



For Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE: City of Calistoga and Clean Coalition agree to move forward with microgrid plans for the City

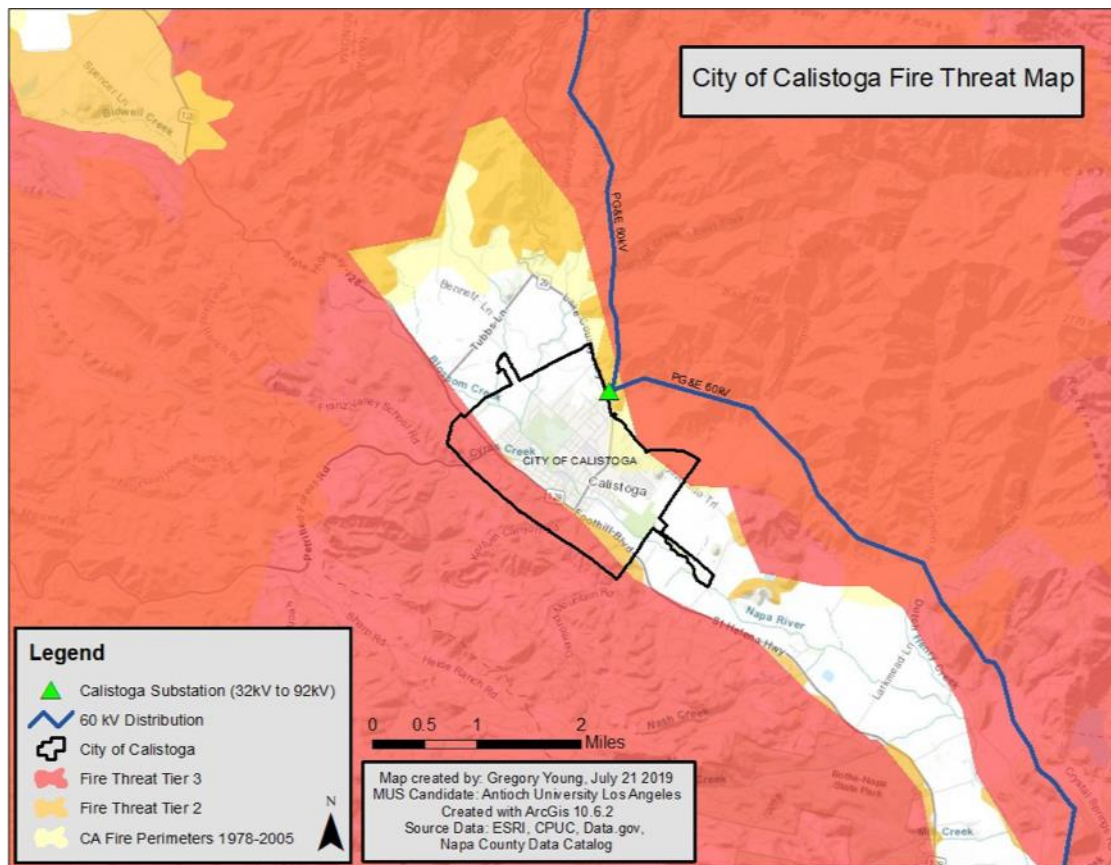
Facing wildfire threats and planned utility outages, the City is seeking the unparalleled resilience benefits of renewables-driven Community Microgrids

CALISTOGA, CA — The City of Calistoga has entered into an agreement with the Clean Coalition, a California nonprofit organization, to conduct a feasibility assessment to determine whether to proceed with a Community Microgrid for the City.

A [Community Microgrid](#) is a new approach for designing and operating electric grids. Although connected to the larger power grid, during a power outage a renewables-driven Community Microgrid can “island” from the grid and keep critical facilities online indefinitely.

The Clean Coalition has a long history of [designing and staging Community Microgrids](#), most recently for the wildfire-ravaged California areas of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, as well as the North Bay. Increasingly, municipalities that have not yet experienced disasters are considering this modern energy system to provide their communities an unparalleled trifecta of economic, environmental, and resilience benefits.

Adding to the urgency in Calistoga are the Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) planned by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), the local utility, during times of high fire danger. The City of Calistoga experienced two PSPS warnings last fall, and a 48-hour shutoff disrupted the City and led to lost revenue for local businesses. With a severe fire season predicted for California this year, PSPS are likely to increase in frequency and duration.



PG&E is currently investigating the potential for enabling temporary diesel generation to supply power to part of the city during a PSPS through a new preinstalled interconnection hub (PIH). The City and PG&E hope to complete construction of the PIH by mid-September. While the PIH will support some of the city’s businesses and residents during PSPS, it will not power the whole city. As currently envisioned, areas west of the river and those in proximity to severe high-fire-threat zones will remain unpowered during a PSPS. In addition, diesel generators are heavy polluters and are expensive to maintain. They do not provide the real energy resilience that Community Microgrids will bring to the area.

“The Clean Coalition is excited about the opportunity to design a truly resilient power system for Calistoga,” said Dr. Frank Wasko, Managing Director of the Clean Coalition. “With their vote to proceed with the Community Microgrid project, the forward-thinking Calistoga City Council has shown they understand what it takes for their community to thrive in California’s new normal.”

The project will start with a few microgrids at discrete locations, with the ultimate goal to develop a Community Microgrid that serves the full Calistoga substation grid area.

As part of the site assessment, the Clean Coalition will conduct a Solar Siting Survey to identify the commercial-scale solar siting potential in Calistoga. The Clean Coalition’s [Solar Siting Survey](#) methodology has successfully identified ample solar siting opportunities in

urban and suburban environments; predominantly on buildings, parking lots, and parking structures.

The Clean Coalition will follow the site assessment with functional designs for five target microgrid sites and a broader Community Microgrid that serves the entire City of Calistoga. In addition, the Clean Coalition will engage key stakeholders in preparation for the next project phases: permit-ready, finance-ready microgrid designs and construction thereof.

About the Clean Coalition

The Clean Coalition is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to accelerate the transition to renewable energy and a modern grid through technical, policy, and project development expertise. The Clean Coalition drives policy innovation to remove barriers to procurement and interconnection of distributed energy resources (DER) — such as local renewables, energy storage, advanced inverters, and demand response — and we establish market mechanisms that realize the full potential of integrating these solutions. In addition to being active in numerous proceedings before state and federal agencies throughout the United States, the Clean Coalition collaborates with utilities, community choice aggregation agencies, municipalities, and other jurisdictions to create near-term deployment opportunities that prove the technical and economic viability of local renewables and other DER.

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