

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE**Staff Report – Item 13**

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Edward Burnham, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Ratify Consultant Agreement with NewGen Strategies and Solutions for energy advisory services

DATE: April 10, 2025

RECOMMENDATION

Ratify an agreement with NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC for consulting services for an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for a term expiring December 31, 2025.

BACKGROUND

The Board requested additional information on customer rates and forecasts as part of VCE's recently concluded rate setting process for 2025. The forecasted costs and revenues are the primary factors that inform VCE's decisions around rate setting, procurement, programs, and related policies. VCE depends on multiple tools in its rate setting and decision making process.

As noted in previous reports/presentations, forecasting can be imprecise and is dependent on the modeling tools and inputs to minimize variation from actual outcomes (i.e. market power costs, load demand, etc.). VCE's challenge (and that of any business) is to take practical steps to minimize the error band around the forecast.

VCE has partnered with NewGen Strategies and Solutions to take additional steps to improve the timeliness and accuracy (where possible) of forecasting costs, revenues, cash reserves, and rate setting adjustments. VCE plans to integrate the multiple models and develop a consolidated three year model. NewGen has a vast knowledge of modeling, CCA requirements, and Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA)/ Energy Resource Recovery Account (ERRA– IOU rate setting) forecasting. Staff plans to incorporate the improvements resulting from the study and modeling into the 2026 budget and rate setting process.

CONCLUSION

Staff is recommending that the Board ratify the agreement with NewGen Strategies and Solutions for energy advisory services for an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for a term expiring December 31, 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Agreement between VCE and NewGen Strategies and Solutions
2. Resolution 2025-XXX

AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES

This **Agreement** is made and entered into as of March 20, 2025 by and between **Valley Clean Energy Alliance**, a Joint Powers Authority organized and operating under the laws of the State of California with its principal place of business at 604 Second Street, Davis, California, 95616 (“VCE”), and **NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC**, with its principal place of business at 225 Union Boulevard, Suite 450, Lakewood, Colorado, 80228 (hereinafter referred to as “Consultant”). VCE and Consultant are sometimes individually referred to as “Party” and collectively as “Parties” in this Agreement.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Consultant desires to perform and assume responsibility for the provision of certain services required by VCE on the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement. Consultant represents that it is experienced in providing energy advisory services to public clients and is familiar with the plans of VCE with respect to the Project, as defined below.

WHEREAS, VCE desires to engage Consultant to render such services in connection with the Valley Clean Energy Alliance (CCE) project (“Project”) as set forth in this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, VCE and Consultant agree as follows:

1. SCOPE OF SERVICES AND TERM.

1.1 Scope of Services. Consultant promises and agrees to furnish to VCE all labor, services, and incidental and customary work necessary to fully and adequately perform the Energy Advisory services necessary for the Project (“Services”). The Services are more particularly described in **Exhibit A**. All Services shall be subject to, and performed in accordance with, this Agreement, the exhibits attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, and all applicable local, state, and federal laws, rules, and regulations. In the event of a conflict between a provision in this Agreement and a provision in **Exhibit A** or in any other exhibit to this Agreement, the provision in this Agreement shall control.

1.2 Facilities, Equipment, and Other Materials. Except as specifically provided in **Exhibit B**, Consultant shall, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all facilities, tools, equipment, and other materials necessary for performing the Services pursuant to this Agreement. VCE shall furnish to Consultant only those facilities, tools, equipment, and other materials specifically listed in **Exhibit B**, according to the terms and conditions set forth in that exhibit.

1.3 Schedule of Services. Consultant shall perform the Services expeditiously and in accordance with the Schedule of Services set forth in **Exhibit C** and any updates to the Schedule of Services approved by VCE. Time is of the essence in the performance of this Agreement. Consultant's failure to perform any Service required under this Agreement within the time limits set forth in **Exhibit C** shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement.

1.4 Term. The term of this Agreement shall commence on March 1, 2025 and shall terminate on December 31, 2025, unless terminated earlier as provided in Article 5.

2. PROJECT COORDINATION.

2.1 VCE's Representative. VCE hereby designates Mitch Sears and/or its designee to act as its representative for the performance of this Agreement. Mitch Sears and/or its designee shall have the power to act on behalf of VCE for all purposes under this Agreement. VCE hereby designates Edward Burnham and/or its designee as the "Project Manager," who shall supervise the progress and day-to-day performance of this Agreement.

2.2 Consultant's Representative. Consultant hereby designates Brian Dickman, Partner, to act as its representative for the performance of this Agreement ("Consultant's Representative"). Consultant's Representative shall have full authority to represent and act on behalf of Consultant for all purposes under this Agreement. The Consultant's Representative shall supervise and direct the Services under this Agreement, using his or her best skill and attention, and shall be responsible for all means, methods, techniques, sequences, and procedures and for the satisfactory coordination of all portions of the Services to be performed under this Agreement. Should the Consultant's Representative need to be substituted for any reason, the proposed new Consultant's Representative shall be subject to the prior written acceptance and approval of the

Project Manager. The Consultant shall not assign any representative to whom VCE has a reasonable objection.

2.3 Coordination of Services. Consultant agrees to work closely with VCE staff in the performance of the Services and shall be available to VCE staff at all reasonable times.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONSULTANT.

3.1 Independent Contractor. VCE retains Consultant on an independent contractor basis and not as an employee. Consultant retains the right to perform similar or different services for others during the term of this Agreement. Nor shall any additional personnel performing the Services under this Agreement on behalf of Consultant be employees of the VCE; such personnel shall at all times be under Consultant's exclusive direction and control. Consultant shall be entitled to no other benefits or compensation except as provided in this Agreement.

3.2 Control and Payment of Subordinates. The Services shall be performed by Consultant or personnel under its supervision. Consultant will determine the means, methods, and details of performing the Services subject to the requirements of this Agreement. Any additional personnel performing the Services under this Agreement on behalf of Consultant shall at all times be under Consultant's exclusive direction and control. Consultant shall pay all wages, salaries, and other amounts due such personnel in connection with their performance of Services under this Agreement and as required by law. Consultant shall be responsible for all reports and obligations respecting such additional personnel, including, but not limited to: social security taxes, income tax withholding, unemployment insurance, disability insurance, and workers' compensation insurance.

3.3 Conformance to Applicable Requirements. All services performed by Consultant shall be subject to the Project Manager's review and reasonable approval. Consultant shall furnish VCE with every reasonable opportunity to determine that Consultant's services are being performed in accordance with this Agreement. VCE's review of Consultant's services shall not relieve Consultant of any of its obligations to fulfill this Agreement as prescribed.

3.4 Substitution of Key Personnel. Consultant has represented to VCE that it will perform and coordinate the Services under this Agreement. Should such personnel become unavailable, Consultant may substitute other personnel of at least equal competence upon the VCE's written approval. In the event that VCE and Consultant cannot agree as to the substitution of key personnel, VCE shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement for cause.

3.5 Licenses and Permits. Consultant represents that it, its employees and subconsultants have all licenses, permits, qualifications and approvals of whatever nature that are legally required to perform the Services and that such licenses and approvals shall be maintained throughout the term of this Agreement, at Consultant's sole cost and expense.

3.6 Standard of Care; Performance of Employees. Consultant shall perform all Services under this Agreement in a skillful and competent manner. Consultant warrants that all employees and subconsultants shall have sufficient skill and experience to perform the Services assigned to them. Consultant shall perform, at its own cost and expense and without reimbursement from the VCE, any services necessary to correct errors or omissions which are caused by the Consultant's failure to comply with the standard of care provided for herein. Any employee of Consultant or its subconsultants who is determined by VCE to be uncooperative, incompetent, a threat to the adequate or timely completion of the Project, a threat to the safety of persons or property, or any employee who fails or refuses to perform the Services in a manner acceptable to the VCE, shall be promptly removed from the Project by the Consultant and shall not be re-employed to perform any of the Services or to work on the Project.

3.7 Laws and Regulations. Consultant shall keep itself fully informed of and in compliance with all local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations in any manner affecting the performance of the Services, including all Cal/OSHA requirements, and shall give all notices required by law. Consultant shall be liable for all violations of such laws and regulations by Consultant in connection with the Services. If Consultant performs any work knowing it to be contrary to such laws, rules and regulations and without giving written notice to the VCE, Consultant shall be solely responsible for all costs arising therefrom. Consultant shall defend, indemnify and hold the VCE, its officials, directors, officers, employees, and agents free and

VCE —Professional Services Agreement NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC

harmless, pursuant to the indemnification provisions of this Agreement and in accordance with the language of Section 6.3, from any claim or liability to the extent arising out of any failure or alleged failure of Consultant to comply with such laws, rules or regulations.

3.8 Labor Certification. By its signature hereunder, Consultant certifies that it is aware of the provisions of Section 3700 of the California Labor Code which require every employer to be insured against liability for Workers' Compensation or to undertake self-insurance in accordance with the provisions of that Code, and, if applicable, agrees to comply with such provisions before commencing the performance of the Services.

3.9 Non-Discrimination. No discrimination shall be made in the employment of persons under this Agreement because of that person's race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, age, marital status, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or place of birth.

3.10 Insurance.

3.10.1 Time for Compliance. Consultant shall not commence the performance of Services under this Agreement until it has provided evidence satisfactory to VCE that it has secured all insurance required herein. In addition, Consultant shall not allow any subconsultant to commence work on any subcontract until it has provided evidence satisfactory to VCE that the subconsultant has secured all insurance required herein. Failure to provide and maintain all required insurance shall be grounds for VCE to terminate this Agreement for cause.

3.10.2 Minimum Requirements. Consultant shall, at its expense, procure and maintain for the duration of this Agreement insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of this Agreement by Consultant, its agents, representatives, employees or subconsultants. Consultant shall also require all of its subconsultants to procure and maintain the same insurance for the duration of this Agreement. Such insurance shall meet at least the following minimum levels of coverage:

3.10.2.1 Minimum Scope of Insurance. Coverage shall be at least as broad as the latest version of the following: (a) *General Liability*: Insurance Services Office Commercial General Liability coverage (occurrence form CG 0001); (b) *Automobile Liability*: Insurance Services Office Business Auto Coverage form number CA 0001, code 8 and 9 (Hired & Non Owned); and (c) *Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability*: Workers' Compensation insurance as required by the State of California and Employer's Liability Insurance.

3.10.2.2 Minimum Limits of Insurance. Consultant shall maintain limits no less than: (a) *General Liability*: \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage. If Commercial General Liability Insurance or other form with general aggregate limit is used including, but not limited to, form CG 2503, either the general aggregate limit shall apply separately to this Agreement/location or the general aggregate limit shall be twice the required occurrence limit; (b) *Automobile Liability*: \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage; and (c) *Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability*: Workers' Compensation limits as required by the Labor Code of the State of California. Employer's Liability limits of \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury or disease.

3.10.3 Professional Liability. Consultant shall procure and maintain, and require its subconsultants to procure and maintain, for a period of five (5) years following completion of the Project errors and omissions liability insurance appropriate to their profession. Such insurance shall be in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 per claim, and shall be endorsed to include contractual liability.

3.10.4 Insurance Endorsements. The insurance policies shall contain the following provisions, or Consultant shall provide endorsements on forms supplied or approved by VCE to add the following provisions to the insurance policies:

3.10.4.1 General Liability. The general liability policy shall include or be endorsed (amended) to state that: (a) the VCE, its directors, officials, officers, employees, agents, and volunteers shall be covered as additional insureds with respect to the work or operations performed by or on behalf of Consultant, including materials, parts or equipment furnished in connection with such work; and (b) the insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects

the VCE, its directors, officials, officers, employees, agents, and volunteers, or if excess, shall stand in an unbroken chain of coverage excess of Consultant's scheduled underlying coverage. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the VCE, its directors, officials, officers, employees, agents, and volunteers shall be excess of Consultant's insurance and shall not be called upon to contribute with it in any way.

3.10.4.2 Automobile Liability. The automobile liability policy shall include or be endorsed (amended) to state that: (a) the VCE, its directors, officials, officers, employees, agents, and volunteers shall be covered as additional insureds with respect to the ownership, operation, maintenance, use, loading or unloading of any auto owned, leased, hired or borrowed by Consultant or for which Consultant is responsible; and (b) the insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects the VCE, its directors, officials, officers, employees, agents, and volunteers, or if excess, shall stand in an unbroken chain of coverage excess of Consultant's scheduled underlying coverage. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the VCE, its directors, officials, officers, employees, agents, and volunteers shall be excess of Consultant's insurance and shall not be called upon to contribute with it in any way.

3.10.4.3 Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability Coverage. The insurer shall agree to waive all rights of subrogation against the VCE, its directors, officials, officers, employees, agents, and volunteers for losses paid under the terms of the insurance policy which arise from work performed by Consultant.

3.10.5 Separation of Insureds; No Special Limitations. All insurance required herein shall contain standard separation of insureds provisions. In addition, such insurance shall not contain any special limitations on the scope of protection afforded to the VCE, its directors, officials, officers, employees, agents, and volunteers.

3.10.6 Deductibles and Self-Insurance Retentions. Any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to and approved by the VCE. Consultant shall guarantee that, at the option of the VCE, either: (a) the insurer shall reduce or eliminate such deductibles or self-insured retentions as respects the VCE, its directors, officials, officers, employees,

agents, and volunteers; or (b) the Consultant shall procure a bond guaranteeing payment of losses and related investigation costs, claims, and administrative and defense expenses.

3.10.7 Acceptability of Insurers. Insurance is to be placed with insurers with a current A.M. Best's rating no less than A:VIII, licensed to do business in California, and satisfactory to the VCE .

3.10.8 Verification of Coverage. Consultant shall furnish VCE with original certificates of insurance and endorsements effecting coverage required by this Agreement on forms satisfactory to VCE. The certificates and endorsements for each insurance policy shall be signed by a person authorized by that insurer to bind coverage on its behalf, and shall be on forms provided by VCE if requested. All certificates and endorsements must be received and approved by VCE before work commences. VCE reserves the right to require complete, certified copies of all required insurance policies, at any time.

3.10.9 Reporting of Claims. Consultant shall report to the VCE, in addition to Consultant's insurer, any and all insurance claims submitted by Consultant in connection with the Services under this Agreement.

3.11 Safety. Consultant shall execute and maintain its work so as to avoid injury or damage to any person or property. In carrying out the Services, Consultant shall at all times be in compliance with all applicable local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations, and shall exercise all necessary precautions for the safety of employees appropriate to the nature of the work and the conditions under which the work is to be performed. Safety precautions as applicable shall include, but shall not be limited to: (a) adequate life protection and life saving equipment and procedures; (b) instructions in accident prevention for all employees and subconsultants, such as safe walkways, scaffolds, fall protection ladders, bridges, gang planks, confined space procedures, trenching and shoring, equipment and other safety devices, equipment and wearing apparel as are necessary or lawfully required to prevent accidents or injuries; and (c) adequate facilities for the proper inspection and maintenance of all safety measures.

3.12 Records. Consultant shall allow a representative of VCE during normal business hours to examine, audit and make transcripts of copies of such records and any other documents created pursuant to this Agreement. Consultant shall allow inspection of all work, data, documents, proceedings, and activities related to this Agreement for a period of three (3) years from the date of final payment under this Agreement.

4. FEES AND PAYMENT.

4.1 Compensation. This is a “time and materials” based agreement. Consultant shall receive compensation, including authorized reimbursements, for Services rendered under this Agreement at the rates, in the amounts and at the times set forth in **Exhibit D**. Notwithstanding the provisions of Exhibit D, the total compensation shall not exceed Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) without written approval of VCE. Extra Work may be authorized, as described below, and if authorized, will be compensated at the rates and manner set forth in this Agreement.

4.2 Payment of Compensation. VCE shall, within 45 days of receiving an invoice for services rendered by CONSULTANT in accordance with this Agreement, review the invoice and pay all approved charges thereon.

4.3 VCE ’s Right to Withhold Payment. VCE reserves the right to withhold payment from Consultant on account of Services not performed satisfactorily, delays in Consultant’s performance of Services past the milestones established in the Schedule of Services (**Exhibit C**), or other defaults hereunder. Consultant shall not stop or delay performance of Services under this Agreement if VCE properly withholds payment pursuant to this Section 4.3, provided that VCE continues to make payment of undisputed amounts.

4.4 Payment Disputes. If VCE disagrees with any portion of a billing, VCE shall promptly notify Consultant of the disagreement, and VCE and Consultant shall attempt to resolve the disagreement. VCE’s payment of any amounts shall not constitute a waiver of any disagreement and VCE shall promptly pay all amounts not in dispute.

4.5 Extra Work. At any time during the term of this Agreement, VCE may request that Consultant perform Extra Work. As used herein, “Extra Work” means any work which is determined by VCE to be necessary for the proper completion of the Project, but which the parties did not reasonably anticipate would be necessary at the execution of this Agreement. Consultant shall not perform, nor be compensated for, Extra Work without written authorization from the VCE Manager.

4.6 Prevailing Wages. Consultant is aware of the requirements of California Labor Code Section 1720, *et seq.*, and 1770 *et seq.*, as well as California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1600 *et seq.* (“Prevailing Wage Laws”), which require the payment of prevailing wage rates and the performance of other requirements on “public works” and “maintenance” projects. If the Services are being performed as part of an applicable “public works” or “maintenance” project, as defined by the Prevailing Wage Laws, and if the total compensation is \$1,000 or more, Consultant agrees to fully comply with such Prevailing Wage Laws. VCE shall provide Consultant with a copy of the prevailing rates of per diem wages in effect at the commencement of this Agreement. Consultant shall make available to interested parties upon request, copies of the prevailing rates of per diem wages for each craft, classification or type of worker needed to execute the Services and shall post copies at the Consultant’s principal place of business and at the Project site. Consultant shall defend, indemnify and hold the VCE, its elected officials, officers, employees and agents free and harmless pursuant to the indemnification provisions of this Agreement and in accordance with the language of Section 6.3, from any claim or liability to the extent arising out of any failure or alleged failure of Consultant to comply with the Prevailing Wage Laws.

5. SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION.

5.1 Suspension. VCE may suspend this Agreement and Consultant’s performance of the Services, wholly or in part, for such period as it deems necessary due to unfavorable conditions or to the failure on the part of Consultant to perform any material provision of this Agreement. Consultant will be paid for satisfactory services performed hereunder through the date of temporary suspension pro rating for any payment in connection with the next milestone based

on the work performed towards such milestone as mutually determined by Consultant and VCE working together in good faith. In the event that Consultant's services hereunder are delayed for a period in excess of six (6) months due to causes beyond Consultant's reasonable control, Consultant may terminate this Agreement and collect payment for any satisfactory services provided through the date of temporary suspension pro rating for any payment in connection with the next milestone as described above.

5.2 Termination for Cause.

5.2.1 If Consultant at any time refuses or neglects to prosecute its services in accordance with the Schedule of Services, or is adjudicated a bankrupt, or commits any act of insolvency, or makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors without the VCE's consent, or fails to make prompt payment to persons furnishing labor, equipment, materials or services, or fails in any material respect to properly and diligently prosecute its services, or otherwise fails to perform fully any and all of the material agreements herein contained, Consultant shall be in default.

5.2.2 If Consultant fails to cure the default within thirty (30) days after written notice thereof, VCE may, at its sole option, take possession of any documents and data (as more specifically described in Section 6.1) or other materials (in paper and electronic form) prepared for VCE or used by Consultant exclusively in connection with the Project and (1) provide any such work, labor, materials or services as may be necessary to overcome the default and deduct the cost thereof from any money then due or thereafter to become due to Consultant under this Agreement; or (2) terminate Consultant's right to proceed with this Agreement.

5.2.3 In the event VCE elects to terminate, VCE shall have the right to immediate possession of all documents and data and work in progress prepared by Consultant pursuant to this Agreement, whether located at the Project, at Consultant's place of business, or at the offices of a subconsultant, and may employ any other person or persons to finish the Services and provide the materials therefor. In case of such default termination, Consultant shall not be entitled to receive any further payment under this Agreement until the Project is

completely finished. At that time, if the expenses reasonably incurred by VCE in obtaining the Services necessary to complete the Project exceed such unpaid balance, then Consultant shall promptly pay to VCE the amount by which such expense exceeds the unpaid balance of the not-to-exceed amount reflected in Section 4.1. The expense referred to in the previous sentence shall include expenses incurred by VCE in causing the Services called for under this Agreement to be provided by others, and for any costs or damages sustained by VCE by reason of Consultant's default or defective work.

5.2.4 If VCE fails to make timely payment to the Consultant or otherwise fails to perform fully any and all of the material agreements herein contained, VCE shall be in default. If such default is not cured within thirty (30) days after written notice thereof, the Consultant may, at its sole option, terminate this Agreement and VCE shall pay the Consultant all amounts due for services satisfactorily provided to VCE as of the date of Consultant's written notice of default.

5.3 Termination for Convenience.

5.3.1 In addition to the foregoing right to terminate for default, VCE reserves the absolute right to terminate this Agreement without cause, upon 72-hours' written notice to Consultant. In the event of termination without cause, Consultant shall be entitled to payment in an amount not to exceed the not-to-exceed amount set forth in Section 4.1 which shall be calculated as follows: (1) payment for Services then satisfactorily completed and accepted by VCE pro rating for any payment in connection with the next milestone based on the work performed towards such milestone as mutually determined by Consultant and VCE working together in good faith, plus (2) payment for Additional Work satisfactorily completed and accepted by the VCE, plus (3) reimbursable expenses actually incurred by Consultant, as approved by the VCE. The amount of any payment made to Consultant prior to the date of termination of this Agreement shall be deduced from the amounts described in (1), (2), and (3) above. Consultant shall not be entitled to any claim or lien against VCE or the Project for any additional compensation or damages in the event of such termination and payment. In

addition, the VCE's right to withhold funds under Section 4.3 shall be applicable in the event of a termination for convenience.

5.3.2 If this Agreement is terminated by VCE for default and it is later determined that the default termination was wrongful, such termination automatically shall be converted to and treated as a termination for convenience under this Section and Consultant shall be entitled to receive only the amounts payable hereunder in the event of a termination for convenience.

5.3.3 Force Majeure. No party shall be liable or responsible to the other party, nor be deemed to have defaulted under or breached this Agreement, for any failure or delay in fulfilling or performing any term of this Agreement (except for any obligations to make payments to the other party hereunder), when and to the extent such failure or delay is caused by or results from acts beyond the affected party's reasonable control, including, without limitation: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake or explosion; (c) war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest; (d) government order or law; (e) actions, embargoes or blockades in effect on or after the date of this Agreement; (f) action by any governmental authority; and (g) national or regional emergency (a "Force Majeure Event"). The party suffering a Force Majeure Event shall give notice to the other party, stating the period of time the occurrence is expected to continue and shall use diligent efforts to end the failure or delay and ensure the effects of such Force Majeure Event are minimized.

6. OTHER PROVISIONS.

6.1 Documents and Data.

6.1.1 Ownership of Documents. VCE shall be the owner of the following items produced exclusively pursuant to this Agreement, whether or not completed: all data collected, all documents prepared, of any type whatsoever, and any material necessary for the practical use of the data and/or documents from the time of collection and/or production

whether performance under this Agreement has been completed or if this Agreement has been terminated prior to completion. Consultant shall not release any materials under this Section except after prior written approval of VCE. Consultant assumes no liability for VCE's use of Documents in any manner not contemplated in the scope of the Project.

6.1.2 Copyright. No materials produced in whole or in part under this Agreement shall be subject to copyright in the United States or in any other country except as determined at the sole discretion of the VCE. VCE shall have the unrestricted authority to publish, disclose, distribute, and otherwise use in whole or in part, any reports, data, documents or other materials prepared under this Agreement.

6.1.3 Release of Documents to VCE. Consultant shall deliver to VCE all materials prepared by Consultant exclusively in connection with this Agreement, including all drafts, memoranda, analyses, and other documents, in paper and electronic form, within five (5) days of receiving a written request from VCE.

6.1.4 Confidentiality. All documents, reports, information, data, and exhibits prepared or assembled by Consultant in connection with its performance under this Agreement are confidential until released by VCE to the public, and Consultant shall not make any of these documents or information available to any individual or organization not employed by Consultant or VCE without the written consent of VCE before any such release, unless Consultant is required to do so under applicable law.

6.2 Assignment; Successors. Upon mutual written consent, VCE and Consultant may assign this agreement and its obligations to a Joint Powers Agency formed for the purpose of forming and operating a CCE program. Otherwise, Consultant shall not assign any of its rights nor transfer any of its obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the VCE. Any attempt to so assign or so transfer without such consent shall be void and without legal effect and shall constitute grounds for termination. All representations, covenants and warranties set forth in this Agreement, by or on behalf of, or for the benefit of any or all of the parties hereto, shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of such party, its successors and assigns.

6.3 Hold Harmless

a. General Hold Harmless

Consultant shall indemnify and save harmless VCE and its officers, agents, employees, and servants from all claims, suits, or actions of every kind, and description resulting from this Agreement, the performance of any work or services required of Consultant under this Agreement, or payments made pursuant to this Agreement brought for, or on account of, any of the following:

(A) injuries to or death of any person, including Consultant or its employees/officers/agents;

(B) damage to any property of any kind whatsoever and to whomsoever belonging;

(C) any sanctions, penalties, or claims of damages resulting from Consultant's failure to comply, if applicable, with the requirements set forth in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and all Federal regulations promulgated thereunder, as amended; or

(D) any other loss or cost, including but not limited to that caused by the concurrent active or passive negligence of VCE and/or its officers, agents, employees, or servants. However, Consultant's duty to indemnify and save harmless under this Section shall not apply to injuries or damage for which VCE has been found in a court of competent jurisdiction to be solely liable by reason of its own negligence or willful misconduct.

The duty of Consultant to indemnify and save harmless as set forth by this Section shall include the duty to defend as set forth in Section 2778 of the California Civil Code

b. Intellectual Property Indemnification

Consultant hereby certifies that it owns, controls, or licenses and retains all right, title, and interest in and to any intellectual property it uses in relation to this Agreement, including the design, look, feel, features, source code, content, and other technology relating to any part of the services it provides under this Agreement and including all related patents, inventions,

VCE —Professional Services Agreement NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC

trademarks, and copyrights, all applications therefor, and all trade names, service marks, know how, and trade secrets (collectively referred to as “IP Rights”) except as otherwise noted by this Agreement. Consultant warrants that the services it provides under this Agreement do not infringe, violate, trespass, or constitute the unauthorized use or misappropriation of any IP Rights of any third party. Consultant shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless VCE from and against all liabilities, costs, damages, losses, and expenses (including reasonable attorney fees) arising out of or related to any claim by a third party that the services provided in the United States. Consultant’s duty to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless under this Section applies only provided that: (a) VCE notifies Consultant promptly in writing of any notice of any such third-party claim; (b) VCE cooperates with Consultant, at Consultant’s expense, in all reasonable respects in connection with the investigation and defense of any such third-party claim; (c) Consultant retains sole control of the defense of any action on any such claim and all negotiations for its settlement or compromise (provided Consultant shall not have the right to settle any criminal action, suit, or proceeding without VCE’s prior written consent, not to be unreasonably withheld, and provided further that any settlement permitted under this Section shall not impose any financial or other obligation on VCE, impair any right of VCE, or contain any stipulation, admission, or acknowledgment of wrongdoing on the part of VCE without VCE’s prior written consent, not to be unreasonably withheld); and (d) should services under this Agreement become, or in Consultant’s opinion be likely to become, the subject of such a claim, or in the event such a third party claim or threatened claim causes VCE’s reasonable use of the services under this Agreement to be seriously endangered or disrupted, Consultant shall, at Consultant’s option and expense, either: (i) procure for VCE the right to continue using the services without infringement or (ii) replace or modify the services so that they become non-infringing but remain functionally equivalent.

Notwithstanding anything in this Section to the contrary, Consultant will have no obligation or liability to VCE under this Section to the extent any otherwise covered claim is based upon: (a) any aspect of the services under this Agreement which have been modified by or for VCE (other than modification performed by, or at the direction of, Consultant) in such a way as

VCE —Professional Services Agreement NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC

to cause the alleged infringement at issue; and/or (b) any aspects of the services under this Agreement which have been used by VCE in a manner prohibited by this Agreement.

The duty of Consultant to indemnify and save harmless as set forth by this Section shall include the duty to defend as set forth in Section 278 of the California Civil Code.

6.3.1 Survival of Obligation. Consultant's obligation to indemnify shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement, and shall not be restricted to insurance proceeds, if any, received by the VCE, its directors, officials, officers, employees, agents, or volunteers.

6.4 Consultant Not Agent. Except as VCE may specify in writing, Consultant shall have no authority, express or implied, to act on behalf of VCE in any capacity for VCE whatsoever as an agent. Consultant shall have no authority, express or implied, pursuant to this Agreement to bind VCE to any obligation whatsoever.

6.5 Governing Law; Government Code Claim Compliance. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California and any legal actions concerning this Agreement's validity, interpretation and performance shall be governed by the laws of the State of California. Venue shall be in Yolo County. In addition to any and all contract requirements pertaining to notices of and requests for compensation or payment for extra work, disputed work, claims and/or changed conditions, Consultant must comply with the claim procedures set forth in Government Code sections 900 *et seq.* prior to filing any lawsuit against the VCE. Such Government Code claims and any subsequent lawsuit based upon the Government Code claims shall be limited to those matters that remain unresolved after all procedures pertaining to extra work, disputed work, claims, and/or changed conditions have been followed by the Parties hereunder. If no such Government Code claim is submitted, or if any prerequisite contractual requirements are not otherwise satisfied as specified herein, Consultant shall be barred from bringing and maintaining a valid lawsuit against the VCE.

6.6 Delivery of Notices. All notices permitted or required under this Agreement shall be given to the respective parties at the following address, or at such other address as the respective parties may provide in writing for this purpose:

VCE —Professional Services Agreement NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC

Consultant: NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC
225 Union Boulevard, Suite 450
Lakewood, CO 80228
Attn: Brian Dickman, Partner

VCE: Valley Clean Energy Alliance
604 2ND Street
Davis, CA 95616
Attn: Mitch Sears, Chief Executive Officer

Such notice shall be deemed made when personally delivered or when mailed, forty-eight (48) hours after deposit in the U.S. Mail, first class postage prepaid and addressed to the party at its applicable address. Actual notice shall be deemed adequate notice on the date actual notice occurred, regardless of the method of service.

6.7 Incorporation by Reference. All exhibits referred to in this Agreement are attached hereto and are by this reference incorporated herein.

6.8 VCE 's Right to Employ Other Consultants. VCE reserves the right to employ other consultants in connection with the Project, provided that such other consultants shall not be performing the work set forth in the Scope of Services of this Agreement.

6.9 Construction; References; Captions. The language of this Agreement shall be construed simply, according to its fair meaning, and not strictly for or against any party. Any term referencing time, days or period for performance shall be deemed calendar days and not work days. The captions of the various sections and paragraphs are for convenience and ease of reference only, and do not define, limit, augment, or describe the scope, content or intent of this Agreement.

6.10 Amendment; Modification. No supplement, modification or amendment of this Agreement shall be binding unless executed in writing and signed by both parties.

6.11 Waiver. No waiver of any default shall constitute a waiver of any other default or breach, whether of the same or other covenant or condition. No waiver, benefit, privilege, or

service voluntarily given or performed by a party shall give the other party any contractual rights by custom, estoppel or otherwise.

6.12 No Third Party Beneficiaries. There are no intended third party beneficiaries of any right or obligation assumed by the parties.

6.13 Invalidity; Severability. If any portion of this Agreement is declared invalid, illegal, or otherwise unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

6.14 Interest of Consultant. Consultant covenants that it presently has no interest, and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, financial or otherwise, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of the Services under this Agreement. Consultant certifies that no one who has or will have any financial interest under this Agreement is an officer or employee of the VCE.

6.15 Interest of Subconsultants. Consultant further covenants that, in the performance of this Agreement, no subconsultant or person having any interest, direct or indirect, financial or otherwise, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of the Services under this Agreement shall be employed. Consultant has provided VCE with a list of all subconsultants and the key personnel for such subconsultants that are retained or to be retained by Consultant in connection with the performance of the Services, to assist VCE in affirming compliance with this Section.

6.16 Prohibited Interests. Consultant maintains and warrants that it has not employed nor retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for Consultant, to solicit or secure this Agreement. Further, Consultant warrants that it has not paid nor has it agreed to pay any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for Consultant, any fee, commission, percentage, brokerage fee, gift or other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement. If required, Consultant further agrees to file, or shall cause its employees or subconsultants to file, a Statement of Economic Interest with the VCE 's Filing Officer as required under state law in the

VCE —Professional Services Agreement NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC

performance of the Services. For breach or violation of this warranty, VCE shall have the right to rescind this Agreement without liability. For the term of this Agreement, no member, officer or employee of the VCE, during the term of his or her service with the VCE, shall have any direct interest in this Agreement, or obtain any present or anticipated material benefit arising therefrom.

6.17 Cooperation; Further Acts. The parties shall fully cooperate with one another, and shall take any additional acts or sign any additional documents as may be necessary, appropriate or convenient to attain the purposes of this Agreement.

6.18 Attorneys' Fees. If either party commences an action against the other party, either legal, administrative or otherwise, arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, the prevailing party in such litigation shall be entitled to have and recover from the losing party reasonable attorneys' fees and all other costs of such action.

6.19 Authority to Enter Agreement. Each party has all requisite power and authority to conduct its business and to execute, deliver, and perform this Agreement. Each party warrants that the individuals who have signed this Agreement have the legal power, right, and authority to make this Agreement and to bind each respective party.

6.20 Counterparts. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original.

6.21 Entirety of Agreement. This Agreement contains the entire agreement of VCE and Consultant with respect to the subject matter hereof, and no other agreement, statement or promise made by any party, or to any employee, officer or agent of any party, which is not contained in this Agreement, shall be binding or valid.

[Signatures on following page]

SIGNATURE PAGE TO CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, VCE and Consultant have entered into this Agreement as of the date first stated above.

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

By: 

Mitch Sears
Chief Executive Officer


NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC

By: 

40670442740F44D...
Its: Partner

Printed Name: Brian Dickman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: 

Inder Khalsa, Attorney
Richard, Watson & Gershon
VCE Legal Counsel

EXHIBIT A

SCOPE OF SERVICES

General Rate and Regulatory Consulting

Consultant will provide general regulatory and rates consulting, including but not limited to evaluation of PCIA-related issues affecting California CCAs and VCE's competitive position. Work will be undertaken as requested by VCE and agreed to in writing between VCE and Consultant, up to the budgeted not to exceed amount.

As part of this task, Consultant will assist with preparation for and participate in PCIA / Rates workshop presentation(s) to VCE staff and board members as requested by VCE.

Develop Multi-Year Financial Outlook Model

Consultant will develop a multi-year (5 year) financial proforma model in MS Excel that will enable VCE to evaluate the impact on its net position and cash reserves due to changes in forecasted expenses and customer revenue. Target model functionality includes:

- Calculate VCE's annual operating costs based on detailed departmental budgets prepared by VCE and power supply costs provided by VCE power supply consultants.
- Calculate customer revenue at current average rates by customer class using projected customer sales volumes provided by VCE or its consultants.
- Evaluate changes in average rates required to recover VCE's costs and meet targets for program funding over time.
- Calculate VCE performance against existing or requested key performance indicators (e.g., minimum days cash on hand or other reserve policies).
- Analyze the impact on net margin and cash reserves, and the need for changes in VCE average rates, given changes to model inputs.
- Compare projected VCE average retail rates to PG&E average rates on an annual basis.
- Evaluate impact on VCE competitive position based on projected changes to PG&E bundled generation and PCIA rates.

Consultant will work with VCE and its customer data provider to develop a model that uses VCE historical customer billing data to calculate current average retail rates by customer class, using effective rates for VCE and PG&E.

Consultant will train and support VCE staff in the use of the multi-year financial outlook model.

EXHIBIT B

FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER MATERIALS PROVIDED BY VCE

Not Applicable

EXHIBIT C

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Task	Timeline
General Regulatory and Rates Support	March 1 – December 31, 2025
Develop Multi-Year Financial Outlook Model	March 1 – December 31, 2025

EXHIBIT D**BUDGET, PAYMENT, RATES**

VCE shall compensate Consultant for professional services in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement based on the rates and compensation schedule set forth below. Compensation shall be calculated on a time and materials basis up to the not to exceed budget amount set forth below.

Compensation to be paid to Consultant under this Agreement for all services described in Exhibit A and reimbursable expenses **shall not exceed a total of \$75,000**, as set forth below.

Task	NTE Budget
General Regulatory and Rates Support	\$10,000
Develop Multi-Year Financial Outlook Model	\$65,000
Total	\$75,000

Consultant will provide monthly invoices based on actual hours worked at billing rates as of the date of the invoice and expenses incurred at cost. The Consultant's current billing rates are shown below.

**NewGen Strategies and Solutions
2025 Billing Rates**

Position	Hourly Billing Rate
Partner	\$280 – \$425
Principal	\$265 – \$425
Senior Manager	\$235 – \$295
Manager	\$205 – \$245
Senior Consultant	\$180 – \$205
Consultant	\$165 – \$180
Administrative Services	\$135

Note: Billing rates are subject to change based on annual reviews and salary increases.

Consultant will submit monthly invoices to VCE describing the services performed and the applicable charges (including a summary of the work performed during that period, personnel who performed the services, hours worked, task(s) for which work was performed). VCE shall pay all undisputed invoice amounts within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt up to the maximum compensation set forth herein.

Administrative, overhead, secretarial time or overtime, word processing, photocopying, in house printing, insurance and other ordinary business expenses are included within the scope of payment for services and are not reimbursable expenses.

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

RESOLUTION NO. 2025- ____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE TO
RATIFY CONSULTANT AGREEMENT WITH NEWGEN STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS FOR
ENERGY ADVISORY SERVICES.**

WHEREAS, the Valley Clean Energy Alliance (“VCE”) was formed as a community choice aggregation agency (“CCA”) on November 16, 2016, under the Joint Exercise of Power Act, California Government Code sections 6500 et seq., among the County of Yolo, and the Cities of Davis and Woodland, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide electricity, carry out programs to reduce energy consumption, develop local jobs in renewable energy, and promote energy security and rate stability in all of the member jurisdictions. The City of Winters, located in Yolo County, was added as a member of VCE and a party to the JPA in December of 2019; and,

WHEREAS, VCE worked with NewGen Strategies and Solutions for energy advisory services directly for past projects; and,

WHEREAS, NewGen Strategies and Solutions for energy advisory services has direct knowledge and understanding of Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA)/ Energy Resource Recovery Account (ERRA– IOU rate setting) proceeding and forecasting; and,

WHEREAS, VCE and partners SMUD and the energy authority are familiar with NewGen forecasting tools; and,

WHEREAS, in March of 2025, VCE staff has agreed to engage with NewGen Strategies and Solutions for energy advisory services; and,

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer signed the agreement with NewGen Strategies and Solutions effective March 20, 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of Valley Clean Energy Alliance resolves as follows:

1. Ratifies VCE entering into a services agreement with NewGen Strategies and Solutions for energy advisory services for VCE, for an amount not to exceed \$75,000, terminating December 31, 2025.

///

///

///

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED, at a regular meeting of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance, held on the ____ day of _____ 2025 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Bapu Vaitla, VCE Chair

Alisa M. Lembke, VCE Board Secretary

Attachment A: Consultant Agreement with NewGen Strategies and Solutions