



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](#)