VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Staff Report – Item 7

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Edward Burnham, Chief Financial Officer
Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: Discussion on Draft Charge for Local Energy Task Group

DATE: December 18, 2025

RECOMMENDATION

Informational – Discussion and feedback.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

At the CAC's September 25, 2025 meeting, CAC Member Lorenzo Kristov suggested that the CAC and Staff discuss forming a Local Energy Task Group (LETG) to assist in developing strategies in line with the Major Update to the SP. At the October 23, 2025 CAC meeting, the CAC reviewed and discussed the Local Energy Task Group Proposal 2025-26 and took action to form the LETG. Staff and the LETG drafted additional revisions to the original document for further discussion and feedback.

CONCLUSION

Based on additional discussion and feedback, Staff and the Local Energy Task Group will return to the CAC at their January 22, 2026 meeting with their final recommendation and request for approval of the LETG Charge.

Attachment: 2026 Local Energy Task Group Charge - Draft

Valley Clean Energy

Local Energy Task Group (LETG)

DRAFT - Task Group Charge for 2026

The Rationale for Creating the LETG

Local Energy Resources ("LER") is a broad category of electricity technologies that includes: scalable renewable generation facilities (solar, wind, small hydro & geothermal); batteries & other types of energy storage; control systems to manage energy supply and customer load; electric vehicles and vehicle charging systems; microgrid controls to provide continuous "islanded" service during utility grid outages (e.g., Community Resilience Centers or CRC); energy efficiency (e.g., weatherization of buildings); and back-up emergency generators.

In recent years LER have been rapidly improving in performance and cost-effectiveness, making them more attractive to diverse customer types and communities for reasons of affordability, resilience, local control and ownership, ability to avoid transmission and distribution system upgrades and interconnection costs, and ability to support local clean energy and electrification initiatives.

To move from recognition of the potential benefits of LER to the identification of practical LER applications in which VCE could play an effective role, there is a need for (1) accurate education about LER applications, benefits, technologies and costs, both for decision makers and for the general public (VCE customers and member jurisdictions); (2) identification and evaluation of potential LER applications in VCE's territory in which VCE could participate or play an enabling or supportive role; and (3) development of a vision and strategy for increasing LERs in VCE's energy planning and procurement and in member communities' energy systems.

The LETG would support the following objectives in VCE's 2026-29 Strategic Plan:

> 2.3 Objective: Develop strategies to identify and pursue cost-effective, local distributed energy resources. Strategies could include, but are not limited to, an allocation of resource portfolio investment in cost-effective local energy and storage resources even though such local investment may affect achievement of overall resource portfolio goals.
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> 4.1 Objective: Work with a variety of local, regional and state partners, to develop strategies and initiatives to pressure state policy makers to remove barriers to technical feasibility and economic viability of local renewable and storage resources, both FOM and BTM.
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> 4.2 Objective: Work with member jurisdictions (e.g., city and school district planning staff) to help plan and implement local energy resilience, decarbonization and electrification initiatives and where practical, powered by local supply resources.
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> 5.2 Objective: Work with partners and policy makers at the local, regional and state levels to remove barriers to the technical feasibility and economic viability of local solar+storage and other renewable resources, for both in front of the meter and behind the meter installations.

Proposed LETG Charge

1. The LETG will meet monthly, outside of regular VCE Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings. Specific research or other tasks may be performed by LETG members outside of LETG meetings.
2. The LETG will compile and organize educational materials on LER technologies and applications that could be appropriate for VCE's service area. Educational materials would include the following:
    - Definitions and descriptions of LER terms, concepts and major types of applications.
    - Examples of LER applications deployed elsewhere, with information on benefits, costs, implementation processes, etc., as available.
    - Description of risks, challenges, and benefits associated with types of LER applications, including technical and financial risks, policy uncertainties and community benefits.
    - Identification of existing obstacles to LER deployment, including policy and regulatory obstacles, and any efforts by other CCAs or stakeholders to reduce those obstacles.
3. The LETG will identify potential LER applications that would be beneficial in VCE's territory and will develop brief initial descriptions. Applications may include conceptual models, specific projects and programs.
4. The LETG will assist VCE staff in developing evaluation methods for LER applications.
5. The LETG will provide short (5-10 minute) reports at each CAC meeting to inform the CAC about the above topics. When a CAC agenda is light, the LETG may lead a longer discussion on an LER topic.
6. The LETG will support the development of a vision, strategy and plans for increasing LERs in VCE's energy planning and procurement and in member communities' energy systems.
7. When opportunities arise, LETG members may engage with other CCAs, their CACs, and other stakeholders about LER applications and issues of interest.