12/18/2025 Meeting 3 notes

Working Group Member Attendees:

- Brian Siana
- Tom Evans
- Dr. Matt Barth
- Mark Dowling
- David Hahn
- Michael Berger

Staff Member Attendees:

- Andrew Galvan
- Ryan McManus
- Ryan Gleason
- Zoe Ridgway
- David Garcia
- Kelly Murillo
- Tracy Sato
- Fortino Morales
- Raphael Guzman

Recap of Meeting #1-2

- Review of purpose and objectives of the group
- Next steps
- Review of Public Benefit (PB) funds and allowed spending
- Topics and themes

Big Project Ideas and Concepts: Solar

- Concentration on solar projects: rooftop solar on commercial and residential properties, over the Gage Canal, solar in parking lots, solar on City facilities (including replacing solar no longer working)
- Review of current pricing trends to construct and operate solar facilities for different categories, recent solar and other renewables procurement pricing
    - Review of the PPA of solar at Tequesquite Landfill

Concept: Installed Solar Needs Battery Storage

- Review of solar production and RPU load and the benefits of energy storage
    - Question: How many solar installations have battery storage? RPU does not have that data currently
- Batteries would decrease peaker plant operation runtime. Gas savings can be shown in battery cost-benefits
    - Question: When do City peaker plants operate? Approximately 2pm to 10pm daily.

Battery Information and considerations

- Review of capital expenditure and costs to operate for residential, commercial, and utility-scale batteries
- Questions on how much battery capacity is installed at RCC and CARB
    - Battery capacity is publicly available on their respective websites

Discussion of Proposal on PB Fund Utilization

All options should include time factor, when can funds be spent

Proposal 1: Energy Storage Rebate Program

Comments/questions:

- Funds should be made available for all that want to participate. Project should not be overfunded with funds unused

Proposal 2: Resiliency Center(s)

Questions/Comments from members:

- Which centers are ready to receive and utilize funds
    - Parks and Rec to weigh-in
    - One project has been requested
- Project could be marketed as a learning center
- How many community centers does the City have?
    - The City has about 50 community centers
- The project proposal should be specific. Resiliency Centers can include community centers, libraries, cooling centers.

Comments from RPU/City:

- The project would make centers with no backup resilient or minimize usage of diesel backup generators and/or mobile generators

Proposal 3: Resiliency at Utility Operation Center (UOC) and Emergency Operation Center (EOC)

Comments from members:

- Customers won't intellectually see the benefit of this option or the Springs Battery Energy Storage Project (Proposal 4)
- Upkeep and improvements would be expected to be covered by rates
    - Improvements are not included in rates, if PB funds were to be utilized it would offset potential increases in rates

- Project must include battery storage
- Explanation of why the UOC/EOC is important would be helpful
- This project could be marketed as a learning center

Comments from RPU/City:

- The project engineering and design can address concerns
- This project proposal can be removed from PB fund uses
- PB funds can leverage grant funding
- Current design is the UOC project would be a front-of-the-meter community solar project with the ability to microgrid the facility
- The UOC/EOC is currently utilizing diesel backup generators in the event of an outage
- City to clarify if the property(s) will be utilized in the long-term for UOC/EOC or be sold to a third-party

Proposal 4: Springs Battery Energy Storage Project

Questions/Comments from members:

- How was the proposed $19M of PB funds determined? The first three proposals of $5M each with the remainder going towards this project. Project would require additional funds from other sources to make up the balance
- Calculate how much battery capacity is needed for excess solar on our grid
- The current proposal would be to provide 4 hours of capacity, this project addresses resource adequacy
- What is the location of the project? To be determined

Open Discussion/Roundtable

What are other utilities doing with their PB funds?

- Demonstration centers, this proposal removed based on feedback in meeting #2

- Renewable energy procurement

PB fund utilization for the different proposals will cover what percentage?

- Grants and other sourced funds can be used to cover scope where PB funds cannot (matching funds)
- Priority should be to spend PB funds quickly and efficiently

Free solar and battery storage in exchange for no Net Energy Metering (NEM)

- Target homes near the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP) right-of-way
    - Estimated 200-300 homes
    - Concern raised of those homes that already have solar and/or battery storage
- There is a potential program idea for free solar and storage for customers based on an offering by PG&E

    RPU response:

    - The program referenced by a Member may be referring to the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP). SGIP rebate offering:
        - Rebate may cover 15%-100% of the installation. Installation included battery storage, or solar and battery storage for residential customers only
        - Eligibility:
            - Residential customers must participate in a Demand Response Program.
            - Residential customers who meet 80% or lower of the area median income.
            - Residential customers with verified income who participate in one of the following programs: California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE), Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA), Energy Saving Assistance (ESA)

        - Renters are eligible for this program (with approval from their landlord before installation)
        - Financial incentives that pay for the battery do not count as income, will not affect eligibility for MediCAL/Medicare benfits.
        - Eligibility requires income verification.
    - Additional eligibility categories:
        - General Market Rebate for residential customers covers about 15% of the cost of installing a battery storage system, solar customers must be on the Solar Billing Plan to qualify.
        - Equity Resiliency Rebate for residential customers. Rebate may cover 80%-100% of the cost of installing a battery storage system. Eligible residential customers must:
            - Live in a Tier 2 or Tier 3 High Fire-Threat Districts or
            - Have experienced more than two Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) or
            - Have experienced five or more Enhanced Powerline Safety Setting (EPPS) outages since 2023 and
            - Meet one of the following:
                - Be on the Medical Baseline Program
                - Meet income eligibility standards
                - Rely on an electric well pump for water
            - Have incentives reserved in the income-qualified solar programs (SASH or DAC-SASH) or
            - Be enrolled in the ESA program
    - Additional SGIP information can be found here

4th meeting requested

- The meeting will have to be held in early January

Compensation for shifting load should be considered

- We need to incentivize customers to address and shift load, charge EVs at non-peak times
- Gamify good behavior

Concerns of PB funds

- Consider revisiting PB funds:
    - The 2.85% surcharge should only apply to certain, commodity based items
    - RPU should advocate against it
        - RPU advocates to the State that local control of PB funds should be maintained and not be handled by the State