

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE REDWOOD COAST ENERGY AUTHORITY AND
THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
TO INVESTIGATE MICROGRID DEVELOPMENT AT COUNTY AIRPORT
FACILITIES**

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into on *[date]* between the Redwood Coast Energy Authority (“RCEA”) and the County of Humboldt (“County”), individually referred to as “Party” and collectively as “Parties,” concerning collaborative investigation into locating microgrids on County airport property for the Parties’ mutual benefit and for the benefit of Humboldt County residents.

1. Background

The recent Redwood Coast Airport Microgrid at the California Redwood Coast – Humboldt County Airport (ACV) demonstrates the benefits of locating microgrids on County land to enhance resilience for critical facilities while also transitioning the region toward local, clean renewable energy generation. Rural airports are strong microgrid candidates since they have a priority need for sustained backup power and are often surrounded by open land that can be used for installation of solar arrays. For example, the Rohnerville Airport is a key lifeline for the Eel River valley and provides a secondary hub to ACV for air-based emergency services and cargo delivery. This facility also hosts the Rohnerville Air Attack Base facility for wildland fire response, which on August 5, 2022 had the busiest day of its 50-year history while fighting the Lightning Complex fires near Willow Creek.

Beyond its ongoing mission to promote clean renewable energy generation in our region, RCEA is subject to procurement orders issued by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) through the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) proceeding, including Decision 21-06-035 and others. These decisions address the reliability needs of the state’s electric grid in the face of retiring natural gas and nuclear power plants by obligating load serving entities such as RCEA to procure or develop new capacity. RCEA’s current outstanding IRP procurement obligation is to bring 8 MW of net qualifying capacity online by April 2025 from resources that can reliably generate from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. daily. Approximately 10-15 MW nameplate solar capacity paired with equivalent storage capacity would meet this obligation, depending on the generating and export capability of the resource(s). RCEA’s procurement efforts to date have not yielded viable solutions to this obligation, so multiple avenues are currently being pursued including local microgrid development.

2. Purpose and Scope

The purpose and scope of this MOU is to cooperatively explore renewable energy plus storage microgrid projects at regional airport facilities. In particular, the Parties seek to:

- Inventory local airport facilities and their ability to support microgrid projects that would contribute to RCEA’s clean energy goals, fulfill CPUC procurement obligations and directly support long-term regional aviation goals such as workforce development;
- Where feasible, select one or more facilities for initial development activities, such as determination of electrical interconnection requirements and costs, preliminary site design, and identification of acceptable lease arrangements between the Parties;
- Agree on which facilities, if any, are suitable for microgrid deployment and the order of priority in the event more than one facility is identified.

After identifying suitable facilities for microgrid deployment and an order of deployment priority under this MOU, future MOU(s) or contract(s) would identify the specific tasks, and which Party would be responsible for individual expenses required to successfully install and deploy the microgrids.

3. Objectives and Goals

This project directly contributes to fulfilling renewable energy goals in the County General Plan Energy Element, RCEA’s 2019 RePower Strategic Plan update, and the countywide Climate Action Plan (CAP) currently under development.

4. RCEA Responsibilities

RCEA will provide staff time and/or consultant and legal counsel time and resources to support activities such as to develop an inventory of potential locations, and for selected sites develop an initial technical evaluation including a preliminary assessment of electrical interconnection capacity and site design. RCEA will additionally provide staff time and/or consultant and legal counsel time in evaluating potential lease arrangements between the parties.

5. County Responsibilities

The County will provide staff time and/or consultant and legal counsel time and resources to inventory airport resources and support RCEA’s technical evaluation and feasibility assessment. Additionally, the County will provide staff time and/or consultant and legal counsel time in evaluating potential lease arrangements between the parties.

6. Coordination

The Parties will establish points of contact in their collaboration under this MOU, including designating appropriate staff representatives who will meet on a regular basis.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each Party has caused this MOU to be duly signed and delivered, effective as of the date of the last Party signing.

REDWOOD COAST ENERGY AUTHORITY:

Matthew Marshall, Executive Director

Date: _____

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT:

Cody Roggatz, Director of Aviation

Date: _____