



Advancing Climate Objectives and Clean Energy 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 resources include the Geysers Geothermal Project located at the single largest geothermal field in the world. The project produces 102 megawatts of clean, renewable baseload energy. In 1997, NCPA created the world's first wastewater geothermal-injection system to recharge the production wells at the Geysers with treated wastewater effluent from Lake County.

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's most recent generation project is the 300-megawatt Lodi Energy Center (LEC). 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. NCPA recently retrofitted the LEC to enable the use of hydrogen fuel as a means of increasing the clean energy output of the facility. We are exploring options to secure renewable hydrogen production that could meet the needs of both the LEC and transportation along the I-5 and 90 highway corridors.

As well, NCPA is currently working with members on the potential procurement of up to 38.5 megawatts of solar power to serve several NCPA member communities.

Ensuring Compatible State and Federal Climate Plans

NCPA supports federal climate legislation that establishes consistent national goals, promotes technological innovation, and drives down the cost of clean energy technologies. As well, it is essential that any federal plan does not conflict with the requirements of California's energy and environmental policies. NCPA is pleased that the *CLEAN Future Act* includes language expressly deeming entities in states with more stringent standards in compliance with federal climate goals.

Streamline the Hydropower Relicensing Process

Hydropower is a clean, carbon-free resource—and one of the only renewable power sources

that can be available 24/7 and provide essential fast-ramping power needed to maintain the state's electric grid. Hydropower has also proved to be an excellent means to integrate intermittent renewables such as solar and wind and help balance hourly energy loads.

Unfortunately, licensing and relicensing hydropower projects is a complex, costly, and time-consuming process. While wind power projects can be licensed within a two-year timeframe, it takes at least 10 years or longer to relicense an existing hydropower project in operation today. Numerous studies affirm that meeting net-zero carbon objectives requires the continued operations of hydroelectric projects. Yet, these valuable resources are at serious risk if Congress doesn't update and streamline this cumbersome process.

NCPA urges Congress to include hydropower relicensing reforms in any climate change legislation. As well, it is worth noting that the National Hydropower Association is engaged in a constructive dialogue with the river and environmental communities that could provide important guidance for a successful path forward.