?

The climate crisis is accelerating, and the stakes are higher than ever. What we need is to be bold, audacious, and forward-looking, and therefore we should build off of the visionary roadmap we started. The political, economic, and energy landscapes have changed dramatically since the original Local Development Business Plan was developed. In this moment, we need community investments that meet the scale of the challenge and include:

- Recommitment to developing local energy supply and distributed energy resources,
- An aggressive political strategy to challenge PG&E and CPUC rate hikes & other impacts,
- Full integration of community voices from the earliest phases of planning,
- Programs beyond electrification, such as local solar installations, energy efficiency, green workforce initiatives, and seed funding for innovation,
- A strategy to secure financial stability beyond ratepayer dependence,
- A commitment to local development of family-sustaining wage and union jobs.

We urge you to revise the roadmap accordingly and recommit to the transformative vision of the Local Development Business Plan. The communities you serve—and the future of community energy—deserve nothing less.

Clean Power to the People,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Tovar', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jessica Guadalupe Tovar, Local Clean Energy Alliance



July 14, 2025

Chair Ed Hernandez and Members of the Community Advisory Committee
Ava Community Energy
1999 Harrison Street, Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Agenda Item C5 – Local Development and Customer Programs Strategic Roadmap Development Overview (Informational Item)

Dear Chair Hernandez and Members of the Community Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the CCA Workforce & Environmental Justice Alliance, we are submitting the attached letter, which we previously shared with the Ava Board on June 18 in support of the FY2025–26 budget item related to the Local Development Fund.

We understand that Ava is beginning a new strategic planning process to shape the next phase of local development and customer programs. As this work gets underway, we want to express our strong interest in participating throughout the process and emphasize the importance of early and inclusive engagement.

We are beginning early coordination with labor and community partners across Ava's territory to identify shared priorities and explore program concepts that align with Ava's goals around electrification, affordability, resilience, and equitable decarbonization. We encourage Ava to welcome this input throughout the planning process, including during the initial market assessment.

We also urge Ava to select a consultant with experience working with labor, equity-priority communities, and community-based organizations, and with a demonstrated understanding of inclusive and community-centered program implementation.

We look forward to working with the CAC, staff, and other stakeholders to ensure Ava's next phase of local development investments continues to deliver broad, lasting benefits.

Sincerely,

Eric Veium, Tim Frank, & Leslie Austin

Co-directors, [CCA Workforce & EJ Alliance](#)



Chair Balch and Directors of Ava Community Energy
1999 Harrison Street, Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chair Balch and Honorable Directors of Ava Community Energy,

We appreciate Ava's foundational and long-standing commitment to local development, as demonstrated by the Local Development Business Plan, significant annual contributions to the local development fund, and the active and ongoing development of innovative programs.

We ask the Board to support the incremental contribution of \$10 million to the local development fund this year, as proposed by staff, even as Ava faces significant financial uncertainty. Additionally, after staff completes its mid-year budget review, if the budget is healthier than projected, we ask the Board to prioritize additional contributions to the local development fund. Over the longer term, we ask that your Board adequately fund both the Reserve Fund and the Rate Stabilization Fund so that the Local Development Fund is more insulated from future budget uncertainty.

We understand from CEO Howard Chang that Ava will embark this year on a strategic planning process to guide local development priorities and investments over the next five years. **We look forward to participating in that process and would like to be involved from the outset.**

As the Board and staff look towards strategic planning for the next phase of local development investments, we ask that you prioritize programs that are high-road by design, and invest in under-resourced, equity-priority communities most at risk to extreme weather and other impacts of climate change.

Building on the success of our prior work together adopting leadership Workforce and Environmental Justice project selection standards for clean energy projects, we look forward to continued partnership on supporting strategic development and continuous improvement of Ava's local development investments.

Sincerely,

Eric Veium, Tim Frank, & Leslie Austin
Co-directors, [CCA Workforce & EJ Alliance](#)



Adrian Bankhead <abankhead@avaenergy.org>

public comment for CAC and Board Meetings

Audrey Ichinose <aichinose@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 14, 2025 at 4:35 PM

To: Adrian Bankhead <abankhead@avaenergy.org>

Cc: Ayla Paz <ayla@localcleanenergy.org>, Jessica Tovar <jessica@localcleanenergy.org>

Dear Adrian,

Can you please distribute this comment to CAC, Board of Directors, and Staff?

I hope I am not too late on this.

Thanks!!

Audrey Ichinose

July 14, 2025

From: Audrey Ichinose, People's Clean Power Alliance and the California Alliance for Community Energy (CACE)**To:** Board of Directors, CAC members, Staff of Ava Community Energy**Re:** LDBP Strategic Roadmap Overview

As an early advocate for community energy in general and of Ava Community Energy, in particular, I want to express my great appreciation for this effort to determine next steps in the further implementation of the LDBP and customer programs. This effort speaks so well of the Staff's goodwill, commitment and diligence in carrying out our CCA's mission. So thank you, and let's keep it going in spite of the outrageous obstacles being thrown in our way.

At the same time, I'd like to draw attention to a gap that's beginning to open up between the LDBP, adopted in 2018, and the fluid, innovative clean energy world we know today. No example of this gap can be better--or more humorously--captured than what was in store for the fans at Sunday's NASCAR stock car races in Sonoma. NASCAR officials were planning to stage a demonstration run of a prototype EV race car! While they have not yet scheduled any real races with this new type of car, they intended to seriously promote it as a product of the future. Though some might miss the noise, smoke, and even crashes of the old stock cars, who cannot fail to delight in a vehicle that accelerates at the push of a button bearing a rocketship logo!

The future of DER and clean energy is undeniably here, and the need to update aspects of the LDBP is signaled by the fact that "Microgrids" does not appear in the Powerpoint charts. "VPPs" (Virtual Power Plants) may come the closest, but it does not accurately capture how solar+storage can be routinely shared on a small scale by small communities or congregants in Resilience Hubs. In addition, VPP's miss the foundational idea of people taking a hand in generating their own electricity, thereby better controlling

their household costs and protecting themselves against the escalating hazards of a warming climate.

An adjunct to consider here are electric school buses, which can be used as mobile microgrids. Like near perfect puzzle pieces, electric school buses fit so well into the unused slots of daily electrical charging and of timely discharging, in and around their transportation function. Needless to say, the buses could generate significant savings for all communities, reduce waste and inefficiencies, and because of their mobility, serve as backup for power losses wherever they occur. I hope that Ava Community Energy can develop a comprehensive plan so that all of its communities, especially the small, can benefit from these mobile microgrids.

Thank you very much.

Thoughts on a Strategic Road Map for Ava Community Energy

Jim Lutz (jlutz@lmi.net) , July 15, 2025

The following are some issues regarding a strategic road map for Ava Community Energy I thought would be important to bring to the attention of the Board and CAC.

First I want to acknowledge all the good work Ava has done and is doing. Ava is providing reliable, reasonably priced and reasonably clean energy to ~650k customers. Ava has a solid financial reputation and a \$1 billion/year revenue stream. Also, I would like to appreciate the local development road map process presented tonight.

Unfortunately I fear these strengths may not be enough. As I see it, there two major long term forces that are going to rip Ava apart if it continues on its current path.

The first trend is the amazing decline over the past couple decades in prices of solar, wind, and batteries.

See Bill McKibben's recent article in the *New Yorker* magazine, subtitled "In the past two years, without much notice, solar power has begun to truly transform the world's energy system". This is good news regarding climate change and should be good news for everyone.¹

Worldwide solar photovoltaic costs have fallen by 90% in the last decade, onshore wind by 70%, and batteries by more than 90%.² Note, I'm citing worldwide costs here, not just because two deep water ports are in Ava's territory, but also because solar prices in California and the US are currently so distorted.

Even though this decline in solar, wind, and battery prices is a good thing, ironically it is bad for Ava for two reasons.

As costs of procuring energy continue to decline Ava's long term energy contracts will look more and more like a bad idea. At some point they will become an economically dangerous burden.

The other longer term reason this is bad for Ava is because at some point, the costs for solar and storage will have dropped so much customers will start to defect from the grid. It will be cheaper for them to install solar and storage than to keep paying rising electricity costs. And unlike in PG&E's case, no one's going to impose Power Charge Indifference Adjustments (PCIA's) on those departing customers to protect CCAs.

The other major force is PG&E itself.

PG&E delivers Ava's product to its customers and passes the money paid for that product back to Ava. Although many good people work and have worked there, PG&E is not a friend of CCAs.

PG&E (and the other IOUs in CA) have a history of opposing CCAs going back to before they even existed. In 2007 when Central Valley cities worked to form what would have been the first CCA, PG&E was there to foment obstruction. This was repeated in San Francisco and Marin County.

1 Bill McKibben, 4.6 Billion Years On, the Sun Is Having a Moment: In the past two years, without much notice, solar power has begun to truly transform the world's energy system. July 9, 2025, The New Yorker. <https://www.newyorker.com/news/annals-of-a-warming-planet/46-billion-years-on-the-sun-is-having-a-moment>

2 Hannah Ritchie, Solar panel prices have fallen by around 20% every time global capacity doubled. June 12, 2024 <https://ourworldindata.org/data-insights/solar-panel-prices-have-fallen-by-around-20-every-time-global-capacity-doubled>

They have sponsored petition campaigns and legislation to cripple CCAs.³ Before this current attempt they've already had the PCIA rates changed a couple times.^{4 5} They centralized Resource Adequacy (RA) purchasing decisions away from CCAs. Other related and harmful decisions not directly attacking the CCAs have been the requirements for complete IOU control of microgrids and tariff changes against rooftop solar. There is no reason to expect this pattern to change.

PG&E is a convicted felon that has caused the death of over a hundred people since 2010.⁶ It has gone bankrupt twice. In 2001 following the Enron debacle and after the Paradise fire in 2021. If PG&E doesn't like a law or regulation, it can usually arrange to have that law or regulation changed. It, along with the two other large IOUs in California have completely captured the PUC, the agency that is supposed to regulate utilities. They also have undue influence over governor Newsom. Just one example is how he played fast and loose with the legislative process the last time PG&E was bailed out of bankruptcy. PG&E came out of that with no meaningful liability to the victims of the Paradise fire and were even given a contingent future license to burn.

Historically PG&E's profits, which are 10-12% on all projects such as new transmission lines, have exceeded stock market returns and for the past several years their electricity rates have been three times higher than inflation.⁷ A majority PG&E's stockholders are now private equity firms.

The price gouging is only going to continue. There is no indication that PG&E intends to stop raising rates. This hurts Ava's customers directly. And the rising electricity rates also damage Ava's reputation among its customers.

These two trends are why I say that unless something changes, sooner or later, Ava will be destroyed.

However I don't think this has to happen.

My partner has a black-belt in Aikido. The guiding philosophy of that martial art is to use one's opponent's strength against them. PG&E's greatest strength is its ability to raise regulated electricity prices. Using that strength has caused it to be one of the most reviled corporations in California. That revulsion has created a diffuse but strong political force that could be tapped for the benefit of CCA's.

And there's another force that could potentially be tapped to expand Ava's opportunities and impact. Here I'm referring to the amazing people and organizations that came together in the twenty teens to get Ava started. Broadly stated the goal was for EBCE, now Ava, to bring the benefits of cheap, clean, local energy to its customers.

3 Steven Weissman and Harry Moren, California's Proposition 16 June 2010 Primary: An Analysis, May 2010, Center for Law, Energy & the Environment, School of Law, University of California, Berkeley, <https://www.localcleanenergy.org/files/CLEEsProp16WhitePaper.pdf>

4 Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/electric-power-procurement/power-charge-indifference-adjustment>

5 Roy L Hales, California's "Monopoly Protection Act," AB 2145, Is Dead, 2014, <https://cleantechnica.com/2014/09/04/californias-monopoly-protection-bill-ab-2145-dead/>

6 Brandon Rittiman, PG&E disasters killed 117 people last decade, January 2, 2020, <https://www.abc10.com/article/news/local/wildfire/pg-e-disasters-killed-117-people-last-decade/103-3ca212b6-c502-4b7f-948e-ad6e73bf55a3>

7 , It's not you, it's them - PG&E rates rising three times faster than inflation, June 18, 2024, <https://www.publicpowersf.org/en/blogposts/its-not-you-its-them-pgampe-rates-rising-three-times-faster-than-inflation>

The reason I say this is only a potential force, is because those people and organizations are not overly enthusiastic about what Ava has been doing. In addition to providing cheap, clean, local energy, they expected to see Ava upgrading and electrifying all the buildings and transportation in its territory while bringing benefits to its customers starting with the most disadvantaged ones first. Oh, and those with the well know trends in solar, wind and batteries I mentioned earlier, they're expecting next year's electricity rates to be lower than this year's and the following year's rates even lower.

I don't know how Ava could take advantage of those potential forces, although I do have some ideas.

First, although it will be difficult, to survive Ava must become bold and audacious. Given the trends I mentioned at the beginning of my talk I really don't see other option. That means starting with the community Ava serves. Those people and organizations are the reason Ava exists. Please involve them early and deeply in all strategic plan development processes.

Another thing is to become an energy provider that does more than just push electricity through PG&E's wires. I have not sure what the best way is to do this is. Maybe it involves using Ava's good credit rating to leverage financing for its customers so that they can get solar and storage, possibly up to the level they could defect from the grid. Maybe it involves changing the regulatory barriers and restrictions that PG&E and its CPUC have managed to put in place. Providing resources to the type of community organizations that got Ava started could be an effective way to start that process. Convincing and leading the other CCAs around the state to be more assertive about defending their customer interests is certainly something Ava should be doing. The same goes for collaborating with Ava's member cities and counties.

A road map process is very good way to start conceptualizing and developing the types of change that Ava needs to survive and possibly even thrive. Because of these forces, now is not the time to focus solely on core programmatic initiatives.