VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Staff Report – Item 9

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Chad Curran, Director of Power Services
Edward Burnham, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Local Energy Task Group Update Report

DATE: March 26, 2026

RECOMMENDATION
Informational – Discussion and feedback.

BACKGROUND
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 VCE 2026-2029 Strategic Plan (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. Based on discussion and feedback, the CAC approved the 2026 LETG Charge at their January 22, 2026.

SUMMARY
The Local Energy Task Group (LETG) will present an overview of its recent work to describe specific local energy project types and their benefits and explore potential roles VCE could play in facilitating community-based clean energy and resilience initiatives.

The presentation is structured around three major topics: (1) the rationale and opportunities for pursuing local energy resources; (2) potential project types that may be beneficial for VCE's member jurisdictions and customers; and (3) next steps for advancing the Task Group's work and informing future discussions.

To facilitate the task group and CAC discussions, and to advance knowledge and understanding of local energy possibilities and benefits among VCE's member jurisdictions and customers, the LETG and VCE staff will develop definitions of terms and reference materials related to local energy. The local energy definitions and resources information will be updated throughout the process. This Information could potentially be a resource developed for VCE's public website.

Possible Next Steps for VCE's Local Energy Task Group

To support ongoing planning and discussions working towards VCE's strategic goals, the LETG may outline the following:

- **VCE's Roles** - Exploring possible VCE roles (lead developer, partner, facilitator, off-taker, or information resource) across different project types, increasing long-term affordability.
- **Local Participation -** Identifying local interests and initiating discussions with jurisdictions, community groups, and potential project partners to shape and refine project concepts, addressing strategic questions such as:
    - How to implement affordable DERS to displace utility scale resources
    - How DERS can meet VCE's regulatory requirements (RA, RPS, etc.)
- **Legal and regulatory** - including opportunities under current rules and identifying needed changes or areas for advocacy to enable local energy development
- **Project Criteria -** for evaluating which local projects may be viable, high-impact, or aligned with VCE's strategic priorities

CONCLUSION

The LETG will help VCE clarify its options, assess potential project pathways, and prepare for future decisions about local energy projects and provide a similar presentation to the VCE's Board.

Attachment: 2026 Local Energy Task Group Resources and Definitions

Attachment I
Local Energy Task Group – Definitions and Resources

I. Definitions

a. Community Resilience Center: A facility equipped with backup power—typically a building equipped with solar PV, battery storage and microgrid controls for autonomous operation—designed to support local residents during grid outages, extreme heat or cold, wildfire smoke, or other emergencies.

b. Community-Scale Solar + Storage: A midsized solar energy system (typically less than 20 MW) paired with battery storage, connected to the distribution network and serving a neighborhood, rural town, subdivision, jurisdictional facility cluster, or a defined community load.

c. Distributed Energy Resources (DER): Local energy resources connected to the distribution network, either on-site at customer premises ("behind-the-meter" or BTM) or directly to the utility network ("front-of-meter" or FOM), such as rooftop solar, battery storage, smart inverters, electric vehicles, or controllable loads, as well as community-scale solar + storge on the distribution grid.

d. Microgrid: A group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources that can operate as a single controllable entity either connected to the grid or independently ("islanded") during outages.

e. Energy Self-Supply (New Development): Design strategies in which new housing, mixed-use or commercial developments integrate onsite solar, storage, microgrid controls and energy-efficient systems to offset a portion or all of their long-term electricity use.

f. Electrification: The conversion of fossil-fuel dependent societal functions (such as transportation) and building functions and appliances (such as gas heating or water heaters) to electric alternatives that can run on locally-supplied clean energy.

g. EV Charging Infrastructure: Facilities and equipment used to charge electric vehicles, including Level 2 and DC fast charging stations, owned privately or by public or community entities.

h. Cooperative Ownership (e.g., Energy Supply or EV Infrastructure): A model in which infrastructure is owned collectively by a group of community members, organizations, or public agencies rather than a private company or utility.

i. Interconnection: The process and technical requirements for connecting local energy resources (solar, storage, EV chargers) to the electric distribution system.