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California utility PG&E proposes 1.6GW/6.4GWh of new battery storage across nine projects

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January 25, 2022

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Support





Rendering of the Edwards Sanborn project in Kern County, California. The site includes separately utilised standalone battery storage and solar-plus-storage facilities Image: Terra-Gen / CPA.

Plans to procure energy from nine large-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) projects in California have been announced by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), one of the state's three main investor-owned utilities.

The proposals come as a result of an 11.5GW clean energy procurement electricity suppliers — called load-serving entities — in California were ordered to make by the regulatory Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in mid-2021 (<https://www.energy-storage.news/california-takes-major-step-to-carbon-neutrality-with-11-5gw-clean-energy-procurement/>).

Investor-owned utilities and Community Choice Aggregator groups must contract for resources which will come online between 2023 and 2026. PG&E's share of that is at least 2,302MW.

Due to the urgent need to replace retiring fossil fuel and nuclear capacity and meet growing demand for electrification while keeping the grid reliable, CPUC allowed for 10% of procurements to include fossil fuel resources, if they represent efficiency improvements, upgrades or repowering of existing sites.

In announcing the procurement order, CPUC said that allowing the inclusion of even that small proportion of fossil fuel generation had been a very difficult decision to make (<https://www.energy-storage.news/californias-11-5gw-plan-to-solve-blackout-concerns-includes-long-duration-storage-and-fossil-fuels/>), not least of all with California pursuing 100% clean electricity by 2045 under its SB100 policy enacted in 2018. Nonetheless, given the urgency of the procurement, CPUC had pushed ahead.

PG&E, which has the retirement of the 2.5GW Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in its service area to contend with in the short-term, offered details yesterday of the nine projects it has proposed to help it meet its obligations under the procurement. All were selected through a competitive solicitation process.

Each one of them will utilise lithium-ion BESS technology, and 15-year agreements for Resource Adequacy — the mechanism by which California load-serving entities must guarantee they can deliver energy to ensure reliable supplies — have been entered into between PG&E and project developers.

As such, the projects will all use four-hour duration battery systems. All will be standalone battery storage systems, connected to the transmission network.

The utility said two more solicitations will be held to add the remaining capacity it requires.

The projects

Project name	Developer/Owner	Output/Capacity	Location	Online date
Beaumont Energy Storage	Terra-Gen	100MW/400MWh	Beaumont, Riverside County	August 2023
Edwards Sanborn Energy Storage	Terra-Gen	169MW/676MWh	Mojave, Kern County	August 2023
Canyon Country Energy Storage	Terra-Gen	80MW/320MWh	Santa Clarita, LA County	October 2023
MOSS350	Vistra	350MW/1400MWh	Moss Landing, Monterey County	August 2023
Inland Empire Energy Storage	Strata Clean Energy	100MW/400MWh	Rialto, San Bernadino County	April 2024
Corby Energy Storage	NextEra Energy	100MW/400MWh	Vacaville, Solano County	June 2024
Kola Energy Storage	NextEra Energy	275MW/1,100MWh	Tracy, Alameda County	June 2024
Nighthawk Storage	Arevon Energy (affiliate)	300MW/1,200MWh	Poway, San Diego County	June 2024 (pending local approval)
Caballero Energy Storage	Origis	99.7MW/398.8MWh	Nipomo, San Luis Obispo County	June 2024

A couple of those project names may be familiar to regular *Energy-Storage.news* readers: Edwards Sanborn shares a name and location with one of the largest — if not the largest — [lithium-ion solar-plus-storage projects in construction globally \(https://www.energy-storage.news/batteries-at-worlds-largest-solar-plus-storage-project-supplying-california-community-energy-group/\)](https://www.energy-storage.news/batteries-at-worlds-largest-solar-plus-storage-project-supplying-california-community-energy-group/), with the standalone BESS contracted for separately.

The MOSS350 project at Moss Landing represents an expansion project for Vistra Energy's Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility, which at present is the world's largest standalone lithium-ion BESS (400MW/1,600MWh) (<https://www.energy-storage.news/expansion-complete-at-worlds-biggest-battery-storage-system-in-california/>).

The new projects bring up PG&E's total contracted battery storage pipeline to more than 3,330MW, to be deployed by the end of 2024. Around 1,100MW of that will come online this year and next year, including Elkhorn Battery, PG&E's own 182.5MW/750MWh project at the Moss Landing site.

The new projects will play into the wholesale market operated by California grid operator CAISO, providing energy and ancillary services as required. Resource Adequacy contracts ensure that a project's owner or asset operator can guarantee that their system will be available to play into these services, as directed by the utility's contract.

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(<https://www.energy-storage.news/engie-bess-in-california-hits-permitting-milestone-countdown-for-regulators-decision-begins/>)

May 9, 2025

Standalone BESS proposal from Engie has reached a permitting milestone in the California Energy Commission's Opt-In Certification Program.





(<https://www.energy-storage.news/lres-88mw-352mwh-california-bess-enters-operations/>)

Leeward Renewable Energy's 88MW/352MWh California BESS enters operations (<https://www.energy-storage.news/lres-88mw-352mwh-california-bess-enters-operations/>)

May 8, 2025

Developer and IPP Leeward Renewable Energy's (LRE) 88MW/352MWh Chaparral Springs battery energy storage system (BESS) in Kern County, California is now fully operational.



(<https://www.energy-storage.news/oci-energy-on-4-hour-texas-bess-and-what-us-china-tariffs-mean-for-procurement/>)

PREMIUM

OCI Energy on 4-hour Texas BESS and what US-China

tariffs mean for procurement (<https://www.energy-storage.news/oci-energy-on-4-hour-texas-bess-and-what-us-china-tariffs-mean-for-procurement/>)

May 6, 2025

We caught up with the president of OCI Energy, a developer-operator with a 4-hour BESS in Texas, about the longer duration, long-term project ownership and why the current US-China tariffs create a huge challenge for procurement.



(<https://www.energy-storage.news/3-6gwh-bess-in-queensland-granted-epbc-act-clearance-in-australia/>)

3.6GWh BESS in Queensland granted EPBC Act clearance in Australia (<https://www.energy-storage.news/3-6gwh-bess-in-queensland-granted-epbc-act-clearance-in-australia/>)

May 6, 2025

Renewable energy developer ACE Power has seen its 3.6GWh Nebo BESS in Queensland waved through the EPBC Act.

(<https://www.energy-storage.news/sunrun-quadruples-california-vpp-from-2024-to-2025/>)

Sunrun quadruples California VPP from 2024 to 2025

(<https://www.energy-storage.news/sunrun-quadruples-california-vpp-from-2024-to-2025/>)

May 5, 2025

US residential solar installer Sunrun's virtual power plant (VPP) in California has more than quadrupled in size from 2024 to support the state's grid as summer weather begins.



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