

Redwood Coast Airport Microgrid: Advancing a resilient and clean energy future



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Mathew Marshall is the Executive Director of the Redwood Coast Energy Authority, a joint powers agency of Humboldt County local governments dedicated to implementing sustainably energy initiatives in the region, including operating the local community choice aggregation program. A graduate of Humboldt State University, Matthew serves on the board of directors of several community nonprofits, including the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust, the Redwood Parks Conservancy, and the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce, and the Humboldt Folklife Society, and is Vice President of the California Community Choice Association (CalCCA). He plays the bagpipes and is Assistant Chief of the Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department.





Jim Zoellick is a Principal Engineer at the Schatz Energy Research Center at Humboldt State University with 25 years of dedication. His work involves planning, analysis, project development, and implementation, with a special focus on tribal and public sector projects in rural northern California. Most recently he has worked to develop, deploy, and evaluate cutting-edge microgrid technology. He has managed or co-managed two microgrid projects at the Blue Lake Rancheria, including the 2018 DistribuTECH Project of the Year for DER Integration. Currently, he is co-managing the Redwood Coast Airport Microgrid Project; this will be the first frontof-meter, multi-customer microgrid on Pacific Gas & Electric's distribution system.





Carmen Henrikson is a Vice President in TRC's Advanced Energy practice and brings 20 years of experience in the planning and implementation of clean and distributed energy resources. She leads strategic direction for the integration of customer energy resources — including energy efficiency, demand management, storage and renewable resources — to design and develop scalable solutions in our evolving energy markets. Since 2016, Ms. Henrikson has served on the Board of Directors for the California Efficiency and Demand Management Council. Ms. Henrikson holds an MBA and MS in Natural Resource Policy from the University of Michigan's Erb Institute of Global Sustainable Enterprise and a B.A. in Earth and Environmental Science from Wesleyan University.

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Redwood Coast Airport Renewable Energy Microgrid

Advancing a resilient and clean energy future

Matthew Marshall, Redwood Coast Energy Authority Jim Zoellick, Schatz Energy Research Center Carmen Henrikson, TRC Companies





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INCREASING NEED FOR RESILIENCY around critical facilities due to climate change impacts RCAM IOUs TRANSITIONING to the **CCA / LOCAL GOVERNMENT** sustainable smart grid of the future generation and storage projects

Project Objectives

- Demonstrate a viable, replicable business model for a 100% renewable community scale microgrid
- Provide resilience to critical community services in the face of climate change
- Provide local benefits via renewable energy development (create jobs, keep energy \$\$\$ local, increase energy security, reduce price volatility, increase local control & ownership)
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Develop agreements, standards and processes for replicability
- Advance technology and policy through cutting edge public research





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Key Project Partners

- Schatz Energy Research Center: prime contractor & technology integrator
- Pacific Gas & Electric: distribution system operator
- Redwood Coast Energy Authority: local CCA, distributed generation owner & co-funder
- CEC and PG&E Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC): grant funders
- County of Humboldt: airport owner/operator
- TRC Companies → business case evaluation, cybersecurity
- Key vendors: Tesla → PV/battery,
 Schweitzer Engr. Labs (SEL) → controls





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HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY



Humboldt County is a rural, isolated community at the end of a transmission line.

Region is vulnerable to tsunamis, earthquakes, landslides, floods, wildfires and most recently PSPS events.

Community has ambitious plans for renewable energy utilization.







RCAM Projects Components

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TECHNICAL DESIGN	2 OPERATIONS AGREEMENT	BUSINESS MODEL	PROJECT BUILD
 2.2 MW Solar PV DC-coupled with 2.2 MW/8.8 MWh battery storage 300 kW NEM PV Microgrid controllers enable islanding capabilities 	 PG&E controls generation assets as the DSO while islanding CAISO wholesale market participation & revenue while grid-connected 	 Feasibility of resiliency-driven model Evaluating tariff agreement and other financial incentives Replication for front- of-the meter, multi- customer microgrid model 	 Construction starts in Q2 2021 Commercial operation date (COD) in Q4 2021
Complete	Nearly Complete	In Progress	Future Stage

Project Description

- First front-of-meter, multi-customer microgrid on PG&E's system
- 2.2 MW PV array DC-coupled to 2.2 MW/8.8 MWh battery storage → CAISO wholesale market participation
- 300 kW_{AC} net-metered PV array → reduce airport electric bills
- Microgrid controllers → will allow the system to island and provide uninterruptible power for long periods





Grid-connected Mode

ation asset

- RCEA (3rd party) will control generation asset, participate in wholesale market → energy arbitrage
- Wholesale interconnection constrained to 1,480 kW max import and 1,778 kW max export to mitigate otherwise required distribution system upgrades

Islanded Mode

 PG&E as distribution system operator (DSO) will control generation asset



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Simplified 1-Line Diagram



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Operating Agreements & Replication

- Unique partnership between an IOU and a CCA
- CCA will own and operate DERs that will form the islanded microgrid on IOU's distribution circuit, this requires special attention
- Areas of collaboration include:
 - Design → must be safe, reliable and functional and must seamlessly mesh with the existing distribution system
 - Development of contractual agreements
 - RCAM Microgrid Operating Agreement
- Focus is to develop necessary agreements for RCAM project within existing regulatory framework with eye toward future replication potential







Partnership Agreements & Replication

Design Work

- Single line diagram
- **Communications block diagram** lacksquare
- Site plan
- Concept of Operations (CONOPs) document

Includes decisions on:

- Telemetry
- **Communication protocols**
- Controls
- Protection
- Cybersecurity

Replication Achievements: Networking Architecture & CONOPS from RCAM will be used as basis for PG&E's future projects.

 As RCEA's owner's engineer, SERC has developed docs, then iterated to agreement with PG&E.



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Partnership Agreements & Replication

RCAM Microgrid Operating Agreement

- DER interconnection Agreements
- Special Facilities Agreement
- Operational Roles and Responsibilities
 - CONOPs
 - Protocols and procedures → define how various operational activities will be handled
- Performance requirements
- Accounting and compensation

Replication Achievement: <u>Bright Clear Line</u> linking ownership with operational roles and responsibilities.

• Transitions between operating modes

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- Planned & unplanned outages
- Emergency conditions
- Access and clearances
- Maintenance and testing
- Incident reporting



Partnership Agreements & Replication

Tariff Work

Within the scope of the CEC project, the RCAM Tariff Working group considered several agreements including:

- Microgrid Infrastructure Cost Recovery
 - Covered by existing Rule 2 SFA
- Islanded Energy Tariff
 - Not needed, always in CAISO market
- Islanded Grid Services Tariff
 - Limited monetizable value with high transaction costs

Replication Achievement: Existing compensation mechanisms identified; upfront incentive identified as more important to overcome cost barriers, cost offsets for eligible projects to be tied to the capital equipment costs and distribution upgrades for the facility to island.



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MODEL PEER REVIEW + FINALIZE BIZ 3 2 **DEVELOPMENT +** FEEDBACK MODEL **WORKING GROUP** Define RCAM base case Inputs on B/C, Incorporate feedback resiliency methods, Capture project costs and • Complete market and replication revenues potential and models Quantify benefits • adoption projections Identify new Calculate benefit-cost • • **Develop replication** (B/C) ratio over lifetime considerations, recommendations perspectives Determine revenue gap •

Develop replication models .

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Informs RCAM base case and replication use cases:



REVENUE

Wholesale Participation Energy and frequency regulation revenues

Other Revenues *REC, RA capacity, and resiliency revenues*





RCAM Resiliency Values

RCAM Gap = \$5.1M

- \$38 per capita for Humboldt County over 25-yr project lifetime, or
- \$3.4 per RCEA account per year
- \$1.3 per Arcata airport passenger-trip

Additional values available to the community, with only a portion accounted for in resiliency value calculations.



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RCAM Valuing Resiliency

- Focus on quantifiable community benefits 2. Loss of Converted to monetary values using reputable 1. Loss of **Economic** Critical tools and methodologies Activities Services Baseline 20 hour/year outage at Division level – 10-year average with Major Event Days (MED) 3. Avoided **Outage Cost Tools / Method** Value & Category FEMA BCAR \$160,000 Loss of Coast Guard Length & frequency of outage **Services** Loss of Critical Services: EMS # of facility personnel \$140,000 Services (Coast Guard) # of cardiac arrests/100k population \$120,000 Total population served Value of Lost Time Economic: Airport Loss of 'ear (S) Revenue \$100,000 Economic: Lost of Productive **ICE Calculator** per Y \$80,000 Time (Worker GDP) • Length & frequency of outage **Customer interruption** OSS Facility type cost in total \$/year \$60,000 Loss of Electricity Service and operations (Avoided Cost, remaining small C&I) \$40,000 **Airport Specific** \$20,000 Loss of Revenues: Length & frequency of outage Passenger, cargo, car · Facility size / \$0 rental, cafe air traffic volume



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	Base Case Redwood Coast Airport Microgrid project		ase ast Airport oroject	
Natural Disaster: E.g., PSPS-impacted	customers		Clu	Critical Facilities: uster of critical facilities

Islanding Premium

Infrastructure Deferral: E.g. Non-Wires Alternatives



Additional Value Streams



Site multiple critical facilities

within microgrid boundary Builds on existing framework

- FTM asset, multi-customer
- Wholesale participation

Approach

 Develop and aggregate proxy resiliency benefits based on services provided and population served

Other Considerations/Limitations

- Must be on the same distribution feeder
- Space availability for hosting DER generation and MG assets
- Distribution feeder condition and current capacity



Resiliency Proxy Value Approach



Facility Type	Proxy Resiliency Value (\$/year)	Facility Descriptions
Hospital Small	\$100,000	75k population served
Medium	\$600,000	200k population served
Large	\$2,700,000	500k population served; full services, incident profile of 98.5% minor/1.5% mixed injury severity levels; 20 mil to next facility
Wastewater Treatment Plant Municipal	\$400,000	16k population served (Arcata)
County	\$3,300,000	164k populated served (Humboldt County)
Emergency Medical Services	\$4,000	16k population (Arcata) with national average 58 cardiac arrests in 100k per year
Police Station	\$90,000	16k population with national crime statistics
Fire Station	\$4,000	16k population with national FEMA stats; 2.5 mil to next facility
Municipal Emergency Command Center	\$78,000	\$100k/day total value of service from surveys
Community Shelter	\$4,000	\$5k/day total value of service from surveys

Critical Facilities: Civic Function Cluster



POLICE, FIRE DEPT, COMMAND CENTER





MEDIUM (200K SERVED) HOSPITAL

\$6.3M1.12RESILIENCY VALUEBENEFIT / COST (25 YEARS)

NONE GAP TO ADDRESS





Natural Disaster Case: Sustained outage

Design and site microgrid to ride through longduration, sustained outages from natural disasters

Approach

- Introduce one 2-week, or 336-hr long continuous outage at year 8 (of 25 year)
 - In contrast to the baseline level 20 hr/year for each year over project lifetime
- Estimate additional resiliency benefits

Other Considerations

• Low frequency, high impact events



Source: *Utility Reliability Report* on largest unplanned outages in 2017

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ONE 2-WEEK EVENT, YEAR 8



Natural Disaster Case: Consecutive Events



TWO 2-WEEK EVENTS, YEARS 12 & 13



Additional Value Considerations





Source: SEPA, PLMA, and E4TheFuture, 2018.

NWA Case Studies from Leading US Projects 2018

PG

Community Microgrid Enablement Program

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Offsetting Islanding "Premium"

...and still investigating about the RCAM's benefit to the local community and beyond



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Questions?

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