

Joint CCA Public Facility Resilience RFI Questions Received and Responses

Question 1. Will you provide a prioritized list of solar + storage sites and an estimate of the usable square meters for rooftop solar, available space for energy storage under roof and available space for container storage in both 20' and 40' sizes, and Google Earth coordinates?

- **Answer 1a.** It is to be determined whether a pending RFP will include the detailed site data noted in Question 1 (above) for each public facility. The Joint CCAs will work with their public agency partners on what details they are comfortable sharing at time of RFP solicitation.

Question 2. What is the intended use for energy storage (backup power, energy arbitrage against TOU rates, both)? If both, what duration backup are you requesting?

- **Answer 2a.** The intention of battery energy storage systems at critical public facilities is to enhance community resilience and ensure cost saving to site hosts. At the portfolio of critical facilities, solar and storage systems have been sized to serve critical loads for a 5-day outage.

Question 3. Can you provide daily average load profiles for host facilities?

- **Answer 3a.** Yes, CCAs have our customer data and may share that through a future RFP process in an anonymized format. Respondents selected through a future RFP process would then gain more clarity regarding this data.

Question 4. Does PG&E serve any of the sites of interest?

- **Answer 4a.** Per the RFI, the Joint CCAs are the load serving entities at the portfolio of public agency sites. PG&E owns the transmission and distribution infrastructure.

Question 5. Do you plan for backup to be available only for the host facility?

- **Answer 5a.** Yes

Question 6. Do you plan to create microgrid service for the host facility and any surrounding building?

- **Answer 6a.** The Joint CCAs and their public agency partners envision solar and/or battery energy systems deployed through a future RFP will specific facilities and not those of surrounding buildings.

Question 7. Do you have interest in storage only options where storage is bi-directionally connected at 3 phase 480 VAC?

- **Answer 7a.** Storage only options that meet the community resilience requirements of the critical facilities will be considered in the context of a future RFP. Specific electrical requirements will be building and application specific.

Question 8. Is there interest in subsequent addition of storage to the approx. 70 MW of solar only requested in this RFI?

- **Answer 8a.** In EBCE's service area the potential for solar PV at non-critical public agency facilities has been quantified at 70MW. Battery energy storage may be applicable however deployment solutions for these facilities may be requested through a future RFP. PCE has not included a request for solar options on non-critical facilities in this RFI.

Question 9. Can you provide rate information of TOU options from the Load Serving Entity for sites in each service territory?

- **Answer 9a.** The Joint CCAs are the load serving entities and have customer data. How this data is shared with selected providers through a future RFP is to be determined. Rates for each CCA's customers are available on the respective websites.

Question 10. Do you have information on utility circuits that supply facilities, or knowledge of service connectivity and ownership of those facilities?

- **Answer 10a.** The Joint CCAs nor their public agency partners readily have these details available. If details at this level are helpful to Respondents, please let the Joint CCAs know in your RFI submission. Include specific information on how as a selected provider your firm would value these services provided by the Joint CCAs.

Question 11. As the RFI mentions the potential of Solar + Storage deployments, would showing value for procurement for just Energy storage be considered a valid response?

- **Answer 11a.** Some of the critical public agency facilities currently have onsite solar PV arrays in operation. At these sites a battery only procurement approach is appropriate. At other sites, a battery only procurement approach may be appropriate because onsite solar is not feasible. However, for the purpose of resilience, the majority of the sites will seek a paired solution of onsite solar PV and battery energy storage systems.

Question 12. Must the RFI reach the maximum project scale, i.e., 25-30 MWh storage, or we can propose partial levels of procurement?

- **Answer 12a.** Please note, the intent of the RFI is to get specific feedback on potential procurement options that can inform development of a future RFP. The RFI is not a request for proposals. The portfolio of critical facilities is estimated to need 25-30 MWh of battery energy storage to meet critical loads across all sites in time of grid outage. Respondents are asked to share their feedback on varying procurement options outlined in the RFI that help reach this goal.

Question 13. As we are a startup business, as we target the oncoming RFP as one of our first pilots, what inputs must we have for being chosen as the entity?

- **Answer 13a.** Please note, the Joint CCAs and their public agency partners are not seeking pilot projects. Rather, any future RFP issued by the Joint CCAs on behalf of their public agency partners will be for full scale deployment of solar and battery energy storage systems. Future solicitations issued by the Joint CCAs will include applicable respondent

eligibility requirements. Providers may submit a standalone proposal or a proposal where one or more providers have opted for a partnership approach.

Question 14. What is the total scope of facilities included? Will the CCAs make available the entire list of facilities identified? Which types of facilities (or specific facilities) will be prioritized more highly than others, if any?

- **Answer 14a.** Public agency facilities in the critical facility project portfolio will include but are not limited to police and fire stations; office and other administrative buildings; schools, libraries, community centers, and some public works facilities. Each facility has been designated by a city and/or county to serve the community in time of emergency. Major industrial facilities like a wastewater treatment facilities or pump stations *will not* be included in the portfolio of critical facility sites. However, these and other site types could be included in EBCE's non-critical facility portfolio.
- **Answer 14b.** It is to be determined whether a pending RFP will include detailed site data for each public facility (e.g., address of facility, etc.). The Joint CCAs will work with their public agency partners on what details they are comfortable sharing at time of RFP solicitation. In your response to the RFI, please share with the Joint CCAs whether anonymized information about each site is helpful to your firm in pulling together a proposal in response to a future RFP.

Question 15. What kind of compensation framework is envisioned? Will there be a resiliency incentive? (If so, will this stack with SGIP?) Or any type of pay-for-performance structure? Or is the intent for the solicitation to prioritize just deployment of solar+storage assets that can provide resiliency, at this point?

- **Answer 15a.** The Joint CCAs do not envision a resilience incentive beyond SGIP at this time for the portfolio of critical public agency facilities. Respondents are encouraged to share their perspective with the Joint CCAs on how additional compensation frameworks could support project deployment.
- **Answer 15b.** For the non-critical Alameda County public agency sites, EBCE may include a Resource Adequacy component to that portfolio of sites. Please note however, the Joint CCAs are specifically seeking input on the procurement options described in the RFI. Respondents *should not* focus solely on potential RA opportunities in their RFI submittal.

Question 16. Will there be specific performance criteria for asset installation (e.g., percentage of facility load to be backed up? extended duration/availability of storage - beyond 4 hr? ability for systems to provide backup during multi-day outage? others?)? Is a grid services and/or programmatic overlay of any kind currently contemplated?

- **Answer 16a.** Yes, a future RFP will likely include performance criteria. At this time those details are to be determined. What is currently known is the approximate size of solar and/or battery energy storage needed to meet the needs of critical loads at each site. These systems have each been sized to serve critical loads for a 5-day outage.

Question 17. How do the CCAs envision the handoff of site data and customer relationships between CCAs and providers working?

- **Answer 17a.** That is to be determined based on the agreed upon procurement structure. Respondents are encouraged to specifically provide input on the procurement structure options outlined in the RFI. All initial coordination with a public agency partner will be facilitated by the Joint CCAs.

Question 18. On page 8, the protocol includes up to 70 MW of non-critical public facilities, but no list of battery capacity for those sites. Are the CCAs envisioning non-critical sites to require only solar?

- **Answer 18a.** No, non-critical sites will not be limited to solar PV only. Storage requirements for non-critical facilities have not yet been analyzed and so the capacity has not been provided in the RFI.

Question 19. Can the CCAs provide a list of the "public partners" being considered and include any recent credit ratings, if available?

- **Answer 19a.** The Joint CCAs will include a list of participating public agencies in a future RFP. It is to be determined whether their credit ratings will be included, this is something the Joint CCAs will discuss with their public agency partners. Please provide an explanation of how credit ratings would be helpful to a procurement effort in your RFI response.

Question 20. Would projects be required to go through local City Council contract approvals post-RFP, or is there a way to "pre-approve" with City Councils projects that meet some baseline criteria (kWh production, savings, etc.)?

- **Answer 20a.** Regardless of the procurement and contracting structure, it is likely that City Council/Board approval will be required as solar and battery energy storage deployment are public work projects on city/county owned property. If there is a high value to pre-approval please provide guidance on how pre-approval can expedite project deployment and/or lower solar and storage system cost.

Question 21. Will the CCAs plan be able to provide any assistance to streamline the permitting process (i.e., provide baseline engineering docs to all AHJ's for pre-approval)?

- **Answer 21a.** The Joint CCAs request that respondents please describe why this is helpful in their RFI response. Per the RFI, if this is a CCA value-add please include details on how this can expedite project deployment and structures to reimburse the CCAs for any value we can add to the development process.

Question 22. Will the CCAs be able to provide 15-min interval electrical data for all meters?

- **Answer 22a.** Yes, this data was used to model solar and storage system size at the portfolio of critical public agency facilities. As the load serving entity, the Joint CCAs have this data and will provide it to provider(s) selected through a future RFP process.

Question 23. Could the scope of the RFP include EV charging?

- **Answer 23a.** At some of the critical public agency sites EV charging has been identified as a critical load. It is also possible that EV charging could be included at some of the non-critical facilities.

Question 24. Please explain the phrase “customer acquisition”. Perhaps it should read “customer information acquisition”? This sentence is unclear to us – please rephrase.

- **Answer 24a.** The Joint CCAs have done the upfront legwork of bringing interested solar and battery energy storage customers (e.g., the Joint CCAs public agency partners) to service providers. In turn, service provider(s) selected through a future RFP issued by the Joint CCAs do not need to budget soft costs to acquire these new customers or persuade these customers to procure your produce/services.

Question 25. Can you provide a list of municipal customer types under both "Critical" and "Non-Critical" Facilities?

- **Answer 25a.** Public agency facilities in the critical facility project portfolio will include but are not limited to police and fire stations; office and other administrative buildings; schools, libraries, community centers, and some public works facilities. Each facility has been designated by a city and/or county to serve the community in time of emergency. Major industrial facilities like a wastewater treatment facilities or pump stations *will not* be included in the portfolio of critical facility sites. However, these and the other site types noted above could be included in EBCE’s non-critical facility portfolio.

Question 26. Are there requirements for x amount of days/hours of backup power?

- **Answer 26a.** The intent of battery energy storage systems at critical public facilities is to enhance community resilience and ensure cost saving to public agency site hosts. At the portfolio of critical facilities, solar and storage systems have been sized for a 5-day outage.

Question 27. Are the CCAs planning to use the batteries for RA capacity outside of grid outages?

- **Answer 27a.** At the portfolio of critical facilities, that is yet to be determined. At the non-critical facilities in EBCE’s service area RA capacity may be requested through a future RFP. However, RA at the portfolio of non-critical facilities should not be the focus of responses to this RFI. Respondents are asked to provide specific feedback on the procurement options and other details outlined in the RFI.

Question 28. We see the overall size estimates for the aggregate of the 500 facilities. Do you have a profile for the typical installation? If it is just an average, they seem like about 30kw solar and 60 kwh energy storage. Is that a good profile or how if not, do you know how varied they could be. This will impact financing options and the logistics/efficiency of deployment.

- **Answer 28a.** Yes, the Joint CCAs have modeled solar and battery energy storage systems for each critical facility in the portfolio. Systems sizes vary by site type. Please share with the Joint CCAs in your RFI response how smaller systems at fire stations and or community centers designated to serve the community in time of emergency impacts portfolio level financing and the efficiency of project deployment.

Question 29. Can you share info about the desired strategy for use of the energy storage in the case of backup? Given the size of the systems, will you only be backing up a portion of the

loads? In that case, will there be one backed up loads panel per building or is it possible that you will need multiple per site?

- **Answer 29a.** Critical loads at each site have been identified and systems sized to meet those loads. The critical loads are specific to a particular facility and battery energy storage systems will not be installed to serve the needs of other nearby facilities. There will likely be one critical load panel per site, but this could vary depending on the complexity of the site or electrical system.

Question 30. Do you know more of the electrical characteristics of the buildings? eg 3-phase 480V, 208, or split-phase? Do you know load profiles? Av monthly energy usage and demand? This would be useful for estimating potential for savings.

- **Answer 30a.** The Joint CCAs are the load serving entities at these facilities and have load profile, demand and usage data. The Joint CCAs can work with their public agency partners to identify more specific electrical characteristics for a specific facility in advance of a future RFP if this is a value-add to respondents. Respondents are asked to detail why this would be a value add in their response to the RFI.

Question 31. Are the Joint CCAs also looking at portable-specific options for grid resiliency?

- **Answer 31a.** The Joint CCAs are not seeking portable only solutions at critical public agency facilities. However, respondents with portable only solutions are encouraged to partner with other service providers as applicable to draft comprehensive proposals that are responsive to a future RFP.