



**BASSETT | AVOCADO HEIGHTS**  
**advanced energy**  
**community**



# **Making Community Solar Work in California**

Lessons from the State's First Small, Multi-sited System

# Introductions

## Moderator



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GridSME



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Pivot Energy

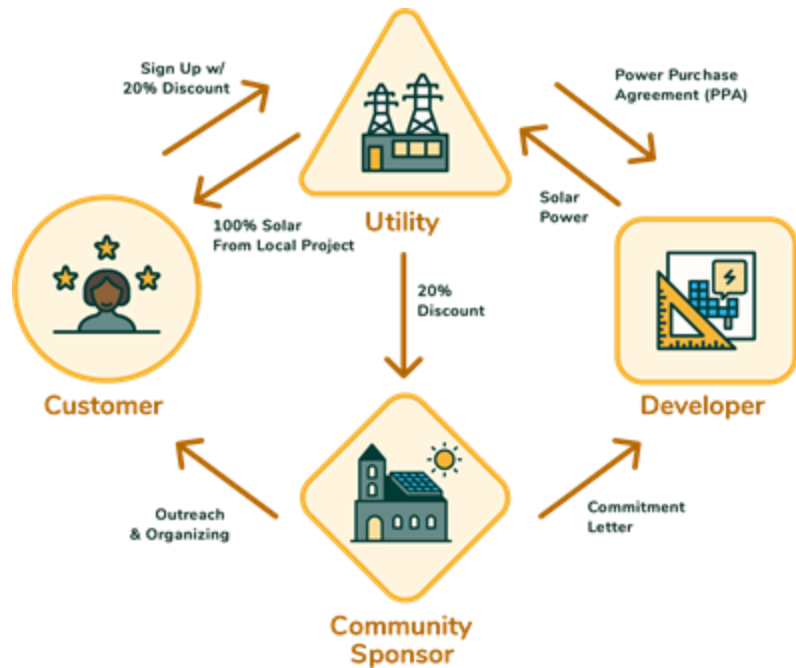
## Panelists

# What is Community Solar?



# Community Solar in California

- 2019: New CPUC programs
  - Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Green Tariff program
  - Local, community-sponsored solar (CS-GT)
    - Closed by AB 2316
- 2022: Process Evaluation, New Proceeding (per AB 2316 and AB 2838)
- 2024: CPUC decision Community Renewable Energy
- 2025: Waiting for CRE program
  - 2025: AB-1260 (D-Ward) introduced (renewable energy subscription programs)



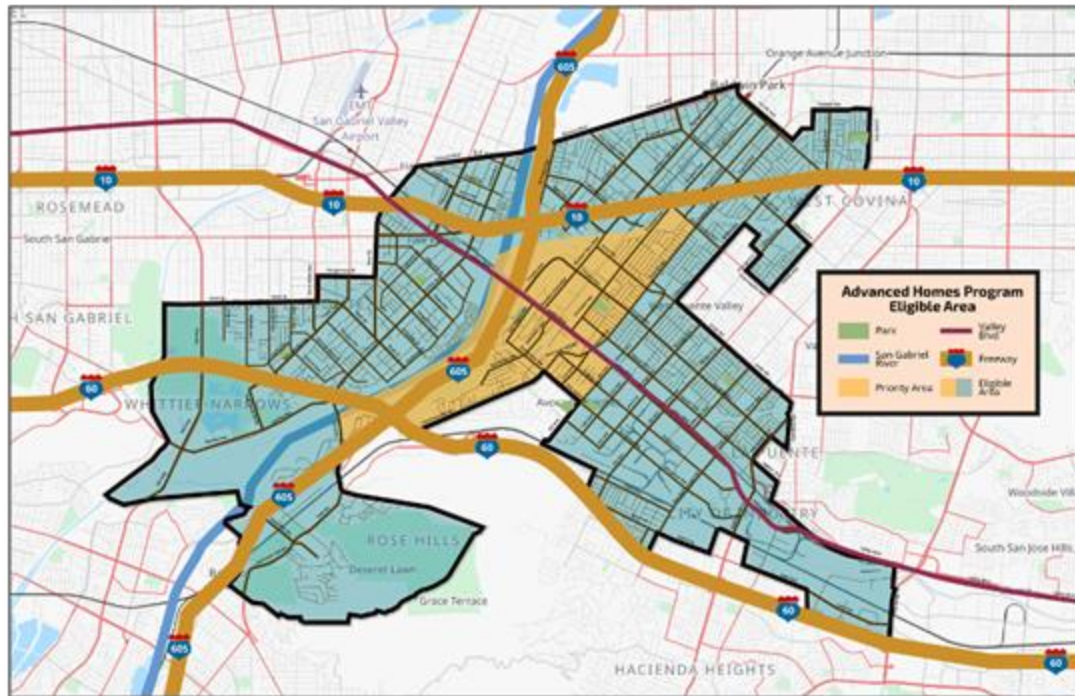
Source: Initiative for Energy Justice



# Project Background



- \$9M California Energy Commission EPIC Grant
- Targeted at low-income households
- All disadvantaged tracts
- East Los Angeles County





# Community Engagement



**ACTIVE  
SGV**



Los Angeles County Supervisor  
**HILDA L. SOLIS**  
First District

**400+**

Power Share enrollments  
*1,216 meaningful interactions*

**340**

anticipated customers served



**CPA** CLEAN  
POWER  
ALLIANCE

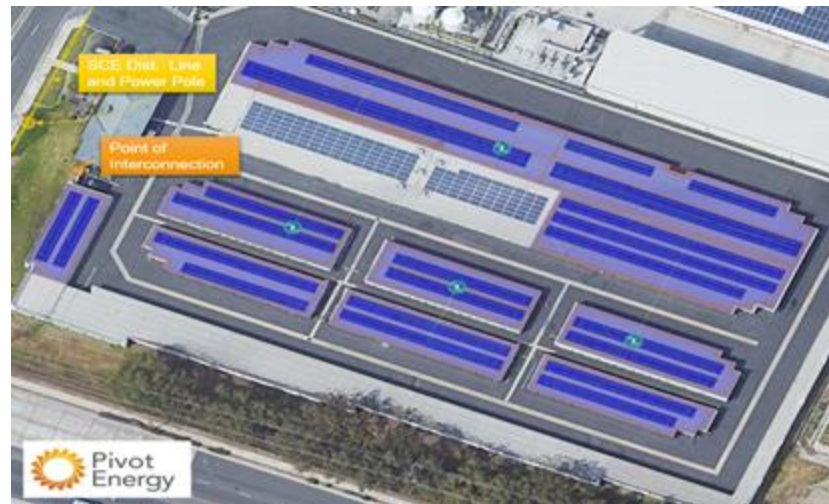


# The Project: 670 kW AC Across Two Sites



## San Gabriel

- 400KW AC
- 862 Panels

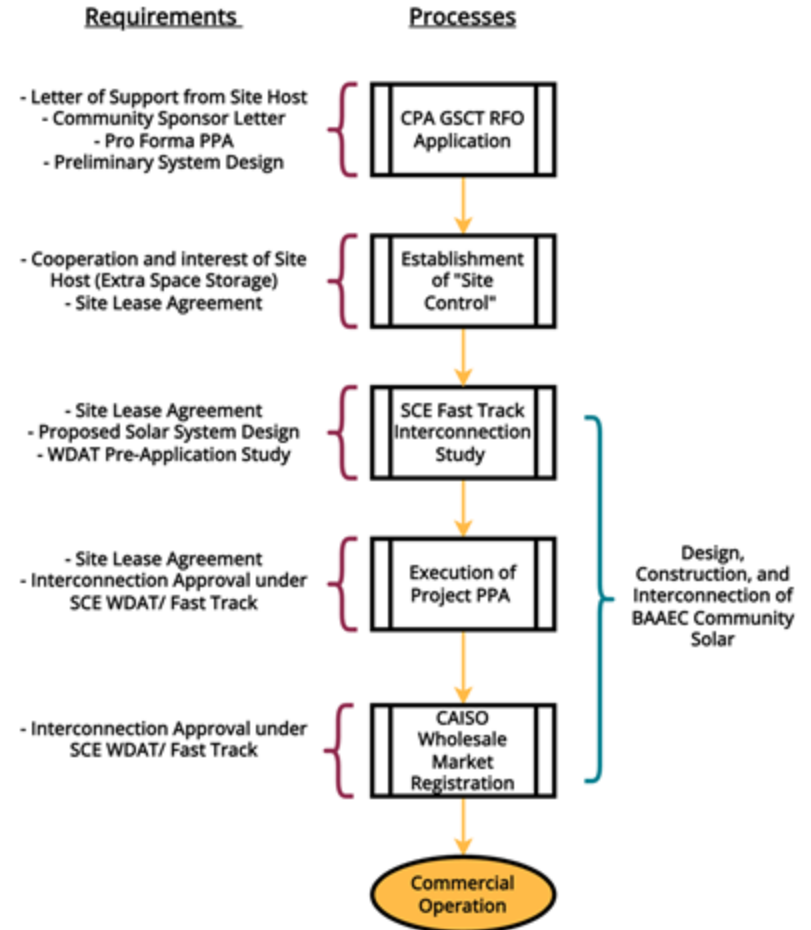


## Beverly

- 270KW AC
- 625 Panels







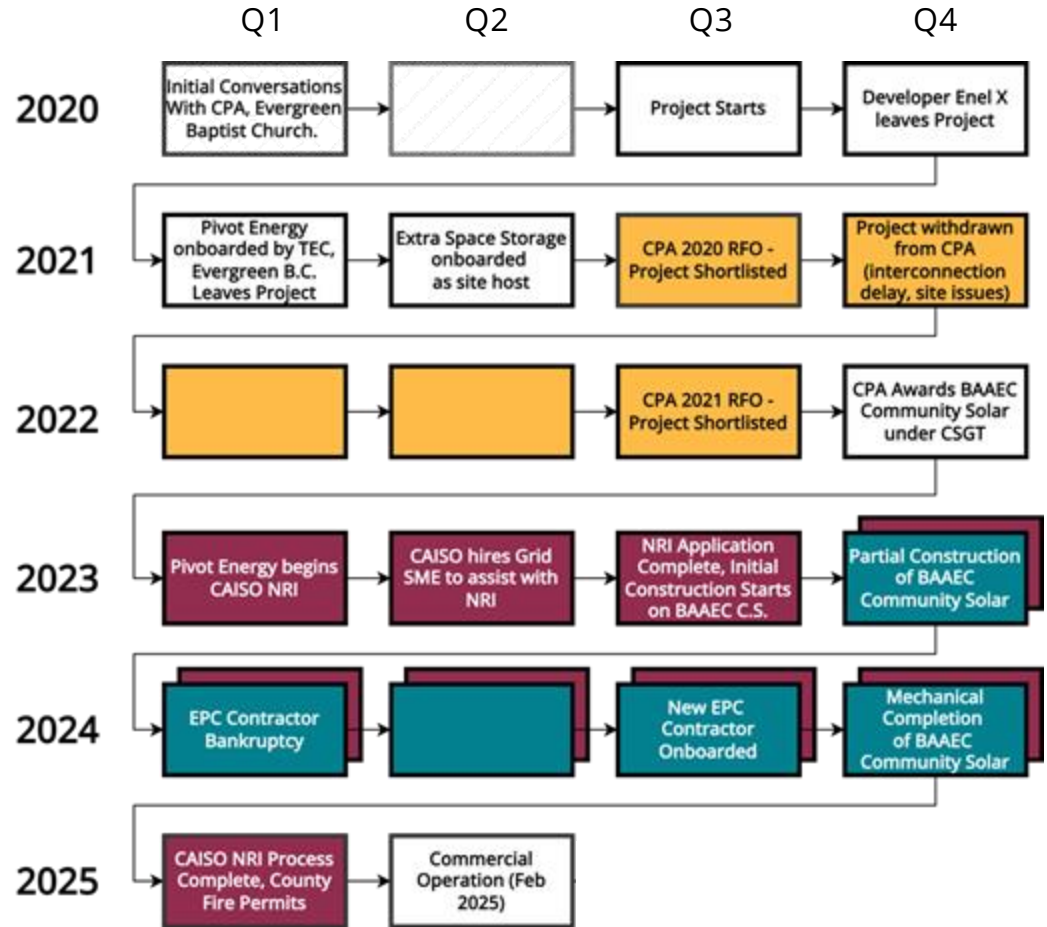
# BAAEC Community Solar Pathway to Implementation



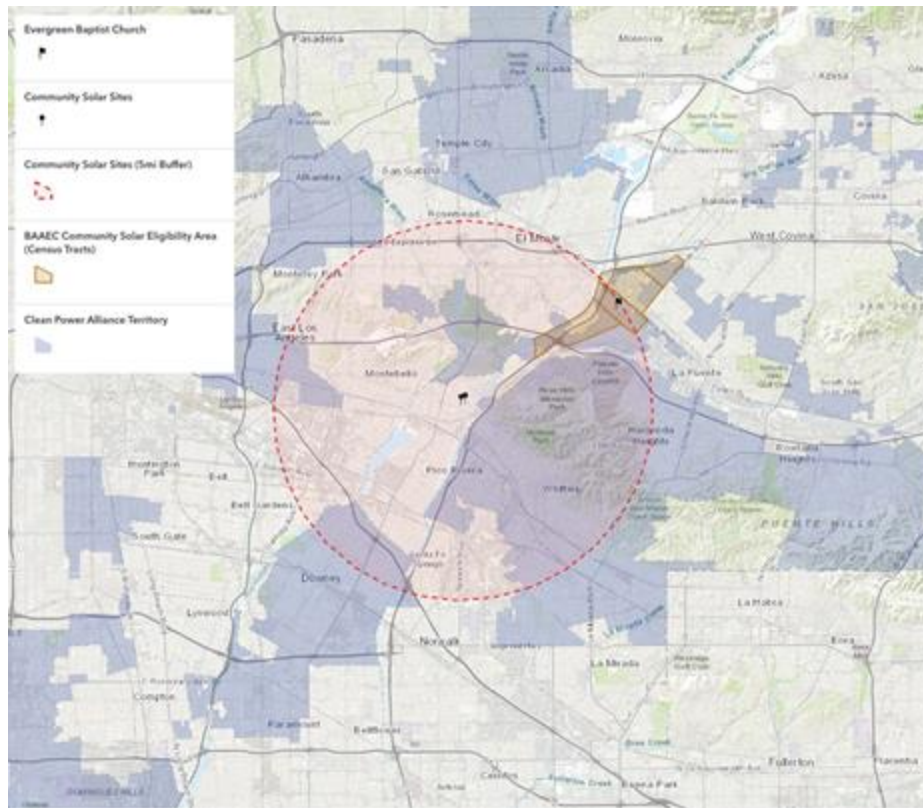


# Project Timeline

-  Project Planning/  
Stakeholder Assembly
-  PPA Negotiations w/ CPA
-  CAISO New Resource  
Implementation
-  Physical Construction



# Challenges – Site Host/Site Change



# Project Challenges

## **Host site change**

*(Exit of Evergreen Baptist Church)*

**CPA deadlines**

**Interconnection delays**

**Challenges that come  
with trying to do new  
things**

*(DERA New Resource  
Integration process)*

**Problems with the  
existing CPUC  
programs**

**Other delays and  
challenges**

DERA = Distributed Energy Resources Aggregate



# Project Successes

**First distributed community solar system operating as a DERA in the wholesale market!**

**Successful collaboration between project partners and community representatives**

**BAAEC Community Solar is now delivering savings to ~340 low-income CPA customers**

**Demonstrated it is possible to aggregate separate generation arrays**

**Advancing a policy conversation about what community solar should or could be**



# BAAEC Community Solar - Operational Model



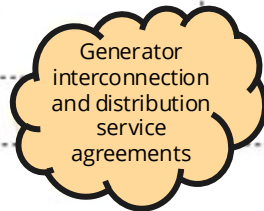
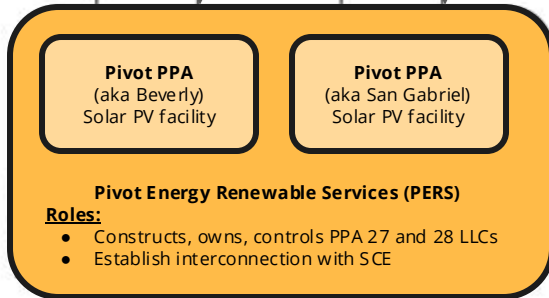
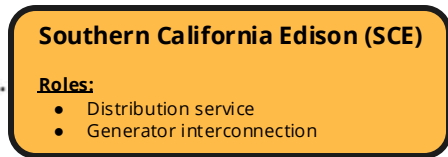
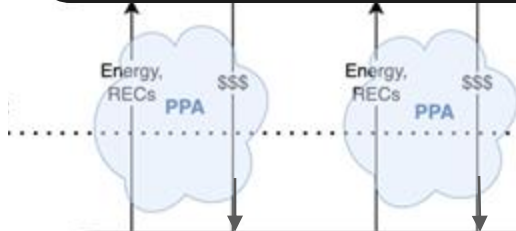
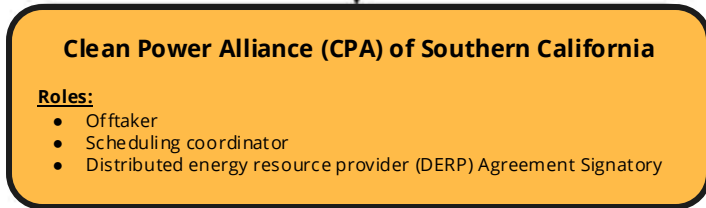
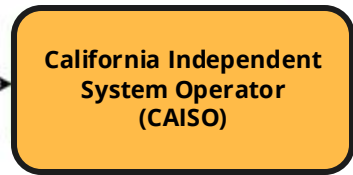
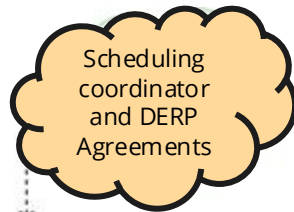
**CPA**  
Custody of and  
responsibility for energy



**Delivery point for  
energy**  
12 kV breaker on SCE's  
distribution system



**Pivot Power Purchase  
Agreement (PPA)  
Entities**  
Custody of and  
responsibility for energy





# The Future of Community Solar in California

- What have we learned from the experience of building BAAEC Community Solar?
- Why is it important to experiment with new kinds of projects and new models of implementation?
- What policy challenges face community solar in California?
- How do we think about the benefits of co-locating supply and demand for power? How do we fully value project benefits?

