



CEO Report Item 9

TO: Ava Community Energy Board of Directors
FROM: Howard Chang, Chief Executive Officer
SUBJECT: CEO Report (Informational Item)
DATE: February 18, 2026

Recommendation

Accept Chief Executive Officer (CEO) report on update items below.

Executive Committee Meeting

The February 4, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting was canceled. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 3pm.

Financial, Administrative and Procurement Subcommittee Meeting

A Financial, Administrative and Procurement Subcommittee Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. Members received a preview of the FY 2025-26 Mid-Year Budget Review and an overview of Contracts Entered Into. The next Financial, Administrative and Procurement Subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 3:30pm.

Unincorporated San Joaquin County Enrollment

Ava will begin providing electricity generation service to unincorporated San Joaquin County's 60,000 customers starting in May 2026. Most customers will start service in May and will see Ava on their PG&E bill starting in June 2026. Customers with solar will be enrolled closer to their true-up date, with enrollment occurring throughout the year.

Ava is required by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to send a total of four customer notifications, two notifications prior to enrollment and two notifications following enrollment. Mailers will be sent via mail, and email, when available.



Notice 1 (60-30 days)

Letter in window envelope



Notice 2 (30-0 days)

Tri-fold self-mailer



Notice 3 (0-30 days)

Large postcard



Notice 4 (30-60 days)

Large postcard

Images of notices that will be sent to new customers in unincorporated San Joaquin County, starting in March 2026

Marketing & Outreach

To further ensure that these new customers are aware that their electricity generation provider is changing, Ava’s Marketing team will begin outreach at the **end of February**, starting with **digital ads** to raise awareness before notices go out. Additional marketing efforts during the enrollment period will include:

- Billboards, streaming TV, and print ads
- Targeted micro-campaigns to reach specific neighborhoods
- Community partnerships with municipal partners, agricultural and business organizations, and other trusted community leaders
- Social media, newsletters, and local press
- Webinars and in-person presentations

Ava in the Community - February

To raise awareness of our service, support our community, and stay close to our customers, Ava sponsors and staffs events throughout our service territory all year long. Stop by to say hello at any of these upcoming events between 02/18 and 03/18. Learn more at <https://avaenergy.org/about-ava/meetings-events/events/>

Date	Event	Location
3/14/26 - 3/15/26	Dublin St. Patrick’s Day	Dublin
3/14/26	Oakland Roots vs New Mexico United	Oakland Coliseum

Evaluating the Drivers of PG&E’s Electricity Rate Increases

California consistently ranks among the top three states with the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. Adjusted for inflation, PG&E’s average electricity rate increased by approximately 49% from 2019 to 2024, followed by a decrease of 16% from 2024 to 2026. Rate increases drive household electricity bills higher, worsening affordability challenges for families already burdened by high housing, healthcare, and food costs. High rates also threaten the

state's clean energy transition by eroding the financial advantages customers receive from electrification.

Although rising rates are largely driven by the costs of adapting to climate impacts like extreme wildfires, rising electricity bills may make the public more receptive to claims blaming California's climate policies for high energy costs. This study makes clear that the largest driver of recent electricity cost, rate, and bill increases in California is responding to climate change (e.g., wildfire mitigation) rather than preempting it (e.g., clean energy procurement).

To investigate the drivers of rising electricity rates, Ava Community Energy analyzed PG&E costs and rates as published in state and federal regulatory filings. Read the full report for Ava's key findings and recommendations for helping to address the identified challenges.

<https://avaenergy.org/insight/report-evaluating-the-drivers-of-pge-electricity-rate-growth/>

Local Development Update

Given the high number of local development activities and varied status of design, implementation, and operations, we will aim to provide a summary update of all programs and services on a quarterly basis via the CEO report. The purpose is to keep the Board apprised of Local Development Programs and activities at a summary level. Action items and deep dives will continue to be brought forth on an as needed basis.

Program Name	Status	Description	Key Metrics	Key Upcoming Dates
Planning				
Customer Programs Roadmap	On Hold	Define Ava's customer programs roadmap for 2027-2032	N/A	Ava evaluating options to progress the Roadmap
Transportation Electrification				
Ava Charge	Operational	Developing EV fast charging sites on City lots and garages across Ava's service territory with a focus on locating near multi-family dwellings	Oakland City Center West garage with 31 chargers is now in operation	Ava negotiating with developers currently under contract to deliver the next four Ava Charge projects
Ava SmartHome Charging	Operational	Program to shift home EV charging away from peak hours while helping customers lower their cost of home EV charging.	>2,700 EVs enrolled, Virtual Power Plant performance metrics are being met	Refining customer engagement and dispatch strategy to increase participation and optimize performance
Ava Bike Electric	Operational	Program to provide incentives for customers to purchase electric bikes, CARE customers receive higher incentives and 40% of allocated funds	over 19,000 applications received, 2,746 e-bikes purchased from 29 participating bike shops. CARE customers have redeemed 51% of rebates	Drawing on 4th Tuesday of each month.
Building Electrification				
Health-e Communities Pilot	Operational	Direct installation program to replace gas stoves with induction for CARE customers and complete indoor air quality monitoring to evaluate air quality impacts.	Installed 162 induction cooktops	Ava is reviewing the results of the pilot and will come back to the Board with a recommendation. Applications closed in September

Building Efficiency Accelerator	Operational	CPUC funded program to complete energy efficiency and building electrification projects on commercial and industrial customers, like LED lighting and heat pump water heaters	On target to reduce consumption by 12 GWh, 14 customers engaged in 100 unique projects	Program enrollment ends April 2026
SolarApp Heat Pump Water Heater (HPWH) permitting	Canceled	Contract with SolarApp to add heat pump water heaters to their online permitting application	SolarApp will deliver lessons learned from permitting departments, HPWH installers, and manufacturers on the value of expedited permitting	Contract cancelled do to Federal withdrawal of IRA funding and SolarApp needing to focus on core solar permitting business
Resilience				
Critical Municipal Facilities	In Development	Program to provide resilience on critical municipal sites. Eight projects across four cities will provide bill savings	Installing 258kW of PV and 1.34MWh of batteries generating 778,000 kWh of clean energy in year 1.	Permits received on target and construction started on first Livermore project. Ava is on target to achieve mechanical completion on NEM 2.0 projects by the April 15, 2026 deadline.
SmartHome Battery + Resilience Hubs	In Development	Program to provide \$15M in upfront and ongoing incentives for residential solar and storage projects and community resilience hubs	Manage 21MW of solar paired batteries for residential and low income customers and community resilience hubs.	SmartHome Battery Program launch planned in March. Resilience Hub technical assistance launching in Q2 '26
Community Grants				
Community Grant Program	Operational	\$7.05M budgeted for Community Grants to work with Community Based Organizations across four strategic focus areas	Award ~24 grants through 2033	Staff hosted Community Grants public workshop to solicit ideas for next round of community grants. Staff compiling results and will develop next round of grant RFPs for issuance in 2026 with community input

EV Charging	Operational	Both parties have identified multiple sites and are evaluating feasibility studies.	Two grants of \$300k over 3 years Green the Church has installed their first project at Glad Tidings Church in Hayward	Interfaith Power and Light and Green the Church continue to work on identifying sites to build community-owned level 2 EV charging stalls.
Youth Training	Operational	Empowering young individuals through education and exposure to employment opportunities and hands-on training in clean energy technologies through partnerships with Rising Sun Center for Opportunity and AGAPE (a partnership between Cypress Mandela Training Center and Revalue.io)	Two grants of \$300k over 3 years trained over 150 youth in electrification trades	Students are beginning to matriculate into the job market. Rising Sun is developing an online jobs platform to help graduates find work in the trades.
Community Resilience Hubs	Operational	Emerald Cities Collaborative	Grant of \$300k over 1.5 years, completed three community workshops with over 170 participants and 26 unique community based organizations	ECC delivered first of three Community Workshops to engage potential Resilience Hub sites. Will continue outreach per the grant agreement