

## PRESS RELEASE



### NCPA Commission Approves Innovative Lodi Energy Center Improvements, Bridging Gap to a Clean and Reliable Energy Future

**ROSEVILLE, Calif.** — March 6, 2020 — Recently, the Commission of the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) voted to move ahead with a two-phase project to equip the Lodi Energy Center (LEC) generating facility with state-of-the-art technologies capable of integrating a natural gas blend of up to 45% hydrogen, a step that would greatly reduce the plant’s greenhouse gas emissions. According to discussions with the equipment manufacturer, the LEC’s use of this natural gas and hydrogen integration technology would be the first of its kind to be implemented. Final completion for both phases is expected in 2023.

The project comes on the heels of a sudden failure of the combustion turbine in mid-January that resulted in the facility being taken offline for further investigation and repair. The failure was entirely internal to the turbine equipment and did not result in any harm to NCPA personnel or others. Following the incident, NCPA staff worked with the equipment manufacturer to identify a number of alternatives for repairing the plant, including an option to restore the turbine with forward-looking technologies. At the staff’s recommendation, the Commission agreed to move forward with installing an upgraded turbine that is capable of using combustors that can integrate lower-emitting, hydrogen-blended fuel.

“This unexpected challenge provided us a chance to re-think our long-term resource strategy,” said Joel Ledesma, NCPA’s Assistant General Manager of Generation Services. “With the approval of this project, our members and project participants are making a conscious effort to expand their commitment to a cleaner energy future.”

“The Lodi Energy Center, from its inception, was designed to support and facilitate the achievement of California’s renewable energy and decarbonization goals. With this addition of new technology to reduce emissions through increased reliance on hydrogen, this facility will continue to set the bar for environmental stewardship and innovation.” said Randy S. Howard, NCPA’s General Manager.

NCPA’s LEC restoration plan consists of two phases. Phase 1 will include the installation of the turbine. Phase 2 will include the installation of new, hydrogen-capable combustors within the turbine. NCPA expects to complete the first phase of the project this summer, allowing the plant to resume normal operations. The second phase would follow over the next few years, with a 2023 expected completion date.

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This week, the California Energy Commission (CEC) signed-off on NCPA’s Phase 1 plan to update the facility—one of two approvals required by government agencies before the project can proceed. NCPA awaits Phase 1 approval from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, which is in the process of completing its environmental review. Additional permitting review may be needed as NCPA enters Phase 2 of the project.

**About NCPA:** *Headquartered in Roseville, California, NCPA is a nonprofit California joint powers agency established in 1968 to construct and operate renewable and low-emitting generating facilities and assist in meeting the wholesale energy needs of its 16 members: the Cities of Alameda, Biggs, Gridley, Healdsburg, Lodi, Lompoc, Palo Alto, Redding, Roseville, Santa Clara, Shasta Lake, and Ukiah, Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative, Port of Oakland, San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), and Truckee Donner Public Utility District—collectively serving nearly 700,000 electric consumers in Central and Northern California. NCPA was founded on the principle of environmental stewardship and is a recognized national leader in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable generation, and carbon reduction.*

**About the LEC:** *Operating since 2012, the LEC is a 306-megawatt combined-cycle natural gas power plant located in Lodi, California. The plant was the first in the nation to utilize “fast-start” gas-turbine technology to substantially reduce emissions and provide needed support for the integration of the growing California renewable energy market. The plant provides power to 13 public entities, including nine NCPA members, as well as the State of California.*

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