Redwood Region RISE

Renewable and Resilient Energy Activation Plan







California's Redwood Region
Tribal Lands, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino Counties

A Product of Redwood Region RISE
The California Center for Rural Policy at Cal Poly Humboldt

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Executive Summary

Renewable and Resilient Energy: A Just Transition

The Redwood Region is well-positioned to lead a just and community-driven energy transition—grounded in Tribal leadership, regional collaboration, and environmental stewardship. The Renewable and Resilient Energy (RRE) sector is emerging as a key driver of economic opportunity, climate resilience, and long-term sustainability.

This Activation Plan outlines a coordinated approach across three strategic focus areas:

- **Workforce Development:** Expand inclusive training pathways, including Tribal-led programs and targeted skill development aligned with regional energy projects.
- **Community Energy Resilience:** Deploy and scale infrastructure such as microgrids, efficiency upgrades, and distributed energy systems to improve reliability and reduce costs.
- **Information and Resource Sharing:** Strengthen regional coordination through Clean Energy Hubs, research partnerships, and public engagement to accelerate adoption and investment.

Implementation is led by the Blue Lake Rancheria (BLR), in partnership with Tribal Nations, public agencies, educational institutions, employers, and community-based organizations.

Anticipated Impact

By August 2026, the region aims to achieve measurable progress in workforce participation, infrastructure deployment, and community resilience. Expected outcomes include:

- Expanded access to clean energy careers through training programs, internships, and Tribal workforce initiatives

- Deployment of community-scale and Tribally led energy infrastructure, including microgrids
- Growth of Tribal- and worker-owned energy enterprises
- Increased access to energy efficiency and electrification programs for rural households and small businesses
- Strengthened local capacity for policy, planning, and energy program implementation

Progress will be tracked through job creation, funding secured, infrastructure deployment, and participation metrics, alongside equity and quality-of-life indicators.

Regional Partners

This work is led by BLR as Sector Investment Coordinator and reflects collaboration among Catalyst project partners (e.g., Pinoleville Pomo Nation, Scotts Valley Energy Corporation, GRID Alternatives), implementation partners (e.g., Redwood Coast Energy Authority, Schatz Energy Research Center), Tribal Nations, local governments, and regional organizations.

As a living document, this plan will evolve as our work advances. Matthew Marshall, Renewable and Resilient Energy Sector Investment Coordinator—and his team at the Blue Lake Rancheria—will collaborate with the Redwood Region RISE Collaborative, Sector Advisory Council, and community partners to conduct semi-annual comprehensive reviews. These updated versions will be shared publicly to ensure transparency and community engagement. An upcoming update will be provided as a Final Impact Report as California Jobs First's State-funded activities of RRRISE sunset.

Redwood Region RISE Shared Values

1. Our work contributes to the good of the community and the good of the environment.
2. Our educational (training) opportunities align with our regional needs.

3. We advocate for equitable access to resources to ensure our region is economically resilient.

Our Cross-Cutting Principles

These cross-cutting principles will be woven into the various programs and policies created by this sector table. They will be used as a guide for decision-making to ensure alignment with our regional economic goals as specified in our Regional Roadmap:

- **Economic Resilience:** Our aim is to build resilience in California's northern rural economy by investing in sectors essential for long-term growth and stability in the Redwood Region.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** We will ensure that the benefits of economic recovery are distributed equitably across communities, including historically marginalized groups.
- **Innovation and Adaptation:** Despite limited resources, our region has demonstrated innovative capacity, creating resilient and long-lasting economic growth by adapting to changing market conditions.
- **Partnerships and Collaboration:** Collaboration is central to our planning, involving government agencies, private sector interest holders, non-profit organizations, and community groups to leverage resources and expertise effectively.
- **Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship:** Our Region exemplifies the nature and stewardship economy, adhering to principles of regenerative and sustainable approaches.
- **Workforce Development:** We aim to enhance the skills and capabilities of the local workforce, ensuring they succeed in both legacy and emerging industries.
- **Investing in Infrastructure:** Investments in critical infrastructure, such as transportation, energy, and digital infrastructure, are essential to supporting economic recovery and growth in rural northern California. We will advocate for every county in our region to secure funds for improved infrastructure.

Introduction of Renewable and Resilient Energy Sector

This Activation Plan is led by BLR and reflects input from regional partners across the energy ecosystem.

The RRE sector includes renewable energy generation, energy efficiency, and supporting industries such as construction, utilities, and maintenance. These sectors offer strong potential for family-sustaining jobs and long-term economic growth.

Offshore wind, microgrid development, and distributed energy systems represent significant opportunities for the region. At the same time, energy efficiency remains a foundational strategy—delivering immediate cost savings, job creation, and resilience benefits.

Sector Prioritization

The RRE sector is prioritized due to its ability to drive economic development, improve energy reliability, and support climate goals.

Energy efficiency and distributed generation investments are particularly impactful in rural regions—creating local jobs, reducing energy costs, and increasing system resilience. Larger-scale renewable energy projects, including offshore wind, provide additional economic opportunities and position the region as a clean energy exporter.

A balanced approach—investing in both efficiency and generation—maximizes job creation, strengthens local supply chains, and accelerates the transition to a resilient energy system.

Operating Structure

BLR serves as Sector Investment Coordinator, leading implementation in coordination with the Redwood Region RISE Collaborative, Sector Advisory Council, Tribal partners, and regional partners.

Key partners include:

- Tribal Nations and Tribal energy organizations
- Catalyst-funded project implementers
- Energy agencies and utilities
- Educational institutions and workforce partners
- Local governments and economic development organizations

This structure ensures alignment across initiatives while maintaining strong regional coordination and Tribal leadership.

Resourcing Across Strategies

The RRE sector leverages a mix of public, private, and philanthropic funding sources.

Secured investments include:

- ~$1M for Tribal pre-apprenticeship programs
- $12M for the Ta'm Resilience Campus Clean Energy Hub
- ~$200M for the TERAS microgrid initiative (multi-year, multi-source funding)
- $33M for the Northern Rural Energy Network (NREN)
- ~$800K in philanthropic funding for workforce training expansion (secured in 2026)
- $500K Catalyst Round 2 funding for Blue Lake Tribal Energy LLC startup

Additional Catalyst investments support workforce training, Tribal energy development, and infrastructure planning.

Funding gaps and risks include:

- Long-term sustainability for workforce programs

- Capital for microgrid and bioenergy project deployment
- Funding for business development and supply chain expansion
- Continued uncertainty in federal funding for large-scale projects (e.g., TERAS)

BLR and partners continue to pursue state, federal, and philanthropic funding to close these gaps.

Goals and Metrics

This plan aims to expand high-quality jobs, strengthen workforce pathways, and increase regional energy resilience.

Projected outcomes include:

- Hundreds of construction jobs and dozens of permanent technical positions
- Expanded workforce training participation and program completion
- Increased number of energy projects deployed and households served

Short-term progress is measured through:

- Training enrollment and completion
- Funding secured
- Project milestones achieved
- Partnerships established

BLR will provide quarterly updates to CCRP, including data dashboards, narrative progress reports, and annual summaries with strategic recommendations.

Dependencies and Challenges

Successful implementation depends on aligning workforce development with project deployment. Both must advance in parallel to ensure trained workers have access to quality jobs.

Key challenges include:

- **Workforce–project alignment:** Ensuring training programs match the timing and scale of infrastructure investments
- **Funding uncertainty:** Variability in federal and state funding, particularly for large-scale projects like TERAS
- **Project readiness and execution:** Need for high-quality planning and coordination to deliver complex energy infrastructure
- **Regional coordination:** Maintaining alignment across multiple partners, geographies, and project types

This plan addresses these challenges through coordinated strategies that integrate workforce development, infrastructure deployment, and regional collaboration.

Strategies

Strategy 1: Strengthen Regional Workforce Development

Tactic 1.1: Establish Regional Partnerships for Comprehensive Clean Energy Workforce Training Programs

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TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
Finalize and pilot training program for low-voltage electricians: BLR will finalize the curriculum for this program and pilot in the second half of 2025 with an initial cohort of participants, with a focus on Tribal	BLR, Yurok, Hoopa Valley, and Karuk Tribes, with curriculum/training partners	Q4 2025	$800,000 in philanthropic funding was secured by BLR to support program-expansion planning along	Curriculum for low-voltage electrician training; participants trained in pilot cohort; cohort participants placed at RRE Sector businesses; post-pilot assessment and learnings that can be applied to

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members, women, and other priority-community members that are historically underrepresented in the electrician field. This training will provide a solid foundation for a wide range of RRE sector career paths.			with additional trainings to be offered in 2026 for two cohorts of 25 participants.	future cohorts and other similar programs. **Status Update:** Pilot training was successfully completed in July-August 2025 with 24 participants.

Tactic 1.2: Clean Energy Corps

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TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
Pinoleville Solar Port Installation and Renewable Energy Workforce Development Program combines sustainable infrastructure development with workforce training, serving Pinoleville Pomo Nation's 350 citizens while creating a model for future Tribal initiatives. The project will create ten internship positions and provide hands-on experience through the installation of a solar PV system that will provide power to Tribal facilities	Pinoleville Pomo Nation, GRID Alternatives	Q3 2026	RRRISE Catalyst Awardee $450,000	Tribally-owned solar carport system, 10 intern/participants receiving training through the project. **Status Update:** In progress; project budget and scope expanding with the addition of reallocated funding from another Tribally-led sector aligned Catalyst project that was unable to move to shovel ready.

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BLBS GRID Workforce Training Tiny Home Construction and Renewable Energy Systems Project combines affordable housing construction with renewable energy integration to address critical needs in the Klamath-Trinity region, while providing job training for Native American youth. The initiative, led by BLBS in partnership with GRID Alternatives North Coast, aims to complete two partially constructed tiny homes at the Hoopa Modular Plant while training eighteen unemployed or underemployed individuals aged 16-24 in construction and solar energy system installation	Building Lives by Building Structure Hoopa, GRID Alternatives	Q3 2026	RRRRISE Catalyst Awardee $331,702	18 Hoopa Valley community members engaged and trained in construction and solar energy system installation, completion of two tiny homes with solar energy and battery storage systems
In addition to the two Catalyst-funded projects above, **evaluate how existing energy/climate corps programs can be leveraged and/or expanded to serve the region.** Including but not limited to CCC Energy Corps, CA Climate Corps, CivicSpark, GRID Alternatives. Look to align how these programs could be aligned with existing/potential programs and projects to support other RRE Sector Strategies, Tactics, and Tasks	BLR, with program implementers (GRID Alternatives, CivicSpark @ Public Health Institute, CA Volunteers, CCC)	Q4 2025		Assessment, action plan, and draft budget to leverage existing energy corps type programs

Tactic 1.3: Engage and Prepare Local Businesses to Increase Participation in RRE Sector Projects and Supply Chain

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TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
Support WindLINK initiative: WindLINK is a strategic partnership of local economic development organizations working together to facilitate and support local businesses' engagement with the offshore wind energy industry. The program offers various resources to local businesses, including networking opportunities, education and training, technical assistance, access to capital and financing, and up-to date communication on relevant opportunities. WindLINK is seeking sustainable long-term funding and is also exploring potential to expand scope to other technologies beyond offshore wind along with increased participation from other counties in the region.	Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce, North Coast SBDC, NorCal APEX Accelerator, County of Humboldt, Redwood Coast Chamber Foundation, Redwood Region Economic Development Commission, Blue Lake Rancheria Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy, BLR, Northern Rural Energy Network	Q3 2026	Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy, BLR/Irvine Foundation, Northern Rural Energy Network, non-Tribal participant registration fees	**Status Update:** Funding secured for program sustainability - in progress.
Provide training on the principals of equitable and effective Tribal collaboration: Work with the Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy to locally host their "Pathways to Trust: A Learning Journey Towards Equitable Tribal Partnerships" curriculum focused on preparing individuals and organizations to build effective, respectful partnerships with Tribal Nations, with a specific focus on the proposed offshore wind development on the North Coast.		Q2 2026	Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy, BLR/Irvine Foundation, Northern Rural Energy Network, non-Tribal participant registration fees	**Note: This is a new task.** Up to 100 participants completing the training program.

Strategy 2: Support Community Energy Resilience and Reliability

Tactic 2.1: Deploy Community Microgrids and Other Resilient Clean Energy Infrastructure

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TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
Inventory and prioritize potential community microgrid sites across the region	BLR, with support from Sector table and other regional partners	Q2 2026		Inventory and map of potential project sites (existing, in-progress, and needed); conceptual budget for implementation; draft phased-implementation plan, engage and evaluate options for Robinson Rancheria (non-funded catalyst project proponent), and Elk Valley Rancheria (which has reached out to BLR with microgrid interest)
Convene 1-2 regional microgrid symposiums to share project examples, best-practices, and lessons-learned and to identify new opportunities and potential collaborations. Focus the content of these convenings for Tribes and other priority communities	BLR, Schatz Energy Research Center, Tribes, and other partners	2024-2026		One Regional Tribal Microgrid Symposium was held at BLR, adjacent to Humboldt County, in December 2024; work to hold a second similar symposium in the southern half of the region

Tactic 2.1: Deploy Community Microgrids and Other Resilient Clean Energy Infrastructure				
TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
Track and support the Tribal Energy Resilience and Sovereignty (TERAS) Project: TERAS will empower four Tribes in Northern California to transform one of the state's least reliable electrical circuits into a highly resilient renewable energy system. Supported by approximately $200 million in Federal, State, and local funding, this project will significantly advance Tribal energy sovereignty, climate resilience, jobs equity, and clean energy innovation. Major technical innovations of this project will include deployment of three nested microgrids – for the Hoopa, Yurok, and Karuk Tribes – and development of a complex controls system that is appropriate to support rugged, rural, and wildfire-prone environments. As "front-of-the-meter" energy systems, each of the three microgrids will be capable of powering a portion of PG&E's electrical circuit during local outages, and will function either jointly or independently, as immediate circumstances along the power line require. To support this project, the Blue Lake Rancheria (BLR) is expanding its own campus energy system into four nested, behind-the-meter microgrids, which will provide a demonstration site for the controls system that will subsequently be deployed at full scale in the Hoopa Valley, Yurok, and Karuk Tribes on the "Hoopa 1101 circuit"	Yurok, Hoopa Valley, Karuk, and BLR Tribes, Redwood Coast Energy Authority, Schatz Energy Research Center, PG&E	Q3 2026, ongoing	$200 million in Federal, State, and local funding	The project will install three Tribally owned microgrids, and will result in a projected 449 jobs during deployment and thirty during operations. Activation Plan-period activities and outputs will include monitoring and reporting on project progress and capturing lessons learned to inform efforts to develop similar projects at other locations across the region. **Status Update:** Ongoing - Outcome of $87.6M federal funding awarded in 2024 remains uncertain; $2-3M in potential new philanthropic funding for the project currently being pursued.

Tactic 2.2: Implement Comprehensive Programs to Support Efficiency, Electrification, and Resilience for Households, Businesses, and Public Facilities

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TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
Work with energy program implementers to assess a trajectory for the RRRISE target of 2000 homes upgraded by 2028	BLR, working with RCEA and NREN partners, Sonoma Clean Power (SCP), PG&E, Pacific Power, Redwood Community Action Agency, Ukiah Municipal Utility District			Gap analysis and funding needs identified to achieve RRRISE target
Support regional engagement with the Northern Rural Energy Network (NREN): Initially focused on incentives for energy-efficient appliances and heat pumps, NREN offerings will grow to include innovative financing offerings, workforce education and training, home and business energy assessments and upgrades, support for contractors and building officials addressing energy codes and standards, and more. NREN serves Humboldt, Mendocino, and Lake Counties, along with the Northern Sierra Region. Funded through the CA Public Utilities Commission, the 2024-2027 budget for NREN -- including both the Redwood Region and Northern Sierra -- is $33 million	Redwood Coast Energy Authority, Mendocino Council of Governments, Lake Area Planning Council, Sierra Business Council	Q4 2026, ongoing	$33 million, funded through the CA Public Utilities Commission	Activation Plan period outcomes will be the design and launch of the full suite of NREN program offerings

Tactic 2.3: Support Tribal- and Worker-Owned Clean Energy Enterprises

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TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
Establish a Tribally-owned energy business enterprise to leverage regional microgrid expertise. The Redwood Region is a recognized world leader in microgrid research, development, and deployment, and there is a significant untapped opportunity to leverage and commercialize this expertise for greater economic development benefits. BLR is working to stand-up a Tribally-owned economic enterprise to fill this gap and is pursuing funding to launch the business	BLR, Schatz Energy Research Center	Q3 2026	**Status Update:** $500,000 in philanthropic "Catalyst round two" funding awarded for the start-up phase of Blue Lake Tribal Energy LLC, which will be further supported by $1.27million of funding secured from the Tribal Nations Grant Fund.	Start-up funding secured, business plan finalized, and hiring process begun for four new positions, with plan and timeline to grow to 10-12 permanent positions in the initial post-launch phase of business operations
Support and expand opportunities for worker-owned energy business enterprises through tactic 1.3	BLR and other WindLINK Partners	Q4 2026		TBD based on WindLINK capacity and expansion
Note: The Catalyst funded project described in Tactic 2.4 also supports this tactic				

Tactic 2.4: Pursue Community-Scale Waste-to-Energy and Bioenergy Projects

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TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
Red Hills Bioenergy Facility & Central Wood Processing Plant: The Scotts Valley Energy Company (SVEC), a Tribal subsidiary of the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians, seeks to develop a bioenergy facility to convert agricultural and forest waste into renewable energy while producing carbon-neutral biochar. This project addresses multiple needs in Lake County and surrounding areas by transforming non-commercial forest material into electricity and biochar for agricultural use, while simultaneously reducing wildfire risk and generating Tribal revenue	Scotts Valley Energy Corporation	Q3 2026	RRRRISE Catalyst Awardee $345,316.40	10-12 facility operators recruited, hired, and trained **Status Update:** This project was usable to use Catalyst awarded funds due to siting challenges; this funding was reallocated to another Tribally-led energy sector project and Catalyst award: Pinoleville Solar Port Installation and Renewable Energy Workforce Development Program.
Identify support and funding needed to progress local bioenergy projects, including SVEC, Hoopa, and MRC projects, assess other potential locations/projects	BLR, with project proponents	Q1 2026		Needs assessment completed **Status Update:** A CA Assembly Bill (AB 1666) is under development that would potentially (based on current draft language) create a State Biomass Innovation Task Force along with establishing

Tactic 2.4: Pursue Community-Scale Waste-to-Energy and Bioenergy Projects				
TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
				five biomass innovation parks, with at least one located in the North Coast Region.

Strategy 3: Foster Information and Resource Sharing

Tactic 3.1: Establish Regional "Clean Energy Hubs" and a Comprehensive Digital Knowledge Platform

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TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
Develop "clean energy hub" programing for Ta'm Resilience Campus (phase 1 construction to be completed in 2025; phase 2 construction scheduled for 2025-26)	BLR and other partners	Q4 2025		Resources and staffing plan to provide community clean energy hub services at Ta'm once the facility is open to the public

Tactic 3.2: Develop a Collaborative Research Network That Integrates Traditional Ecological Knowledge

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TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
Identify if/how Cal Poly Humboldt/Schatz Energy Research Center can expand engagement with College of the Redwoods, Mendocino Community College, and Woodland Community College in Lake County. Gather input from Tribal partners on how Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) should be incorporated (example: native, Tribally significant plants included in "agrovoltaic" solar project plans)	Tribes across the region, Cal Poly Humboldt and other educational/research organizations.	Q3 2026		Summary or white paper on potential collaborative next steps, additional metrics TBD based on collaborator input

Tactic 3.3: Build Broad-Based Support for the Clean Energy Transition Through Public Education and Engagement Programs

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TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
Develop public engagement plan to build broad support for the growth and benefits of the RRE sector across the region	BLR to lead, partners TBD	Q4 2025		Public Engagement Plan, including funding/resource needs

Tactic 3.3: Build Broad-Based Support for the Clean Energy Transition Through Public Education and Engagement Programs				
TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
Launch public engagement campaign based on the regional engagement plan	BLR to lead, partners TBD	Q3 2026		Secured funding to launch public engagement campaign

Tactic 3.4: Provide Policy and Regulatory Support to Local Governments

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TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
Evaluate/support a Lake County Community Choice Aggregation program through SCP or RCEA; Mendocino and Humboldt Counties are served by community choice aggregation programs which provide local control over millions of dollars a year in electricity procurement and energy-program budgets, and expanding one of those programs would provide	Lake County, City of Clearlake, City of Lakeport, Sonoma Clean Power, RCEA, BLR	Q1 2026		White Paper on CCA feasibility/ options for Lake County. **Status Update:** After May 2025 completion of Feasibility Study[1], the Sonoma Clean Power board of directors voted to approve an invitation for Lake County and its incorporated Cities to join SCP. Despite prior interest in joining the CCA, in fall 2025

[1] Feasibility Study: Sonoma Clean Power Expansion to Unincorporated Lake County, the City of Clearlake, and the City of Lakeport; https://mccmeetingspublic.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/clearlakca-meet-2171247afa134aaab27b4f659821493b/ITEM-Attachment-001-5ed0e336365746ad802f93ad5e58307c.pdf

Tactic 3.4: Provide Policy and Regulatory Support to Local Governments				
TASK	**RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**	**TIMELINE**	**FUNDING SOURCE & GAPS**	**KEY OUTPUTS & METRICS**
similar benefits with minimal administrative cost				the County and Cities voted to reject the offer.
Evaluate expanding Sonoma-Mendocino GeoZone project to include Lake County. The project is assessing the potential to develop new, advanced geothermal energy projects in the region's existing geothermal energy production area	Sonoma Clean Power, Mendocino County, Lake County, geothermal energy development companies (already engaged by SCP), with support from BLR	Q2 2026		Action plan for next steps around Lake County Geothermal development potential **Status Update:** Lake County inclusion in the GeoZone project was contingent on collaboration with Sonoma Clean Power; based on the County and City decisions noted above this item will not be progressing in the foreseeable future.

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