

# Equity Metrics in D.24-10-030

Framework for Workshop

R.21-06-017 High DER Proceeding



California Public  
Utilities Commission

# Logistics

- All attendees have been muted.
- To ask questions, please ‘raise your hand’  and a host will unmute you so you can ask your question.
- If you would rather type, use the “Chat” function. Questions will be read aloud by staff or responded to in the chat; attendees may be unmuted to respond to the answer verbally.

\*Reminder: Please press mute when done speaking



Chat

Participant List

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# Opening Remarks

Commissioner Darcie Houck

# Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Details
9:00 - 9:20 AM	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening remarks by Commissioner Houck</li> <li>Energy Division Background and Workshop Framing slides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop logistics</li> <li>Commissioner Darcie Houck sets the stage for the workshop and emphasize its purpose.</li> <li>Energy Division opens with context and frames the workshop objectives</li> </ul>
9:20 – 10:20 AM	<b>Overview of IOUs' Current DPP and proposed Metrics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation by IOUs</li> </ul>	Covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High level current distribution planning practices.</li> <li>Disaggregation efforts and existing metrics related to equity.</li> <li>Proposed equity-related metrics.</li> <li>Process of evaluation of the final list of metrics.</li> </ul>
10:20 - 10:30 AM	<b>Break</b>	
10:30 - 11:20 AM	<b>Presentations: Perspectives on Equity and Metrics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duncan Callaway – <b>UC Berkeley</b></li> <li><b>Energy Division</b> - Grid Resiliency and Microgrids/ Climate &amp; Equity Initiatives</li> <li>Faith Carlson - <b>Redwood Coast Energy Authority</b></li> <li>Roger Lin - <b>Center for Biological Diversity</b></li> <li>Linnea Jackson - <b>Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District</b></li> <li>Christine Selig - <b>PODER</b></li> <li>Jessica Tovar - <b>Local Energy Alliance</b></li> </ul>	Each panelist to share: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does an equitable DPP look like?</li> <li>How to define and measure equity in the DPP.</li> <li>Suggestions for metrics to track equity in utility distribution plans.</li> </ul>
11:20 - 12:00 PM	Open floor discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants' reactions to presentations.</li> <li>Questions to presenters (IOUs and SMEs)</li> </ul>	Taking comment and questions from the chat and raised hands about what participants agree with, disagree, and want to add.
12:00 – 12:10 PM	<b>Break</b>	
12:10 - 12:50 PM	<b>Expert Panel Discussion: Equity Challenges and Opportunities</b>	Facilitated by Energy Division with participation from SMEs, IOUs, and the public.
12:50 – 1:00 PM	Closing Remarks and Next Steps	Summary of key takeaway, closing remarks, and next steps

# Workshop Objectives

- **Define what equity means in the distribution planning process.**
- **Establish a vision of what the outcomes of an equitable distribution planning process look like.**
- **Propose data and metrics that can inform if the outcomes of the distribution planning process are equitable or inequitable.**
- **Propose data and metrics that can inform if equitable outcomes are increasing or decreasing.**

# Background and Framing

Energy Division

# Framing of Equity in the Distribution Planning & Execution Process (DPEP)

- The current regulatory compact includes the obligation to serve; utilities have the legal requirement to provide electric service to all customers in a non-discriminatory manner.
- Based on historical load, forecasts of future load and planning IOUs plan and execute distribution infrastructure where it is needed, and equipment must be used and useful to have costs recovered in rates.
- California's current trajectory emphasizes the importance of ensuring an equitable transition to electrification for everyone.
- The most recent HDER Decision directs that outcomes of the DPEP should be evaluated for equity.
- We do not have evidence on the High DER record that the current DPP is producing inequitable outcomes.
- Therefore, measuring and tracking metrics related to equity in the DPP will help evaluate if there are unintended inequitable outcomes.

# Equity in the current DPEP

- Historically DPEP is reactive, focused on customer service connection requests without addressing load growth origins or purpose.
- Do demographic-based forecasting methods, such as household income introduce unintentional bias into planning?
  - Example: SCE's use of high-income (e.g., \$150K+ households) assumptions as one factor in EV capacity forecasts –does this have any negative real-world impact on where infrastructure is built?
- How are equity-focused programs impacted by DPEP? What data should be tracked to inform this question?
- How are equity-driven EV infrastructure projects impacted by DPEP? What data should be tracked to inform this question?
- **What is needed is a data-driven approach to identifying equity metrics that can be measured to inform empirical analysis of DPEP outcomes to assess the degree to which equity is a problem or not.**

# Staff Proposal

## 3.3.4. Include Metrics to Evaluate Equity in Utility Distribution Plan Reporting

- **Key Goal 1: Proactively consider equity as a priority in distribution planning.**
- To ensure that the energy transition does not inadvertently leave vulnerable communities behind, equity must actively be considered in the DPEP. The inputs, methodologies, and outputs of the DPEP should be evaluated for their impact on equity. The DPEP should be coordinated with existing equity programs to ensure they are accommodated.
- **Common Stakeholder Agreement:** Need for stakeholder workshops to refine metrics.
- Define how to determine whether there is a lack of equity in the DPP, if this represents a problem and what variables are correlated with improved equity.

# Commission's Determination: OP 25

- Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and Southern California Edison Company (Utilities) must include metrics to track and evaluate equity in utility distribution plan reporting. **No later than 90 days from the issuance of this decision, Utilities shall hold a workshop to discuss further exploration of the following equity metrics, including correlated variables:**

Item	Metric
1	Percentage of customers served by the relevant equipment/facility enrolled in CARE (California Alternate Rates for Energy) or FERA (Family Electric Rate Assistance) programs.
2	Priority Populations Map percentile for the area served by the relevant equipment/facility, based on CalEPA's CalEnviroScreen 4.0 or the latest version.
3	Whether the equipment/facility serves a disadvantaged community. (Y/N)
4	Whether the equipment/facility serves a Tribal community. (Y/N)
5	Percentage of customers enrolled in the Medical Baseline program or receiving an equivalent medical discount in an opt-in rate without tiers.

No later than 45 days following the equity metrics workshop, Utilities shall submit a **Tier 3 advice letter** requesting approval of a final set of metrics and any correlated variables. The adopted equity metrics shall be considered for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Distribution Planning and Execution Process cycle. The adopted equity metrics shall be reported in the Grid Needs Assessment and Distribution Deferral Opportunity Report, now the Distribution Upgrade Project Report, annual filings.

# Overview of IOUs' Current DPP and proposed Metrics

Pacific Gas & Electric – Bill Peter

San Diego Gas & Electric – Kimberley Chong

Southern California Edison – David Castle, Belinda Vivas

# High DER: Equity Metrics Workshop

Joint Presentation by PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E

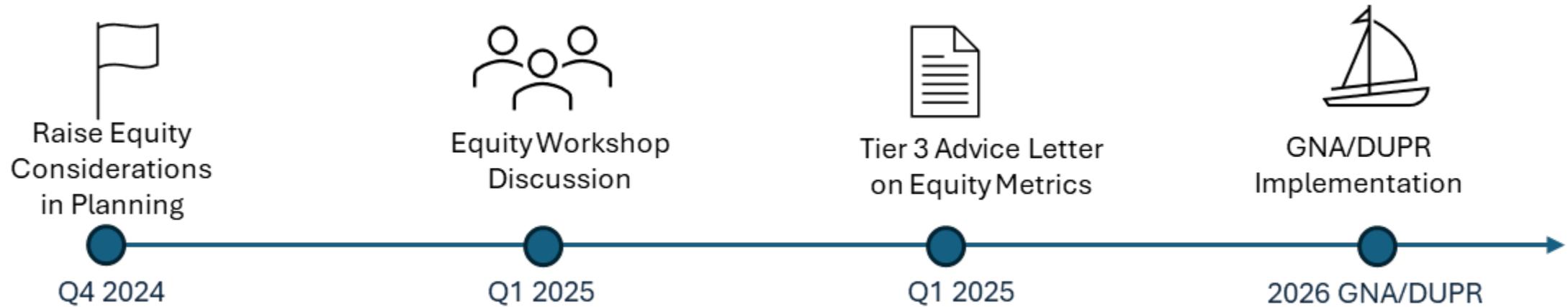
January 21, 2025



# Agenda

Topic	Presenter	Time
Introduction/Agenda	PG&E	9:20-9:25
Overview of the DPP	SCE	9:25-9:30
IOU Definition of Equity in Planning	SCE	9:30-9:32
CPUC's Proposed Metrics	SCE	9:32-9:35
PG&E/SCE Response to Proposed Metrics	SCE	9:35-9:40
SDG&E Response to Proposed Metrics	SDG&E	9:40-9:45
SDG&E Potential Metrics	SDG&E	9:45-9:55
PG&E and SCE Potential Metrics	PG&E	9:55-10:05
Additional Considerations and Conclusion	PG&E	10:05-10:10
Q&A	All	10:10-10:20

# Regulatory Timeline



# Overview of the DPP



# IOUs have an obligation to serve all customers

- Per CPUC Code Chapter 3 (451-666) "Every public utility shall furnish and maintain such adequate, efficient, just, and reasonable service, instrumentalities, equipment, and facilities, including telephone facilities, as defined in Section 54.1 of the Civil Code, as are necessary to promote the safety, health, comfort, and convenience of its patrons, employees, and the public."
- As noted by the Commission in the High DER final decision, "these metrics are requested for evaluation purposes, there is no framework wherein equity metrics are used for forecasting or planning distribution. The intention of this proposal is an annual evaluation of equity in distribution planning and does not involve modifying the planning process based on equity considerations."

# Distribution Planning Process (DPP)

The current **Distribution Planning Process** is an **annual, dynamic process** that identifies projected **distribution capacity** deficiencies and determines mitigation plans to address those projected deficiencies.

Dynamic Inputs (e.g., Load Requests, Project Developments, Customer Input)



Establish baseline assumptions

- Historical load data
- Known load applications
- Future load growth, load shapes
- Distributed Energy Resource (DER) adoption



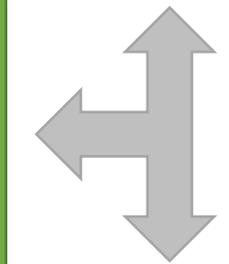
Assess forecasted distribution grid deficiencies

- Overloads
- Under/over voltage
- Protection issues



Find cost-optimal solution to address grid need

- Transfer load
- Asset replacement(s)
- New asset(s)
- Flexible service connection
- Non-wires alternatives



*Revisit and adjust plans annually and as needed*

Dynamic Inputs (e.g., Load Requests, Project Developments, Customer Input)

# Further Discussion on Forecasting

- Accurate forecasting is the foundation of equitable planning.
- Known loads are the basis for the majority of forecast load growth in the short term. These are customer requests at a specified location.
- In the mid- and long-term, the bulk of growth forecast today is based on the disaggregation of the IEPR's forecast of load growth (and DER growth).
  - The IOUs develop various models ("propensity models" or "technology adoption models") to allocate the load and DERs where, and in what amount, they are most likely to show up based on a variety of data sources correlating load and DER growth to customer and geographic attributes.
  - Details of the disaggregation methodology (including updates) are presented each year at the Distribution Forecast Working Group meeting each Spring.
- In the future, other new proactive planning concepts adopted by the High DER decision – in particular, pending loads, community engagement feeding back into planning, and scenario planning – will be integrated into the forecasting process.
- All of these methodologies are designed to create an accurate load growth forecast for each area, so that the utility can construct additional capacity where needed without building unnecessary capacity.

# IOU Definition of Equity in Planning



# What Does “Equity in Planning” Mean to the IOUs?

- CPUC has not formally defined the concept
- IOUs propose that “equity in utility planning” seeks to address the following:
  - Providing access to safe, reliable, and affordable energy, regardless of a customer’s socioeconomic status, race, or geographic location
  - Ensuring load growth of all customers is appropriately forecast
  - Ensuring all customer requests for expansion of service, or new service, are reasonably met

# CPUC's Proposed Metrics



# Metrics proposed in the Decision

- (1) Percentage of customers served by the relevant equipment/facility that are enrolled in the Commission's California Alternate Rates for Energy and/or the federal Family Electric Rate Assistance programs;
- (2) The Priority Populations Map on the California Environmental Protection Agency website and CalEnviroScreen 4.0, or the most recent update at the time of filing, percentile for the area served by the relevant equipment/facility;
- (3) Whether the equipment/facility serves a disadvantaged community;
- (4) Whether the equipment/facility serves a Tribal community
- (5) Percentage of customers enrolled in the Medical Baseline program(s) or receive the equivalent medical discount if they are enrolled in an opt-in rate that does not include tiers.

# CPUC and Governmental Agencies' Definition of Communities

**Disadvantaged Communities (DACs):** refers to the areas throughout California which most suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty, high unemployment, air and water pollution, presence of hazardous wastes as well as high incidence of asthma and heart disease. [CalEnviroScreen](#) can be used to determine which communities are the most burdened or "disadvantaged."

**Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Communities:** refers to predominantly communities of color or low-income communities that are underrepresented in the policy setting or decision-making process, subject to a disproportionate impact from one or more environmental hazards, and are likely to experience disparate implementation of environmental regulations and socioeconomic investments in their communities. CPUC includes the following as ESJs:

- DACs
- Tribal Lands
- Low-income households
- Low-income census tracts

**Priority Communities:** refers to disadvantaged Communities, low-income communities and low-income households meeting certain thresholds.

# PG&E/SCE Response to CPUC Metrics



# Summary of CPUC Metrics

- CPUC metrics are applied at the project level
- Customer groups based on a mix of customer counts and geospatial data
- Decision essentially proposes a **single metric type** applied to **five different criteria** of customer groups:

**Metric:**

*To what extent does a capacity project serve this group...*



**Five Customer groups:**

1. Low income (CARE/FERA)
2. Priority Populations (CalEnviroScreen)
3. Disadvantaged Communities (CalEnviroScreen)
4. Tribal Communities
5. Medical Baseline

# PG&E/SCE Discussion on metric type proposed in the decision

- The metric type of “To what extent does a capacity project serve a group” may not provide useful information on customer need, and therefore whether “equality in planning” is being achieved.
  - If the metrics simply measure the projects and what customer groups they are serving, it doesn’t show whether the planning process is meeting the capacity needs for those customer groups. For example, there could be sufficient headroom without the need for a new project .
- SCE and PG&E propose alternative metrics that consider both customer need as well as capacity projects deployed to meet the needs. These metrics will be much more insightful to assessing whether “equity in planning” has been achieved.
  - SCE and PG&E plan to provide the data listed in the decision, but recommend that focus be the proposed metrics, which will offer greater insight into actual customer outcomes.

# SDG&E Response to CPUC Metrics



# SDG&E Discussion on metrics proposed in the decision

- Identifies and maps customer types and specific demographics
- Measures and provides insight into metric percentages
- Provides transparent data on impacted groups
- Provides a baseline to explore future equity adjustments

## ***SDG&E Proposal:***

- 1. Report CPUC-proposed metrics within the Distribution Upgrade Project Report (DUPR)**

# SDG&E's Proposed Reporting of Metrics in DUPR

- The Distribution Upgrade Project Report (DUPR) is the successor to the Distribution Deferral Opportunity Report (DDOR)
- DUPR will provide stakeholders with an overview of each IOU's new Distribution Upgrade Projects to address grid needs in the DPP

Metric	Source	Reporting Format
CARE/FERA Enrollment	SDG&E	% of customers
CES4.0 Percentile		Not reportable*
Serves DAC*	CalEPA	% of customers
Serves Tribal	CalEPA	% of customers
Medical Baseline Designation	SDG&E	% of customers

\*The SB535 Priority Populations designation ("DACs") includes CES4.0 percentiles

# SDG&E Potential Equity Metrics



# SDG&E's Potential Metrics

- Define DAC as outlined in the equity scenario of the Electrification Impact Study Part 2
  - SB535 Priority Populations
    - CalEnviroScreen 4.0
    - Low Income
    - Tribal
  - CARE/FERA
  - Medical Baseline
  
- SDG&E considering this definition to evaluate the following metrics
  1. Project Initiated
  2. Load Growth Ratio

# SDG&E Potential Metric #1: Project Initiated

This metric measures the proportion of projects that are initiated on DAC circuits compared to non-DAC circuits, ensuring that grid needs for DAC and non-DAC are appropriately mitigated.

- Project initiation date is a required\* reporting field in the DUPR. SDG&E defines initiation date as the date scoping or solutioning is completed.
- Distribution upgrade projects refers to the projects that are required\* to be reported in the DUPR.
- Any circuit serving customers defined as DAC (per EIS Part 2 definition) will be designated as a DAC circuit

$$\frac{\text{Number of Distribution Upgrade Projects Initiated}}{\text{Number of Distribution Upgrade Projects}}$$

\*D.24-10-030 p.129

## SDG&E Potential Metric #2: Load Growth

This metric measures the proportion of load growth forecast for DAC customers compared to non-DAC customers, providing a transparent indicator of load growth for each group that may be considered for future equity adjustments.

- Mirrors equity analysis in Electrification Impact Study Part 2

$$\frac{\sum DAC \text{ Load Growth}}{\sum All \text{ Load Growth}} \text{ vs. } \frac{\sum DAC \text{ Customers}}{\sum All \text{ Customers}}$$

# PG&E & SCE Potential Equity Metrics



# Summary of PG&E/SCE's Potential Metrics and Variables

**IOUs suggest two metrics, measured for each customer group and for the system overall.**

## Metrics:

1. **Grid Access (“Head room”)**
2. **Project Initiation**



## Five Customer groups:

1. Low income (CARE/FERA)
  2. Disadvantaged Communities (CalEnviroScreen)
  3. Tribal Communities
  4. Medical Baseline
- +  
System

\*The SB535 Priority Populations designation ("DACs") includes CES4.0 percentiles, therefore we are consolidating the DAC and Priority Communities customer groups.

# PG&E/SCE Metric #1 Grid Access (Current and Forecast)

**Equity in planning** means: “Our planning results in same grid access for different customer groups”

- Measures the amount of “headroom” per circuit (MW) for various customer groups
- Measures and reports headroom for all feeders for year 1 (current) and year 5 (forecast)
- For future year(s), headroom will consider forecasted load growth as well as planned capacity investments

**Grid Access Metric (calculated for each circuit):**

*Circuit Capacity Rating  
– Circuit Peak Loading*

**Customer Group Aggregation**

$\frac{\sum(\text{Capacity Rating} - \text{Peak Loading})}{\sum \text{Count of Circuits}}$

(Calculated for each customer group as well as systemwide)

Note that the metric result may depend on the topography of the circuits serving a customer type (e.g., how long the feeder is).

## PG&E/SCE Metric #2: Project Initiation

**Equity in planning** means: "On average, different communities can expect needed projects to be approved with the same urgency"

- Measures the percentage of projects in flight for various customer groups.

### Already captured in GNA / DUPR

- **Projects Initiated**
- **Projects Identified**

### Customer group Aggregation

$$\frac{\sum \text{Projects Initiated}}{\sum \text{Projects Identified}}$$

(Calculated for each customer group as well as systemwide)

- "Project Initiated" is defined as project approved, budgeted, and queued for execution. This includes only Planned Investments, as set forth in the GNA/DUPR.
- "Project Identified" means a grid need is identified, and includes both funded Planned Investments and unfunded Planned Solutions, as set forth in Grid Needs Assessment/ Distribution Upgrade Project Reports (GNA/DUPR) submitted by PG&E and SCE.

# Summary of PG&E/SCE's Potential Metrics and Variables

**We are contemplating these two metrics, measured for each customer group and for the system overall.**

PG&E/SCE Potential Variable No.*	Metric 1: Grid Access (Current and Forecast)	Metric 2: Project Initiation
1	CARE/FERA	CARE/FERA
2	DAC	DAC
3	Tribal Community	Tribal Community
4	Medical Baseline	Medical Baseline
5	System (All Customers)	System (All Customers)

\*The SB535 Priority Populations designation ("DACs") includes CES 4.0 percentiles, therefore we are consolidating the DAC and Priority Communities customer groups.

# Open Question: How to classify whether a given feeder serves a given customer group

- Almost all circuits serve multiple customer groups
- Each feeder would need to be designated as whether it serves each community group
- Some customers groups are defined at customer level whereas others are defined geo-spatially.

# Additional Consideration

## Other Considerations: Energization Timing

- The Energization OIR is establishing reporting of energization requests, including when energization requests “trigger” an upstream capacity upgrade.
  - This data will inform Timelines for Upstream Capacity Upgrades
- The IOUs propose to leverage the outcomes of the Energization OIR reporting and outcomes in the Distribution Planning Process
  - This will avoid creating duplicative or conflicting metrics or data with the Energization OIR

# Conclusion

# Conclusion and Next Steps

- The IOUs are supportive of efforts to evaluate equity in planning through metrics and other related activities
  - The IOUs will be assessing an equity scenario as of the Electrification Impact Study (EIS) Part 2
  - The IOUs will also be developing community engagement plans targeted towards DACs and ESJs
- Potential metrics are presented for consideration and discussion, and IOUs will consider feedback from today's workshop as well as the above efforts before finalizing proposed metrics in the Advice Letter due in March 2025
- Once the metrics are approved, the IOUs will need to work through any data and technical challenges to implement and begin reporting
- A framework is still needed to evaluate the data prior to considering any changes to the distribution planning processes
  - Any changes should consider and not negate the IOUs' obligation to serve all customers.

# Q&A



**Break – 10 minutes**



# Presentations: **Perspectives on Equity and Metrics**

# PhD. Duncan Callaway

UC Berkeley – Associate Professor  
Department of Energy & Resources Group  
Division of Electrical Engineering



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# Perspectives on equity metrics

Duncan Callaway  
UC Berkeley  
January 21, 2025

## A vision of the future ...

- As costs for EVs and other electrified end-uses come down, adoption rates skyrocket for customer groups that have not historically adopted these technologies

## ..that we must avoid

- Distribution companies don't have adequate staff and access to materials like transformers and protection equipment to meet this unexpected need
- As a result, service upgrades are denied for these customers at a higher rate than they are for others

# Definition: *equitable access* to distribution grid services

- **Access:**

- Whether or not a customer is presently **able to connect** new DER and loads
- For those customers that are unable, the **time** it takes for distribution companies to provide the ability

- ***Equitable access:***

- Access (ability to connect, time to wait for the ability) is independent of factors like race, ethnicity, income, and linguistic isolation

# Definitions: Short term vs long term planning

- **Short term planning:** deciding what projects will actually get built
  - **Long term planning:** investigating scenarios to understand the importance of long-term measures like
    - Workforce development
    - Supply chain development
    - Non-wires alternatives
- ...on factors like:
- Whether customers will have equitable access
  - Ratepayer cost

# What does an equitable DPP look like?

1. Projects that get approved and built are used and useful
  - This contains ratepayer costs while ensuring access
2. Distribution companies take measure to ensure they can:
  - respond to a range of future DER and load adoption scenarios, and
  - maintain equitable access

## Key principle:

- Equitable access does not mean all customers have the same capacity for new load
- ...but distribution companies must build new capacity in a timely manner as the *need* arises

# How to measure equity in DPP?

- First, decide the scale at which to measure factors like race, ethnicity, and income
  - By customer, or
  - In a geographic area, like a census tract
- Track customer wait time to connect new load and DER
- Study a range of adoption scenarios to determine the highest plausible long-term need for
  - Number of distribution grid projects and staff required to complete them
  - Materials for those projects (transformers, protection equipment, etc)
- Ensure those needs can be met across all scenarios

# Critical step: Adoption scenario development

- Who will adopt new DER and loads over the next decade?
- Using historical trends to predict this may lead to inequitable access in the future, *if those predictions are wrong*
- There is a need for alternative adoption scenarios with more participation from low-income groups and communities of color
  - Stakeholder engagement is important here to ensure outcomes are procedurally just

# Energy Division

## Grid Resiliency and Microgrids Climate & Equity Initiatives

Meghan Cook – CPUC Climate Adaptation Analyst

Rosanne Ratkiewich – CPUC Grid Resilience and Microgrids Analyst



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# Equity Metrics in the Climate Adaptation Proceeding

## Presentation to the DPP Equity Metrics Workshop

Meghan Cook – CPUC Climate Adaptation Analyst  
January 21, 2025



# Climate Adaptation Proceeding - R.18-04-019

**Purpose:** Requires IOUs to assess forecasted extreme climate impacts on energy infrastructure and IOU operations decades into the future and identify options to mitigate threats by developing and submitting to the CPUC:

- Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment (**CAVA**) every 4 years
- Community Engagement Plan (**CEP**) one year before their CAVA
  - CEP outlines how IOUs plan to engage with DVCs before, during, and after CAVA process

**Informational:** CAVAs are used to inform Risk Mitigation (RAMP), general rate cases (GRCs), and may be used in other long-term planning proceedings (e.g., Integrated Resource Plans, Gas Planning)

**Equity Targets:** Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Communities (**DVC**) defined as: 1) Tribes, 2) 25% highest CalEnviroScreen scores, 3) median income less than 60% of state median

# Improvements to CAVA Requirements

- Commission adopted D.24-08-005 establishing improved CAVA guidelines on August 1, 2024
- Updates climate science & analysis requirements for CAVAs to align with best available science
  - Adopts new baseline climate scenario: SSP 3-7.0
  - Adopts Global Warming Level Approach for climate modeling
    - Requires IOUs to examine 1.5°C and 2°C warming scenarios
  - Orders IOUs to update requirements as Climate Assessments update best practices
- Requires IOUs to publicly present and seek stakeholder input on draft CAVAs 90 days prior to submitting to the CPUC
- Requires that IOUs demonstrate **Incrementality**, **Prioritization**, **Cost-Effectiveness**, and **Justification** of any post-CAVA investment requests in GRC or other applications

# Phase 2 of Climate Adaptation Proceeding

- **Proceeding Scope to Consider Improvements:**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Should the Commission refine requirements regarding consultations with DVCs and the preparation of CEPs adopted in D.20-08-046 with regard to large IOUs, including but not limited to:</b>
<b>1.1</b>	Additional guidance regarding the purpose and intended outcomes of the CEP and DVC consultation processes?
<b>1.2</b>	Ways to reduce consultation fatigue and/or coordinate with other proceeding outreach processes?
<b>1.3</b>	Modifications to the definition of DVC adopted in D.20-08-026?
<b>1.4</b>	Additional guidance regarding consultation and collaboration with local governments during risk and vulnerability assessment processes? During adaptation proposal identification processes?
<b>1.5</b>	Refinement of Tribal consultation processes specific to climate adaptation matters?
<b>1.6</b>	Additional guidance regarding methods and scope for the determination of community adaptive capacity in CAVA analyses?
<b>2.</b>	<b>What are the impacts on environmental and social justice communities of actions taken in this proceeding, including the extent to which requirements impact achievement of any of the nine goals of the Commission's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan?</b>

# Consideration of Equity Metrics for the CAVAs

- The existing process for incorporating equity into the CAVA process is qualitative
  - Community Engagement Plans
  - Public comment opportunities on CAVAs
- Equity metrics can be incorporated into the analysis to provide a **quantitative** equity lens for climate adaptation in IOU planning
  - Complementary to the existing qualitative approach

# Workshops to Consider Refinements to Equity

- CPUC held three public workshops in Fall 2024 as part of Phase 2:
  - **Community Engagement Workshops (2):** Address challenges of community engagement for CAVA process
  - **Equity Metrics Workshop (1):** Explore methodologies and metrics that can measure adaptive capacity impacts of CAVAs on DVCs
- Stakeholders included IOUs and community-based organizations, tribes, local governments, researchers, etc.
- Visit [our website](#) for workshop slides and recordings

# Qualities of Equity Metrics in Climate Adaptation

- *Methods for quantitatively measuring a community's adaptive capacity to climate impacts*
  - **Adaptive Capacity:** A community's ability to adapt to climate impacts either by preventing impacts or recovering from them
  - **Climate Vulnerability:** How likely/ how intensely a community may be affected by climate impacts such as fire, flooding, heat, etc.
- CAVAs consider vulnerability of both communities and the energy infrastructure they rely on

# Equity Workshop Framework

- *Issues Posed to Stakeholders:*
  - Should CAVAs require a combination of different metrics and methods?
  - Are different metrics useful for different purposes?
  - How might results vary depending on what metrics are used or how they are weighted?
- Potential Types of Metrics
  - Example: Household or census tract median income, Proximity to resources, Access to transportation, Pollution burden, Race or ethnicity, Age, Gender, Physical ability / health, Language barriers, Risk of a given climate event [flood, fire, heat, etc.]
- Presentation of Quantitative Tools

# Takeaways from Equity Metrics Workshop

- **Emerging Research:** Use of energy equity metrics on state policy level is cutting-edge
- **Social Vulnerability Metrics:** Adaptive capacity of communities to outages/climate events in proximity to essential services (e.g., Sandia/ReNCAT tool)
- **Aggregating Data:** An example of a way to aggregate data is the (e.g., Vulnerable Communities Platform/California Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI))
- **Visual Data / Mapping:** Informing priorities and identifying impacts on DVCs aligned with diverse geography and climate change impacts
- **Developing Criteria:** Could inform best practices for tools and methodologies given diversity of IOU service territories and long-lived best practices that address evolving policies and technologies

# Climate Adaptation Proceeding Next Steps

- Address Remaining Issues Scoped for Phase 2
  - Address identified community engagement barriers such as fatigue, funding, etc.
  - Considerations for a quantitative approach to measuring adaptive capacity
- Anticipate proposed decision addressing Phase 2 issues in mid-2025

## For more information:

- **Visit:** [www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/climate-change](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/climate-change)
- **Email:**
  - Meghan Cook at [meghan.cook@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:meghan.cook@cpuc.ca.gov)



# Appendix

# Climate Adaptation Equity Metrics Workshop Agenda

- Presentations from IOUs on existing use of metrics in CAVAs
  - SCE's use of their Community Resilience Metric (CRM)
  - PG&E's use of FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Index
- Presentations from technical experts on existing tools and research
  - **Sandia National Lab** – Resilience Node Cluster Analysis Tool (ReNCAT)
  - **Pacific Northwest National Lab (PNNL)** – Energy Equity Resource Repository and other research
  - **Lawrence Berkeley National Lab** – National landscape of resilience planning and other research
  - **California Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)** – Vulnerable Communities Platform
  - **PSE Health Energy** – Research on equity impacts of outages
  - **Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)** – Climate READi Texas Case Study
  - **CPUC Staff** – Resiliency Valuation Index
- Visit [our website](#) for workshop slides and recordings



California Public  
Utilities Commission

# Equity Metrics and Resilience Planning

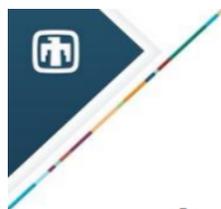
## Presentation to the DPP Equity Metrics Workshop

Rosanne Ratkiewich – CPUC Grid Resilience and Microgrids Analyst  
January 21, 2025



# Equity & Social Burden

Sandia National Laboratories partnered with Southern California Edison (SCE) to explore applications of the [social burden index](#).



## Equity and resilience are interdependent

Resilience is a component of equity

- Cannot have a truly equitable energy system if some communities are more resilient than others

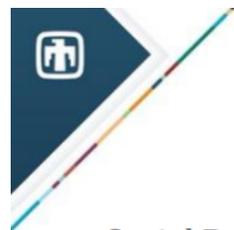
However, equity is also a component of resilience

- Energy system is embedded in communities (social) and within other (physical) infrastructures
  - Embedded social inequalities independent of the energy system also impact equity
- Inequities are vulnerabilities
- Vulnerabilities reduce resilience
- Can escalate events from local concern to national security priority
  - e.g., New Orleans, Puerto Rico



# Equity & Social Burden

The focus of the pilot project was on social burden as a resilience metric but the blue-sky baseline might be a metric to consider applying to distribution planning.



## Introduction to Social Burden

Social Burden measures the ability of the built environment to provide people with the critical services they need for health and wellbeing, relative to people's differing abilities to obtain those services.

In a grid resilience context, Social Burden can help prioritize resilience investments to mitigate disproportionate harm from outages. It is a quantitative metric to measure *both resilience & equity*.

Burden to acquire a service:

- Increases with distance to facilities
- Decreases with additional facilities (diminishing returns, non-linear)
- Decreases with ability (a study-specific combination of socioeconomic and other indicators: **\*SCE's Community Resilience Metric**)



$$\text{Social Burden} = \text{Effort/Ability} \cong \frac{\text{Effort to Obtain Service}_{\text{people, services}}}{\text{Service Levels}_{\text{facilities, services}} \times \text{Baseline Capacity}_{\text{people}}}$$

Wachtel, A., Melander, D., & Jeffers, R. (2022). Measuring Societal Infrastructure Service Burden (No. SAND2022-2029R). Sandia National Lab.(SNL-NM), Albuquerque, NM (United States).

## For more information:

- **Visit:** <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/resiliencyandmicrogrids>
- **Email:**
  - Rosanne Ratkiewich at [rosanne.ratkiewich@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rosanne.ratkiewich@cpuc.ca.gov)



# Community Choice Association

Jennifer Baak – California Community Choice Association (CalCCA)

Faith Carlson – Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA)



California Public  
Utilities Commission

# Equity Metrics Workshop CCA Perspective

January 21, 2025

**Presenters:**

Jennifer Baak – California Community Choice Association (CalCCA)

Faith Carlson – Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA)

# What are CCAs?



Community aggregation of electricity load to:

- Purchase clean, renewable energy
- Set competitive rates vis-à-vis IOU generation rates
- Develop local programs for residents and businesses



Community-driven public agencies, not for-profit corporations, operating as:

- Joint powers authorities (SDCP)
- Single jurisdictions (CleanPowerSF, SJCE)
- Hybrid JPAs (CalChoice)



Enabled by AB 117 (2002) to allow energy choice for retail customers. In 2024, CCAs serve:

- 216 communities
- 21 of 58 counties (34%)
- 195 of 462 cities/towns (42%)
- 14 million+ California customers

# CCA Perspective on Equitable Distribution Planning

- Affordable Electrification
  - DER Program/Tariff Design
  - DER Targeting/Siting
  - Gas System Retirement Impacts
- Reliability/Resiliency Upgrades
- Energization



- Reliable customer access to the grid
- Access to essential services
- Grid capacity for electrification



## Recommendations:

- Apply existing metrics on outage duration, frequency, etc. to more granular areas, potentially down to the transformer.
- Include more outage types, such as EPSS, PSPS outages.
- Report on a percentile basis which transformers have worst performance.
  - Include as a layer with ICA maps.
  - Layer with DAC, CalEnviroScreen, CARE/FERA and Medical Baseline enrollment rates, and CPUC defined Areas of Affordability concern.
- Report on frequency of maintenance preventative vs reactive (outage based) maintenance.



- Recommendations:
  - Measure customer ability to access Essential Services, Critical Facilities, and Community Resource Centers during outage by distance to nearest such facility.
    - How reliable is power to these facilities?
    - Do these facilities have resilient technologies so they can stay online in outage?
    - How quickly are these facilities being built and is there capacity for new facilities of these types?
  - Layer this with the previous metrics.



- Recommendations:
  - Improve reliability for those without access due to infrastructure
    - Address previous two outcomes.
  - For those without access to electrification due to cost
    - Look into panel upgrade alternatives for equity areas to ensure that those customers do not get priced out of electrification if capacity upgrades may be needed.
    - Keep watch for other cost savings proposals.

# Thank You!

Jennifer Baak  
Senior Distribution Case Manager  
[Jennifer@Cal-CCA.org](mailto:Jennifer@Cal-CCA.org)

Faith Carlson  
Regulatory and Legislative Policy  
Manager  
[FCarlson@RedwoodEnergy.org](mailto:FCarlson@RedwoodEnergy.org)

# Center for Biological Diversity

Roger Lin – Senior Attorney



California Public  
Utilities Commission

# **Rulemaking to Modernize the Electric Grid for a High Distributed Energy Resources Future**

Equity Metrics Workshop

January 21, 2025



## Intro: We already know the grid is inequitable.

- Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) face “systematically lower circuit hosting capacity for PV” relative to non-DAC communities.
- Targeted grid (or non-wire) investments?

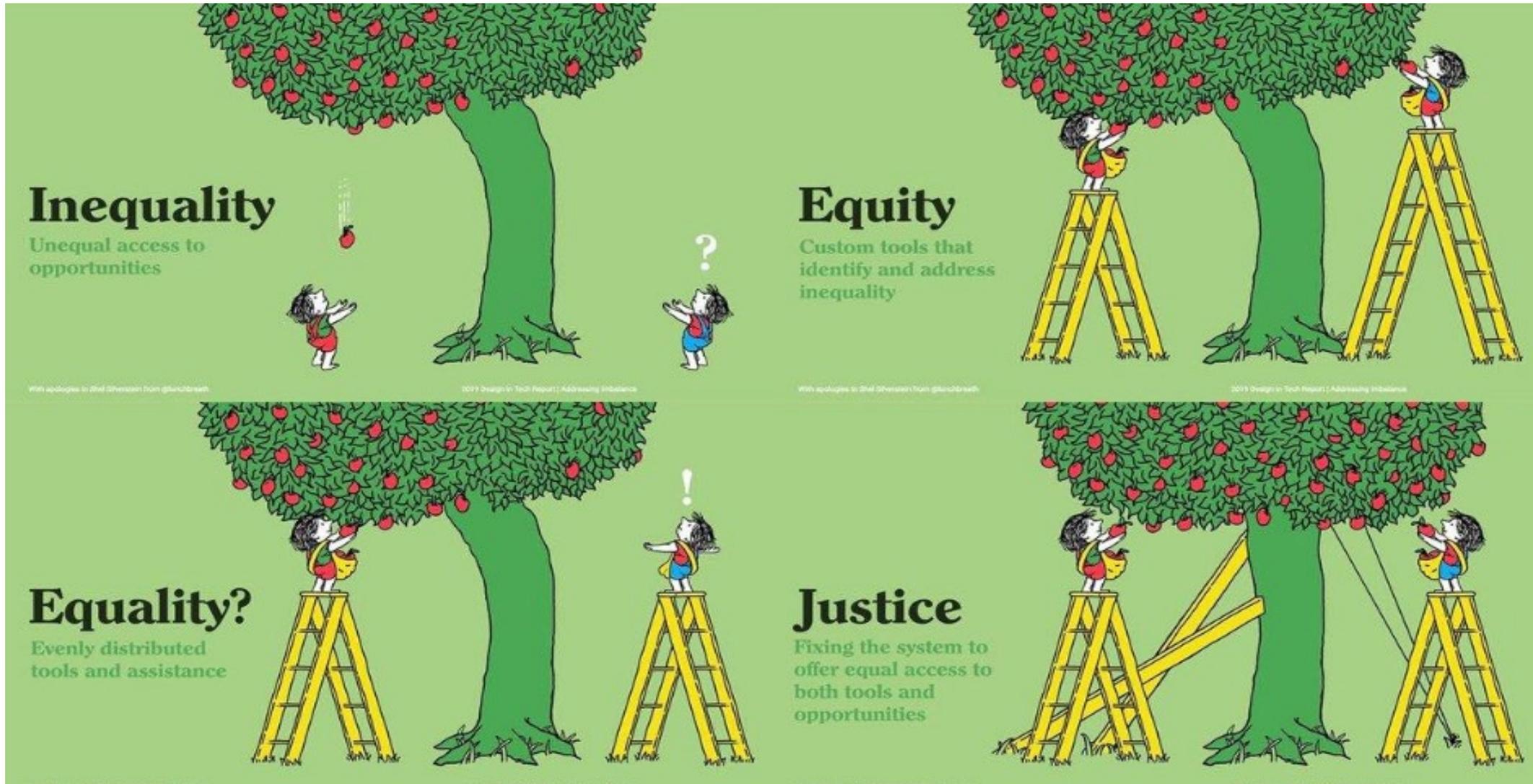
To achieve a high DER future, “there is an opportunity to **put at the front of the queue** communities with historically low DER adoption rates . . .”

[- Brockway, Conde and Callaway, \*Inequitable Access to Distributed Energy Resources Due to Grid Infrastructure Limits in California\* \(September 2021\).](#)

## Decision Authorizing this Workshop:

- What are we doing here?
  - “while these metrics are requested for evaluation purposes, there is no framework wherein equity metrics are used for forecasting or planning distribution. The intention of this proposal is an **annual evaluation of equity in distribution planning** and **does not involve modifying the planning process based on equity considerations.**”
- Community engagement (will come back to this)

# What is Equity in Distribution Planning?



## Intro: We already know the grid is inequitable.

- Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) face “systematically lower circuit hosting capacity for PV” relative to non-DAC communities.
- Targeted grid (or non-wire) investments?

To achieve a high DER future, “there is an opportunity to **put at the front of the queue** communities with historically low DER adoption rates . . .”

*- Inequitable Access to Distributed Energy Resources Due to Grid Infrastructure Limits in California (September 2021) Brockway, Conde and Callaway.*

# Opportunity: Community Engagement

- IOUs required to address “how **community needs** (including the Tribal community, disadvantaged community, and environmental social justice and equity concerns **are incorporated** into Utilities’ [Distribution Planning].”
- How can a High DER future **serve the needs** of DAC residents?
  - Community resilience?
  - Community priorities for decarbonization?
  - Community ownership of resources?
  - Community economic development opportunities?
  - Other? Find out!
- **Partner with and fund CBOs** to make engagement meaningful (maybe some of these other presenters?)
  - SB 350 Low-Income Barriers Study, part A, Recommendation (incorporated in ESJ Action Plan and prior Commission decisions)

# Metrics to track equity in utility distribution plans

- (Technical) Burden should not be on public
- Quantitative:
  - Resiliency
    - Example: [PSE Healthy Energy, Incorporating Equity in Energy Resilience \(2024\)](#)
  - Medical Baseline
- Qualitative:
  - Community Engagement
    - How many communities engaged?
    - Which identified projects have been prioritized or built?
      - How many community needs met?

# Hoopla Valley Public Utilities District

Linnea Jackson – General Manager



California Public  
Utilities Commission

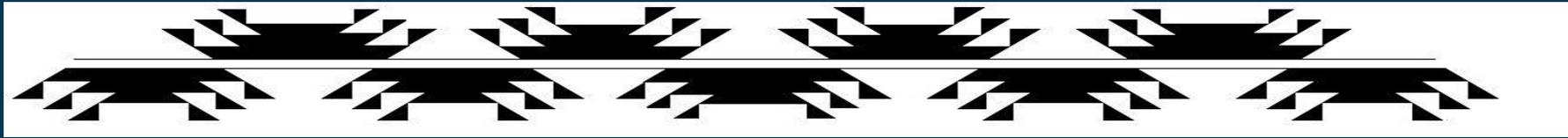
# ENERGY METRICS WORKSHOP

JANUARY 21, 2025



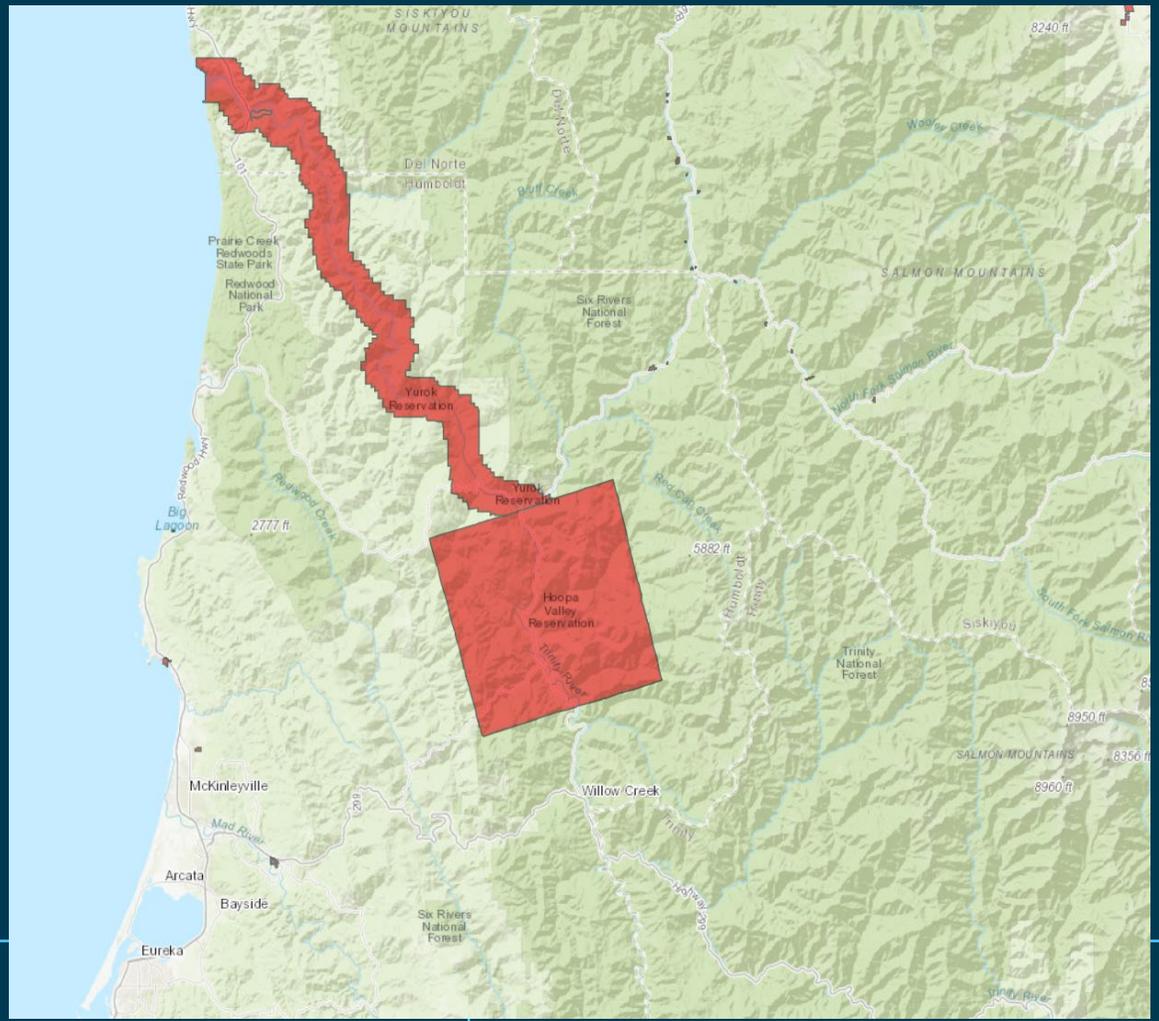
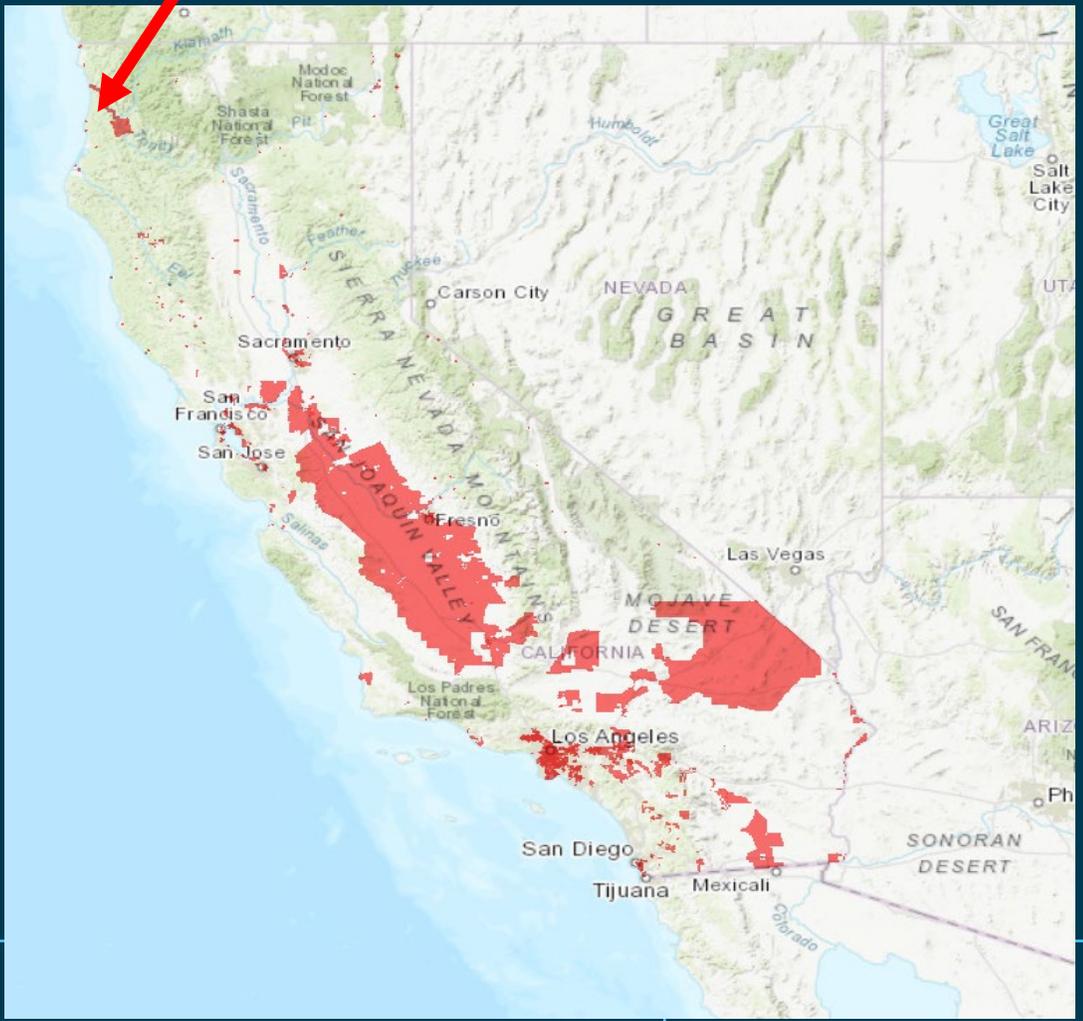
# HUMBOLDT COUNTY





HVPUD was chartered in 1982 and for the past 43 years we have provided essential critical services to the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation including water, broadband and energy initiatives.

# DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES MAP 2022



# Fire Risk Map Northeast Humboldt County

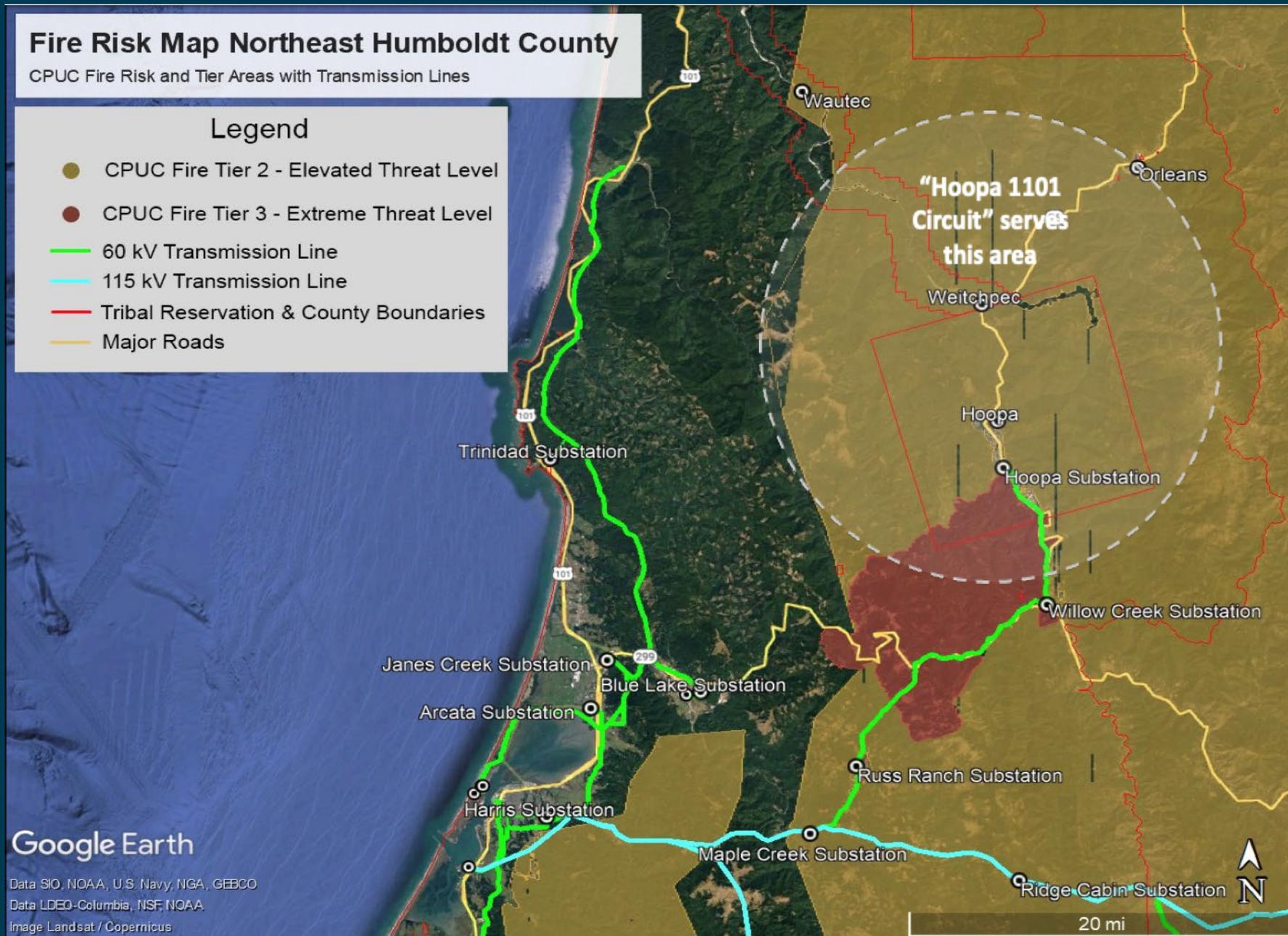
CPUC Fire Risk and Tier Areas with Transmission Lines

## Legend

- CPUC Fire Tier 2 - Elevated Threat Level
- CPUC Fire Tier 3 - Extreme Threat Level
- 60 kV Transmission Line
- 115 kV Transmission Line
- Tribal Reservation & County Boundaries
- Major Roads

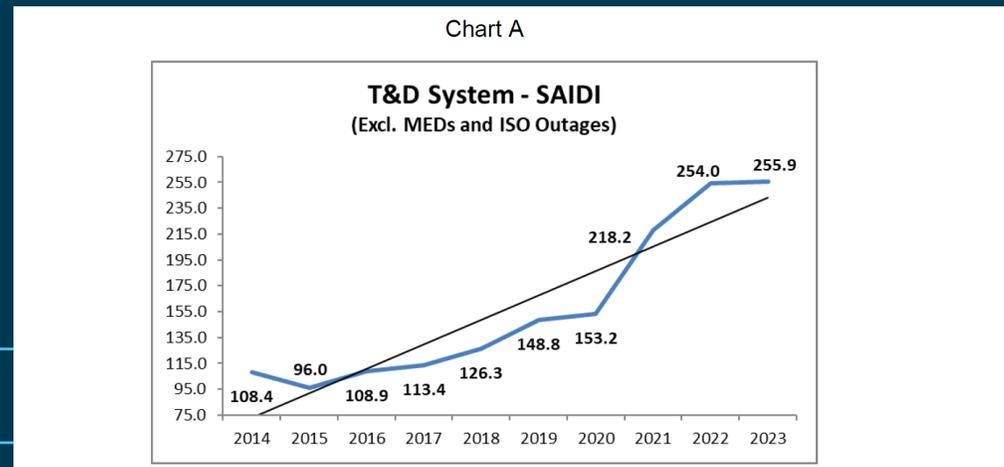
Google Earth

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA  
Image Landsat / Copernicus



# PG&E 2023 ANNUAL ELECTRIC RELIABILITY REPORT- TOP 1% OF WORST PERFORMING CIRCUITS

- The net total of 33 individual circuits represents one percent of the total number of circuits in PG&E's distribution system.
- For the purposes of this reliability report, PG&E's focus in developing the worst performing circuit lists has been on the impact on the *average customer on the circuit*.
- The average PG&E customer throughout PG&E's territory experiences 255.9 outage minutes per customer.



## HOOPA 1101 STATISTICS (ON BOTH THE WORST PERFORMING CIRCUITS BY OUTAGE FREQUENCY AND THE DURATION OF THE SUSTAINED OUTAGES)

TABLE 73 FOCUSES ON THE DURATION OF SUSTAINED OUTAGES-THE HOOPA 1101 CIRCUIT EXPERIENCES 2,447 OUTAGES MINUTES, WHICH **9.6 TIMES** THE AVERAGE.

#	DIVISION	SUBSTATION	CIRCUIT NAME	TOTAL CUSTOMERS	CIRCUIT MILES	% OH	% UG	HFTD	3YR AVG MAINLINE OUTAGES	3 YR AVG AIDI
1	HUMBOLDT	GARBERVILLE	GARBERVILLE-1102	1818	142	94	6	1 & 2	27	3629
2	NORTH VALLEY	PIT NO 5	PIT NO 5-1101*	123	27	89	11	2	9	3459
3	FRESNO	BALCH NO 1	BALCH NO 1-1101	27	15	100	0	2	2	3252
4	DE ANZA	LOS GATOS	LOS GATOS-1106*	1619	74	96	4	2 & 3	17	3024
5	KERN	POSO MOUNTAIN	POSO MOUNTAIN-2101	147	59	100	0	1 & 2	17	2859
6	HUMBOLDT	HOOPA	HOOPA-1101*	2098	142	92	8	1, 2, & 3	19	2447
7	HUMBOLDT	WILLOW CREEK	WILLOW CREEK-1103*	1548	88	88	12	2 & 3	11	2225
8	NORTH VALLEY	ELK CREEK	ELK CREEK-1101*	901	175	91	9	1 & 2	16	2129
9	PENINSULA	WOODSIDE	WOODSIDE-1101	1806	74	84	16	1, 2, & 3	7	2124
10	FRESNO	DEVILS DEN	DEVILS DEN-1101	68	34	100	0	1	6	2072
11	NORTH VALLEY	CHALLENGE	CHALLENGE-1101*	706	49	98	2	2 & 3	8	2022
12	CENTRAL COAST	BEN LOMOND	BEN LOMOND-0401*	889	24	96	4	3	14	2014
13	SIERRA	ALLEGHANY	ALLEGHANY-1102	165	18	94	6	3	4	1999
14	SIERRA	ALLEGHANY	ALLEGHANY-1101*	1078	78	97	3	1, 2, & 3	12	1909
15	CENTRAL COAST	FELTON	FELTON-0401	49	4	75	25	1, 2, & 3	1	1908
16	SIERRA	PLACERVILLE	PLACERVILLE-2106	5344	287	95	5	1, 2, & 3	18	1720
17	CENTRAL COAST	BEN LOMOND	BEN LOMOND-1101	744	15	100	0	3	11	1718
18	CENTRAL COAST	LOS OSITOS	LOS OSITOS-2103*	845	110	94	6	1 & 2	14	1715
19	NORTH BAY	SILVERADO	SILVERADO-2104*	3792	155	88	12	1, 2, & 3	19	1704
20	KERN	POSO MOUNTAIN	POSO MOUNTAIN-2103	26	20	100	0	1 & 2	5	1702
21	NORTH VALLEY	BUCKS CREEK	BUCKS CREEK-1101	5	5	100	0	2 & 3	0	1687
22	YOSEMITE	CURTIS	CURTIS-1703	3888	206	96	4	1, 2, & 3	10	1559

Table 73

## **CRITICAL METRICS**

- **Prioritization of Marginalized Communities**
- **Government/Community Engagement**
- **Transparency and Accessibility –Access to data**
- **Fair Distribution of Benefits and Burdens**
- **Metrics for Evaluation-**
- **Customer Enrollment in programs like CARE, FERA and the Medical Baseline Program.**
- **Community characteristics like CalEnviroScreen scores and service areas in a disadvantaged community or Tribal community.**
- **Energization of tribal government projects**

# FUTURE METRICS

- Customer service

- Metrics to track project execution in utility distribution plan reporting

- Metrics to track whether the grid needs are fully addressed by the planned investment.

- Metrics related to **community engagement**, including the level of participation and how community feedback is incorporated into the DPP.

- Metrics that track the **impact of distribution planning on underserved communities** and how effectively their needs are being addressed

- Metrics related to **access to renewable energy resources**

- The metrics tracked should reflect a **holistic view of equity**, including energy burden, access to programs, health impacts, and community self-determination.

- Metrics should be tracked on an annual basis as part of the Grid Needs Assessment and Distribution Deferral Opportunity Report process.



# THANK YOU!



LINNEA JACKSON, HVPUD GM  
(530) 625-4543  
GM@HOOPAVALLEYPUD.COM



# PODER

PhD. Christine Selig - Advisory Board Member



California Public  
Utilities Commission

# Christine Selig

Christine Selig Associates  
[www.christineselig.com](http://www.christineselig.com)

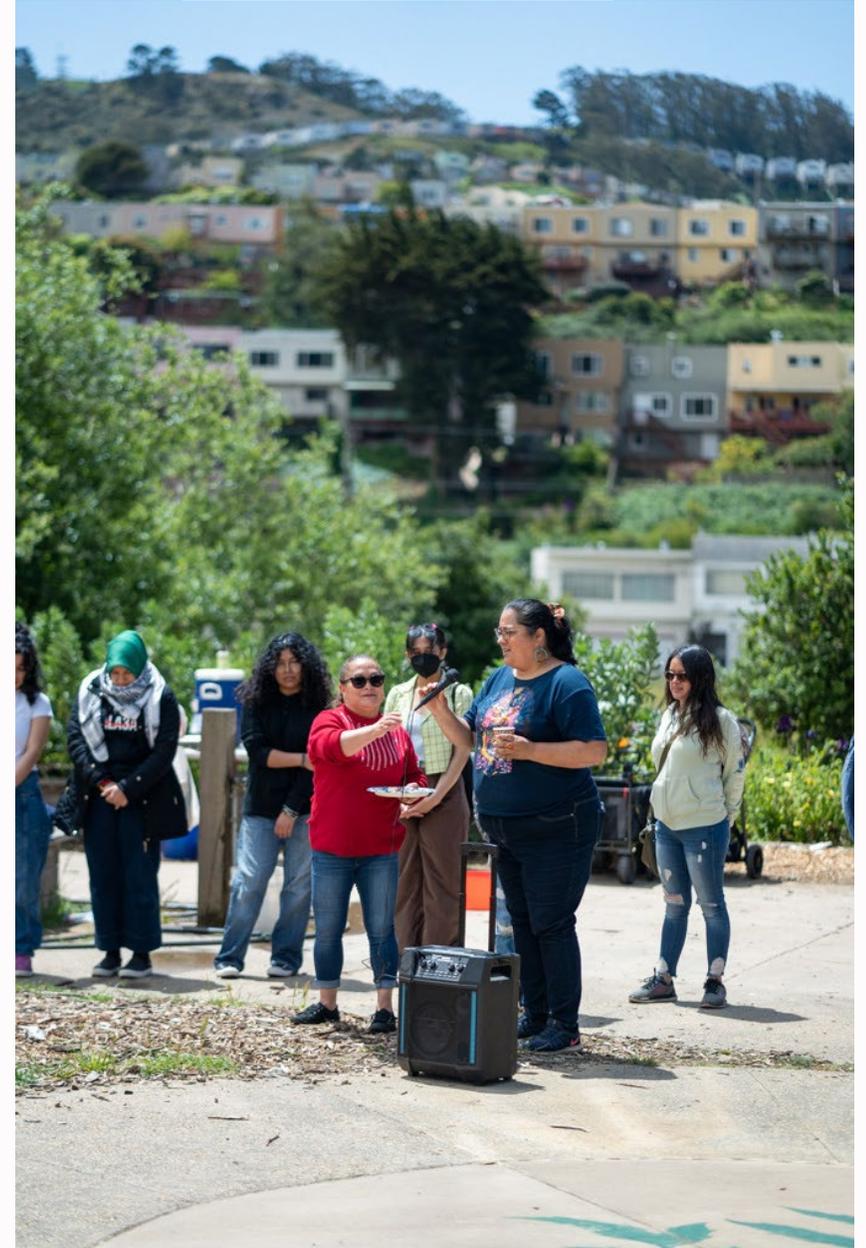


Building Energy Equity and Power

People Organizing to Demand Environmental &  
Economic Rights

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION EQUITY  
METRICS DISTRIBUTED ENERGY WORKSHOP -

January 21, 2025



## PODER

PODER's mission is to organize with Latinx immigrant families and youth to put into practice people-powered solutions that are locally based, community led and environmentally just. We nurture everyday people's leadership, regenerate culture, and build community power.

## Campaign & Program Areas

We have four areas of work to advance environmental and climate justice in San Francisco.

- Community Organizing & Building Power
- Intergenerational Leadership Development
- Solidarity Economy & Climate Resilience
- Civic Engagement & Immigrant Rights





PODER Youth at one of our Bicis del Pueblo Shop days in the Mission.





SAN FRANCISCO  
**HEALTHY  
& RESILIENT  
HOMES**



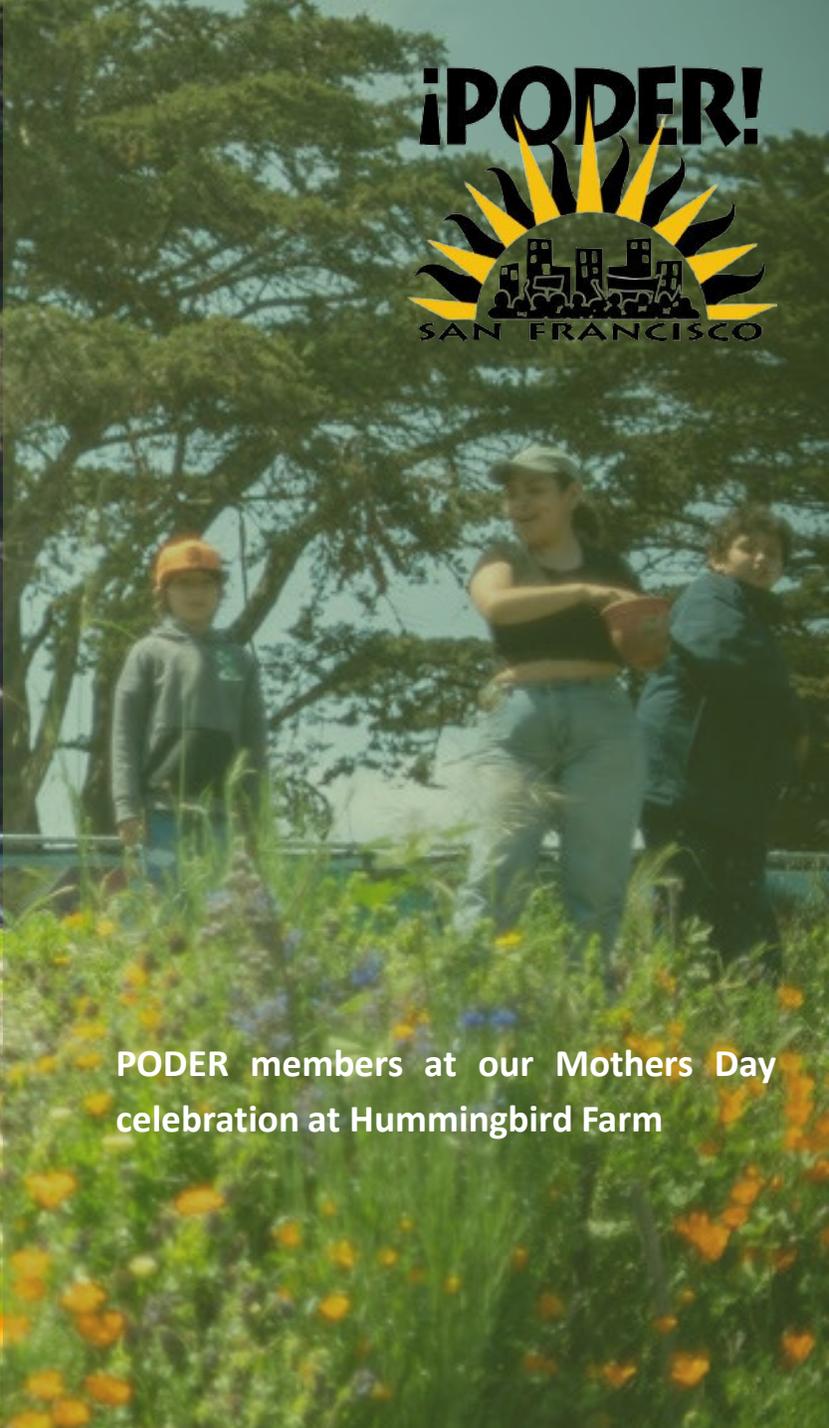
### **Local**

1. Bryant Street Demonstration project
2. Buildings Operations Task Force
3. Climate Equity Hub
4. The Buildings Upgrade Prize

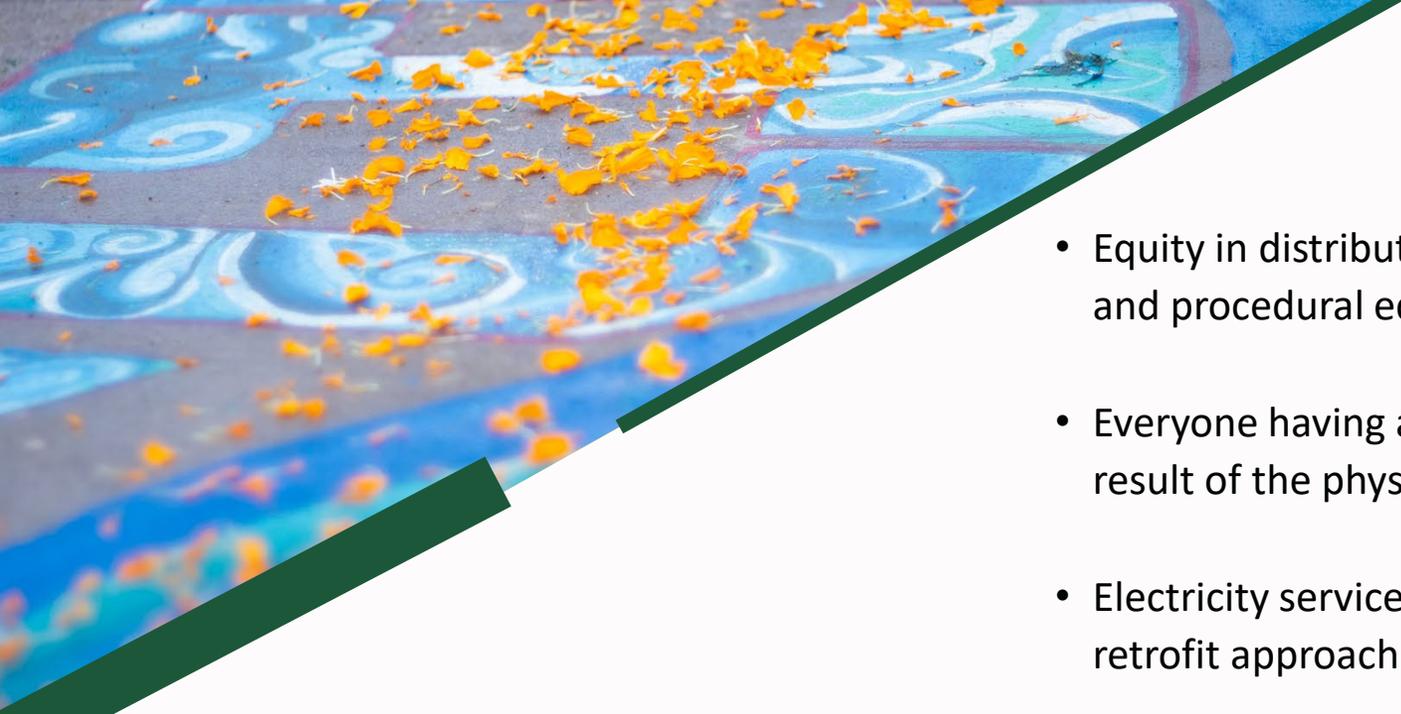


### **Statewide**

1. Coalitions
2. Supporting Equitable Building Performance Standards
3. CEC Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Program
4. UC Research Studies

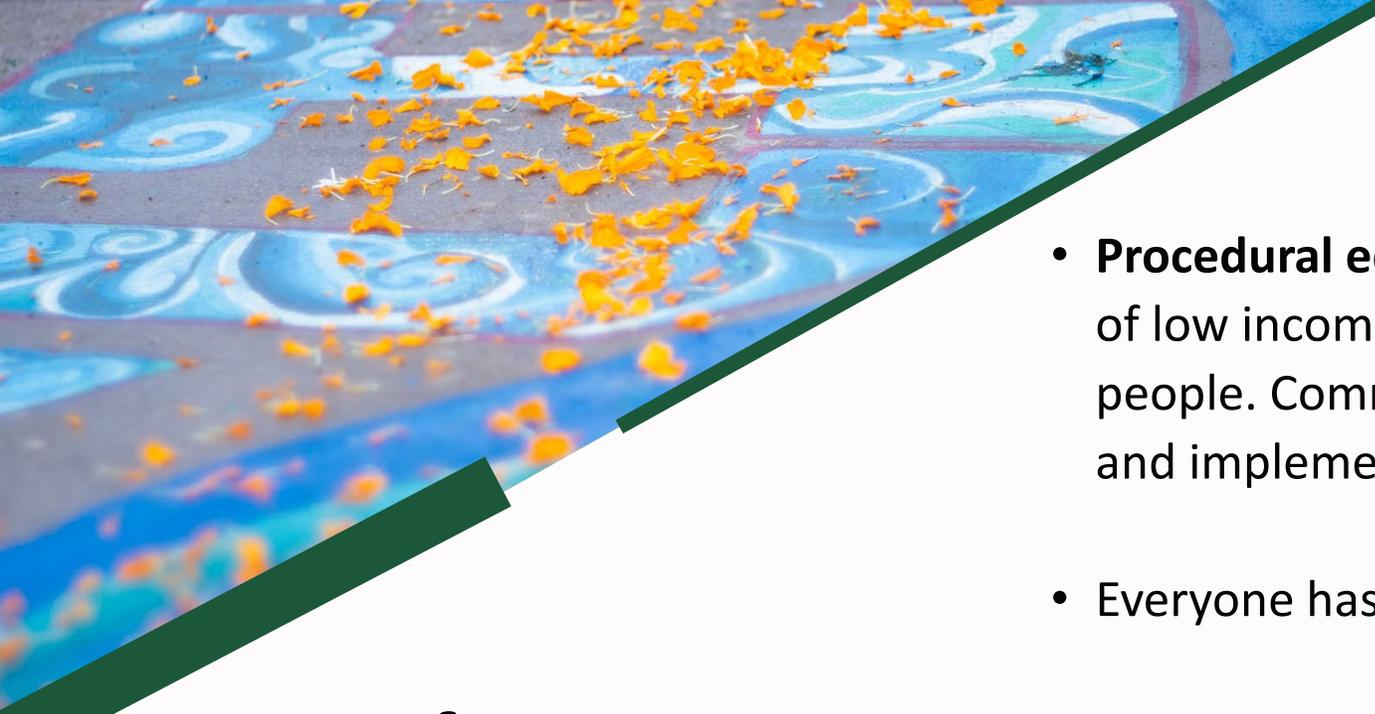


PODER members at our Mothers Day celebration at Hummingbird Farm



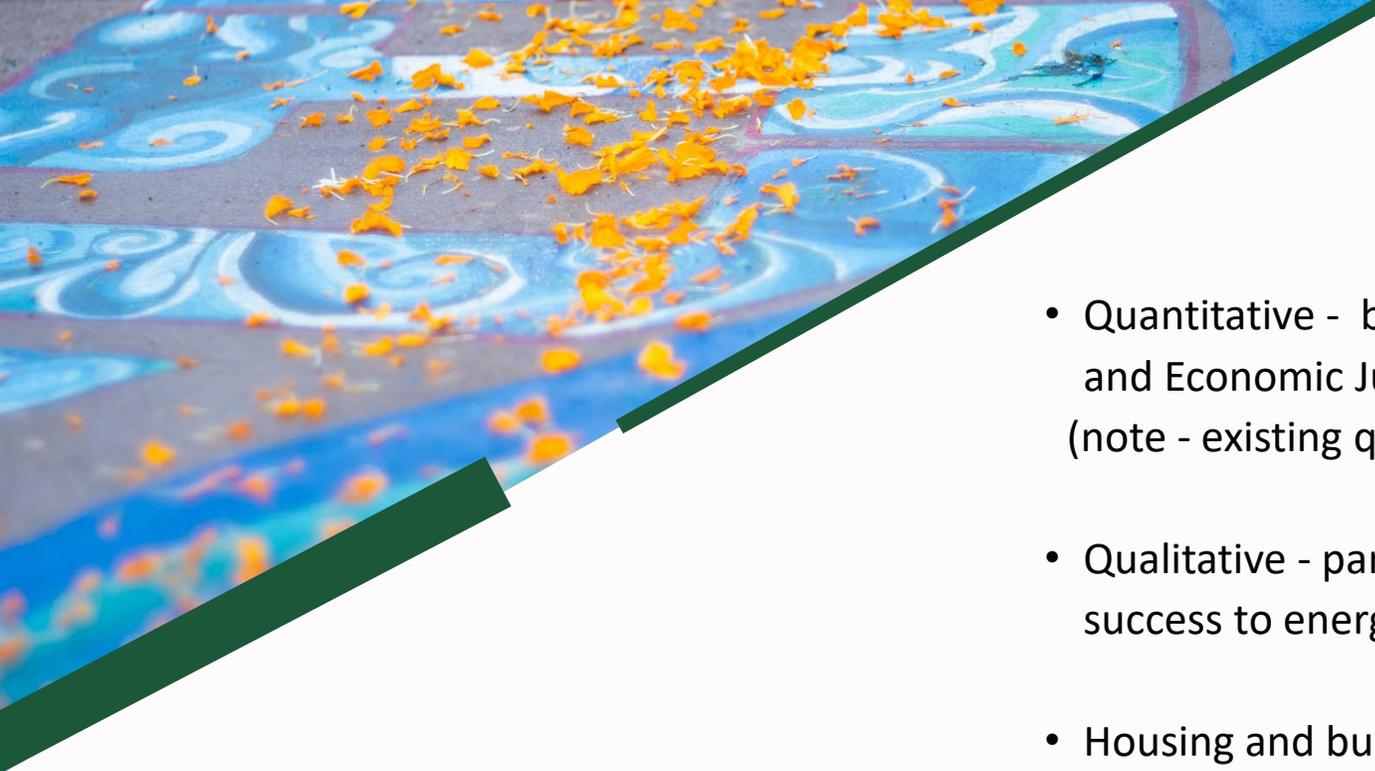
# Definitions of Equity in Energy Distribution Planning

- Equity in distribution of energy planning is important in terms of outcomes and procedural equity.
- Everyone having access to the sustainable electricity they need – both as a result of the physical infrastructure and the actual cost.
- Electricity service capacity models based on an equitable whole home retrofit approach - health, safety and resiliency.
- Barriers to local energy production removed, and LEP is incentivized.
- Ability to get off of fossil fuels completely.
- Ability generate electricity locally – resilience, reduce energy bills.
- Equity and sustainability come from the same root causes and or system is built to address both equity and sustainability.



# Vision for outcomes of an energy equitable distribution planning process

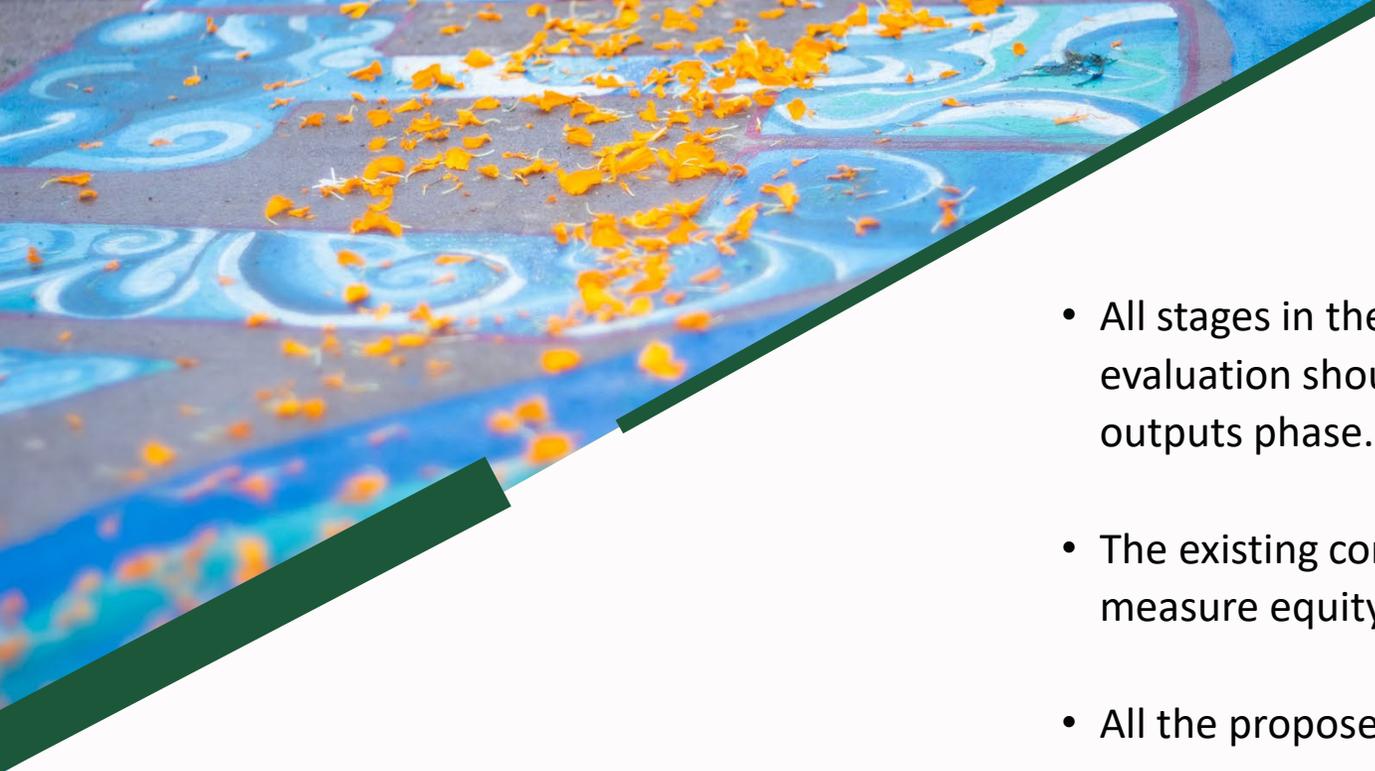
- **Procedural equity** - equitable process and meaningful engagement of low income communities and communities of color - Every day people. Community based organizations are partners in designing and implementing the planning and evaluation process.
- Everyone has access to the electricity they need.
- Service and other infrastructure upgrades are affordable and timely.
- Local solar energy production and battery storage is incentivized, encouraged and supported.
- Includes workers, displacement prevention and expansion of low income and workforce housing.



Data and metrics to track and inform equity outcomes are:

- equitable/inequitable
- increasing/decreasing.

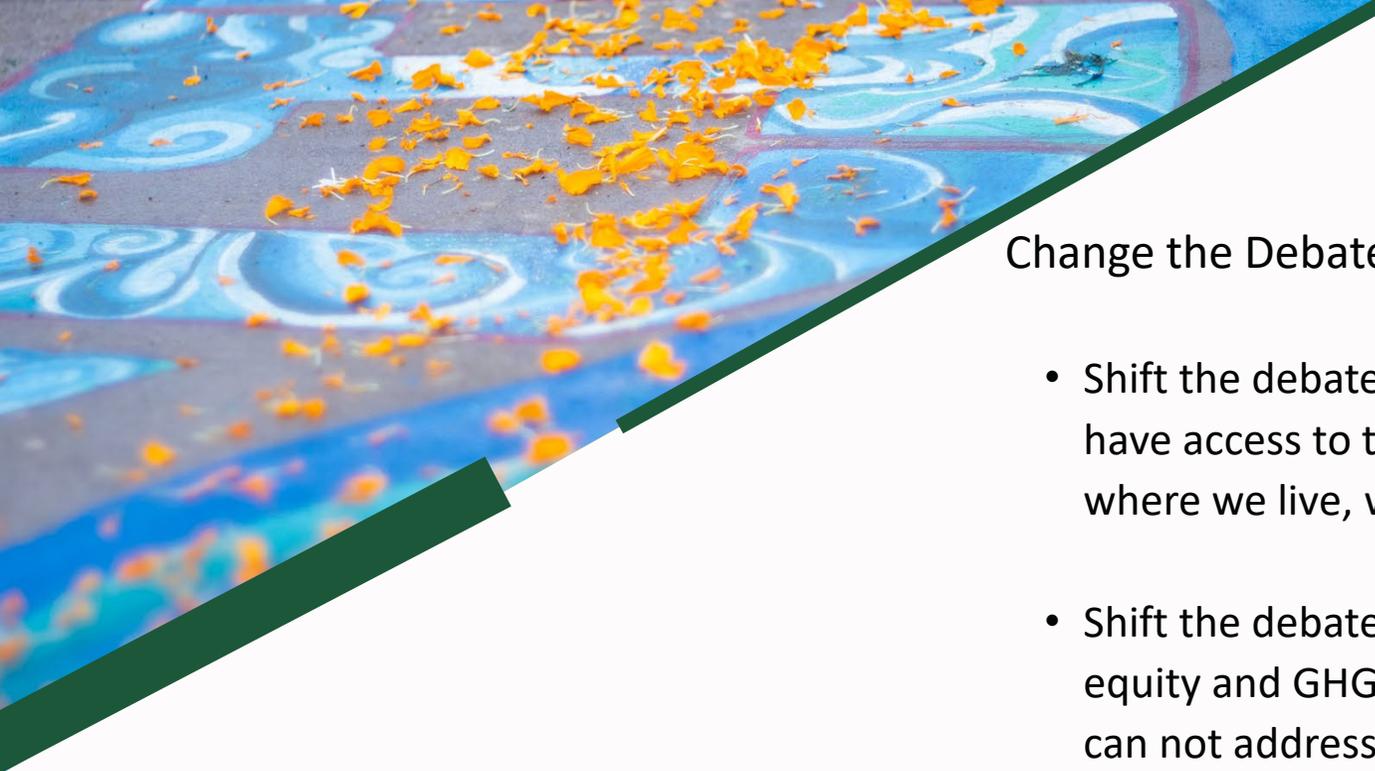
- Quantitative - build on existing quantitative metrics adding federal Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).  
(note - existing qualitative metrics are insufficient).
- Qualitative - participatory research case studies that capture the barriers and success to energy efficiency and electricity access.
- Housing and building stock conditions and building and community readiness as it relates to electricity access.
- Participatory research models that engage CBOs as partners in engagement and research.
- Triangulate data utilizing both qualitative and quantitative analysis.
- Build on existing research.



Data and metrics to track and inform equity outcomes are:

- equitable/inequitable
- increasing/decreasing.

- All stages in the Distribution Planning Process (DPP) for equity evaluation should address equity - inputs, methodologies, and/or outputs phase.
- The existing components or processes within the DPP can be added to measure equity effectively.
- All the proposed metrics add value, but they are insufficient.
- Benchmarks should be based on temporal trends and specific goals.
- Challenges foreseen are incomplete data.



## Change the Debate -

- Shift the debate from sacrificing specific communities to a world where we all have access to the sustainable electricity we need for a thriving healthy life - where we live, work and play :)
- Shift the debate from either equity or greenhouse gas reductions to both equity and GHG reductions. We can not address GHGs without equity and we can not address equity without addressing GHGs.

Another energy system is possible !



Our crew of Promotoras doing immigration resource outreach in the Excelsior district.

## Statewide & National Coalitions

- BEEP: BUILDING, EQUITY, ENERGY AND POWER (LOGO & WEBSITE COMING SOON :))



# Policy: Supporting Equitable Building Performance Standards

## Benefits of BPS



### Lower Bills, Better Air Quality

Owners can improve a building's heating, cooling, and ventilation systems to use less energy, provide healthier air, increase comfort, and lower energy bills.

### Creating Jobs

Local contractors benefit from new job opportunities and an inclusively designed BPS can ensure these jobs are available to all community members.



### Boosting Climate Resilience

Improving how a building uses energy can also help protect occupants against growing climate threats, such as:



Heatwaves



Storms



Power outages



Air pollution



### Improving Communities

A BPS can be used to address a range of community priorities, including building energy use, carbon emissions, public health, resilience, and economic opportunity.



## Partners:



## PODER's Roles:

- San Francisco BPS - 20,000 square feet and above.
- California BPS - 50,000 square feet and above.
- California BPS Equity Strategy - [Senate Bill 48 – The Building Energy Savings Act](#)
- US Community Climate Shift SEBPS Co-Learning Collaboration

## Community Climate Shift SEBPS 9 Co-Learning Teams:

California, Washington State, Minneapolis MN, Chicago IL, Philadelphia PA, St Louis MO, Kansas City MO, Washington DC, New Orleans LA



# Research: University of California Participatory



## **California Housing Equitable Decarbonization**

**Research Team Lead:** [UC Berkeley Turner Center for Housing Innovation](#)

**Research Question:**

- Will decarbonization efforts lead to equitable outcomes, or exacerbate health, financial, and other disparities, particularly for lower-income households and communities of color?

**Timeline:** June 2023-May 2026

**Funding:** California Air Resources Board

**PODER's Role:** Participatory Action Committee Research Advisory Committee

UC SANTA BARBARA

The 2035 Initiative

## **Designing California's Clean and Climate Resilient Electrical Grid for Vulnerable Communities**

**Research Team Lead:** [UC Santa Barbara's 2035 Initiative](#), UC San Diego, & UC Berkeley

**Research Questions:**

- What could make electricity systems resilient in the face of escalating climate disasters?
- What would enable residential electrification and distributed energy resource adoption?
- What policy instruments would help communities implement these types of residential electrification changes?

**Timeline:** May 2024 – Summer 2025

**Funding:** California Climate Action Grant, [UC Climate Action Initiative](#)

**PODER's Role:** Community Advisory Board





## **Antonio Diaz**

**PODER**

[www.podersf.org](http://www.podersf.org)

[adiaz@podersf.org](mailto:adiaz@podersf.org)

## **Chris Selig**

**Christine Selig Associates**

[christineselig.com](http://christineselig.com)

[cselig@gmail.com](mailto:cselig@gmail.com)



# Local Clean Energy Alliance

Jessica Tovar – Executive Director



California Public  
Utilities Commission



LOCAL

CLEAN

ENERGY

ALLIANCE



We are living in a multitude of crises caused by fossil fuel dependence ...



# SoCal Fires

## Transmission Infrastructure

- Death & Destruction by Utility Wildfires
- Power Shut Offs Leaving Vulnerable without Electricity

-People like Disabled & Elderly

-Food & Medicines are spoiling

-No Distribution of N95 masks

-No Means for Elderly & Disabled to Abruptly Evacuate means more deaths of our most vulnerable populations



# Eaton Fire - Altadena

CALIFORNIA

## Investigators study Eaton Canyon electrical tower area as possible origin of Altadena fire



Electrical lines and towers are seen on Sunday along North Altadena Drive to the northwest of where the fire may have been sparked. (John McCoy/For The Times)

Search Donate Fundraise

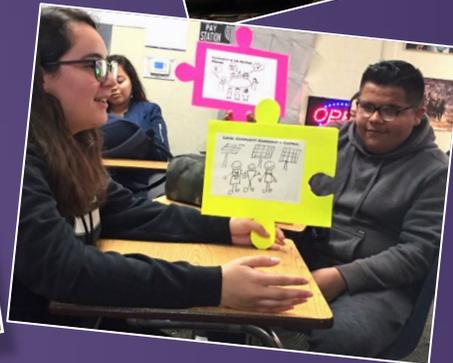


## Fire Relief for My Family



# High DER is Local Clean Energy for Community Resilience

- Clean energy jobs
- Affordability
- Local investments
- Local wealth
- Health & Safety
- Community Ownership & Control
- Reduce pollution



# Microgrid

A local source of electricity supply powered by clean solar energy that powers:

- local buildings like community buildings
- street lights
- refrigerators for perishable food or medicines.



**Battery Storage**



**Rooftop Solar**

# Local Investment in Community Resilience!



# Local Investment

- ★ Builds Circular Wealth
- ★ Powers Communities
- ★ True Local Clean Energy
- ★ Reduces Local Pollution
- ★ Reduces Deadly Mega Wildfires



High DER - Resilience

Reinstate policies that give  
community power & ownership of  
local clean energy

Net Energy Metering

Virtual Net ENergy Metering

LOCAL INVESTMENT IS  
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



SOCIAL COST BENEFITS FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

High DER should be Community Solutions

**Community based solution for HDER**

**Incentives for localized clean energy sources of power**

**Other distributive resources; demand response, energy efficiency, electrification etc**

**Measuring**

**Metrics need to go further Justice 40 Federal Screen**

**Suggestions for metrics to track equity in utility distribution plans.**

**CPUC should be providing the TA with Community Organizations**



California Public Utilities  
Commission,  
We need you to start making  
decisions that protect vulnerable  
communities over corporate profits.

Invest in Resilience  
before Disaster!



# Community based clean energy solutions for survival.



Jessica Guadalupe Tovar  
Executive Director of  
Local Clean Energy Alliance

[jessica@localcleanenergy.org](mailto:jessica@localcleanenergy.org) 415-766-7766

#CleanPowertothePeople



# Open Floor Discussion

(40 min)

- All attendees have been muted.
- To ask questions, please ‘raise your hand’  and a host will unmute you so you can ask your question.
- If you would rather type, use the “Chat” function. Questions will be read aloud by staff or responded to in the chat; attendees may be unmuted to respond to the answer verbally.

\*Reminder: Please press mute when done speaking



Chat

Participant List

Raise Hand

Settings

Turn Camera on / off

Mute / Unmute



Chat



Q&A



People



Raise



React



View



Notes



Rooms



More



Camera



Mic

**Break – 10 minutes**



# Expert Panel Discussion: Equity Challenges and Opportunities

Energy Division

# 1. At what stages in the Distribution Planning Process (DPP) should equity be evaluated?

For example, should it be assessed during the inputs, methodologies, and/or outputs phase?

**2. Which existing components or processes within the DPP can be leveraged to measure equity effectively?**

**3. What challenges do you foresee in collecting and analyzing data for the proposed equity metrics, and how can these challenges be addressed?**

**4. Among the proposed equity metrics, which do you believe are the most valuable, and how can they be applied to evaluate equity?**

# 5. How should we interpret each proposed equity metric?

- What benchmarks can be used to evaluate progress?
- Should benchmarks be based on temporal trends (over time), or should specific goals be set for each metric?

# Closing Remarks and Next Steps

# Next Steps

- No later than 45 days following this equity metrics workshop, Utilities shall submit a Tier 3 advice letter requesting approval of a final set of metrics and any correlated variables. (March 7<sup>th</sup>)
- The adopted equity metrics shall be considered for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Distribution Planning and Execution Process cycle.
- The adopted equity metrics shall be reported in the Grid Needs Assessment and Distribution Deferral Opportunity Report, now the Distribution Upgrade Project Report, annual filings.



# California Public Utilities Commission