



Protecting California Energy Policies and Investments

NCPA Has a Long-Standing Commitment to Clean Energy

NCPA, a joint-action agency established in 1968, is a consortium of locally-owned utility systems that invested early in renewable resources to ensure a clean, reliable, and affordable energy supply for our member communities and districts. Collectively, our members provide power to approximately 700,000 electricity customers and maintain a resource portfolio that today is over 50 percent carbon-free and on track to meet California's carbon targets on or ahead of schedule.

NCPA's Resource Mix

NCPA has long supported environmentally responsible investments—even when lower-cost alternatives were available. Our investments in geothermal steam, hydroelectric, community solar, and natural gas facilities comprise a generation portfolio that is among the cleanest in the nation.

The Geysers Geothermal Project

The Geysers, located 75 miles north of San Francisco, is the single largest geothermal field in the world. In the early 1980s, NCPA began operating a facility capable of producing 102 megawatts of baseload energy. In 1997, NCPA created the world's first wastewater geothermal-injection system to recharge the production wells at the Geysers. Since steam extracted from the Geysers is not naturally replenished by groundwater, a supplementary

source of water is needed. NCPA contracted with Lake County Sanitation District to take their treated wastewater effluent and—utilizing two one-megawatt solar arrays—pump it 26 miles for injection deep into the geothermal reservoir, dramatically extending the life of this naturally depleting, base-load resource.

Hydroelectric Projects

NCPA's 259-megawatt hydroelectric project, built in the 1980s in Calaveras County, captures falling water to produce renewable, carbon-free electricity while protecting recreational and environmental resources. NCPA members also partnered with the federal government to fund and maintain the multipurpose Central Valley Project (CVP). CVP power provides, on average, 40 percent of our members' energy needs through renewable hydropower resources.

The Lodi Energy Center

NCPA's most recent generation project is the 300-megawatt Lodi Energy Center. Unlike other natural gas plants, the Lodi Energy Center is the first in the nation to use "fast start" technology, making it an extremely flexible resource that is capable of operating to meet market needs. During droughts and low water years, when hydroelectric production is curtailed to conserve water, the Lodi Energy Center plays a critical role in producing consistent baseload energy needed to help maintain statewide system reliability and integrate intermittent renewable energy.

Community Solar

NCPA is currently working with members on the potential procurement of up to 38.5 megawatts of solar to serve several NCPA member communities. These projects will supplement our members' renewable energy portfolios and — through the use of community-scale solar — will allow utility customers who are not able to install solar directly on their businesses or homes, to access generation from a highly cost-effective centralized solar project via their utility. Further economies of scale are achieved by working through NCPA, providing member systems the ability to participate with other public power systems in larger projects offering access to clean energy at a lower cost.

Utilizing New Technologies

As technologies advance, our members are continually assessing options for the use of innovative technologies like energy storage and microgrids in their utility operations. NCPA continues to work with its members to analyze technological and market trends to determine which cost-effective energy storage technologies could be used to meet their system needs and support long-term policy goals while maintaining reliability. To this end, some NCPA members are already using energy storage to support ramping needs and integrate intermittent renewable resources that can be dispatched when the sun is not shining.

Promoting Electric Vehicles

NCPA members are actively supporting the deployment of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure in their communities through engagement in state policymaking and use of customer incentive programs. Today, NCPA member communities have roughly 10,000

battery-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles registered in their service areas.

Protect California's Policies and Infrastructure Investments

California is a national leader in energy policy—and NCPA has been on the front lines of those efforts. The state has adopted a series of increasing renewable portfolio targets, and is now on a path to achieve 100% carbon-free energy by 2045. State efforts on energy efficiency, energy storage, and electrification of the transportation sector are also significant. Any new federal policy should recognize and accommodate these actions by ensuring smooth integration with California's already advanced policies and crediting the resulting investments. Unfortunately, the draft *CLEAN Futures Act* does not recognize the totality of California's energy policies and would unnecessarily subject NCPA members—and all California utilities—to both state and federal requirements.

NCPA encourages Congress to not abruptly curtail the use of recent investments in clean natural gas plants—like the Lodi Energy Center—made in good faith to address California's reliability needs and operational requirements to integrate intermittent renewable resources. Changes in federal energy policy that render the Lodi Energy Center inoperable or uneconomic would strand public bond investments.

As well, NCPA encourages Congress to not discriminate against hydropower by decreasing clean energy credits based on speculative “upstream” emissions, while not imposing similar restrictions on other clean, renewable resources.