

Renewable & Resilient Energy Sector



Redwood Region

RISE

**NORTH
EDGE**
Business Financing &
Community Development


CCRP
California Center
for Rural Policy

Cal Poly
Humboldt.



Session Overview

3-year recap and status update for the sector

RISE Catalyst Projects:

- Building Lives by Building Structure - Frank Richards
- Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians - Kathleen Beltran
- Pinoleville Pomo Nation - Kevin Maldonado
- Blue Lake Rancheria – me

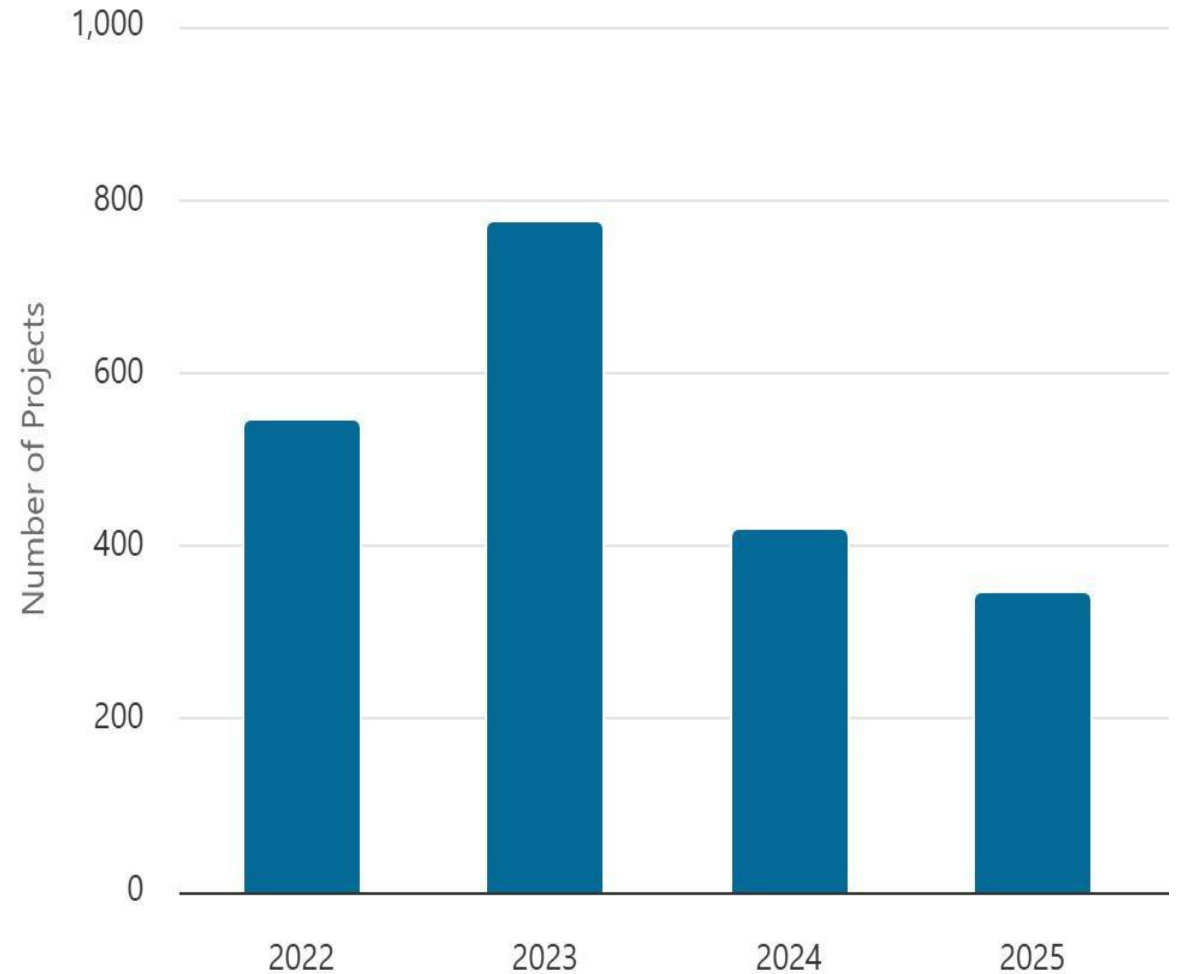
Renewable & Resilience Energy Sector: Looking Forward

3-year recap and status update



Ups and downs

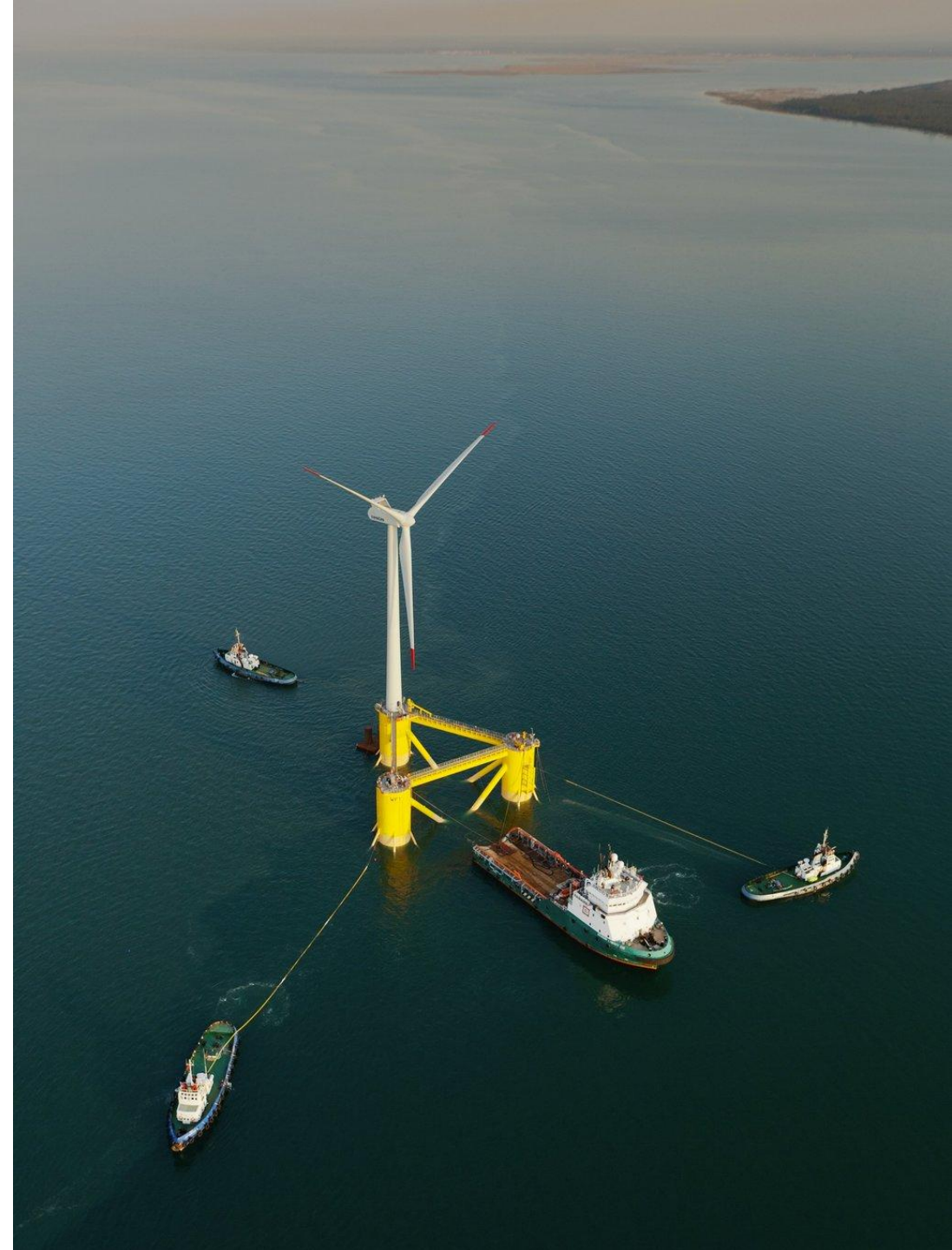
- State solar net-metering rate structure changed in 2023
- IRA Energy Tax Credits:
 - Established August 2022
 - Final rules published December 2024
 - Rolled back July 2025...



Humboldt County Solar Projects

Ups and downs

- \$331M Dec 2022 Humboldt Wind Lease Area Auction ... Federal support u-turn in 2025, with one leaseholder backing out in 2026.
- \$426M grant to Harbor District in 2024... canceled in August 2025.



However:

- Tax credits for battery storage, biomass, small hydro, and geothermal continuing.
- CA State goals around offshore wind unchanged, and \$2-4billion transmission upgrade project still (so far) moving forward.
- Some federal funding and resources still continuing, particularly for Tribes.
- State energy grant/resource programs still strong.
- Energy investments can pencil out economically regardless of subsidies.

RRRISE Catalyst Projects



Building Lives by Building Structure (BLBS) GRID Workforce Training Program



Middletown Rancheria Community RISE Project



Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California
Strengthening Relationship to Land and
Community

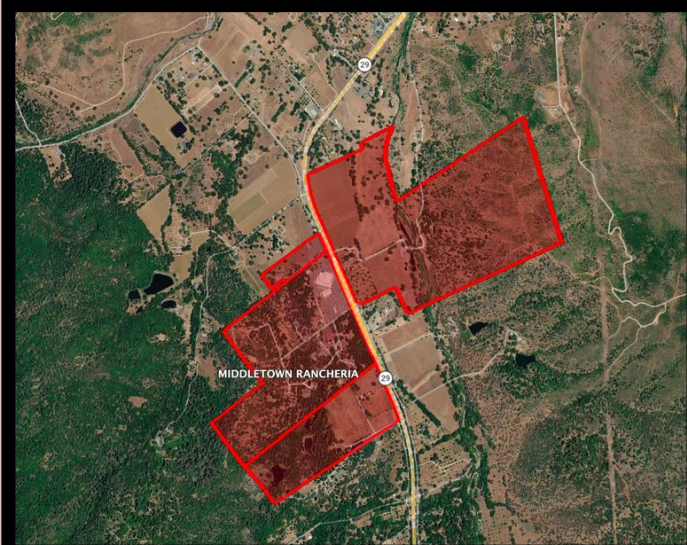
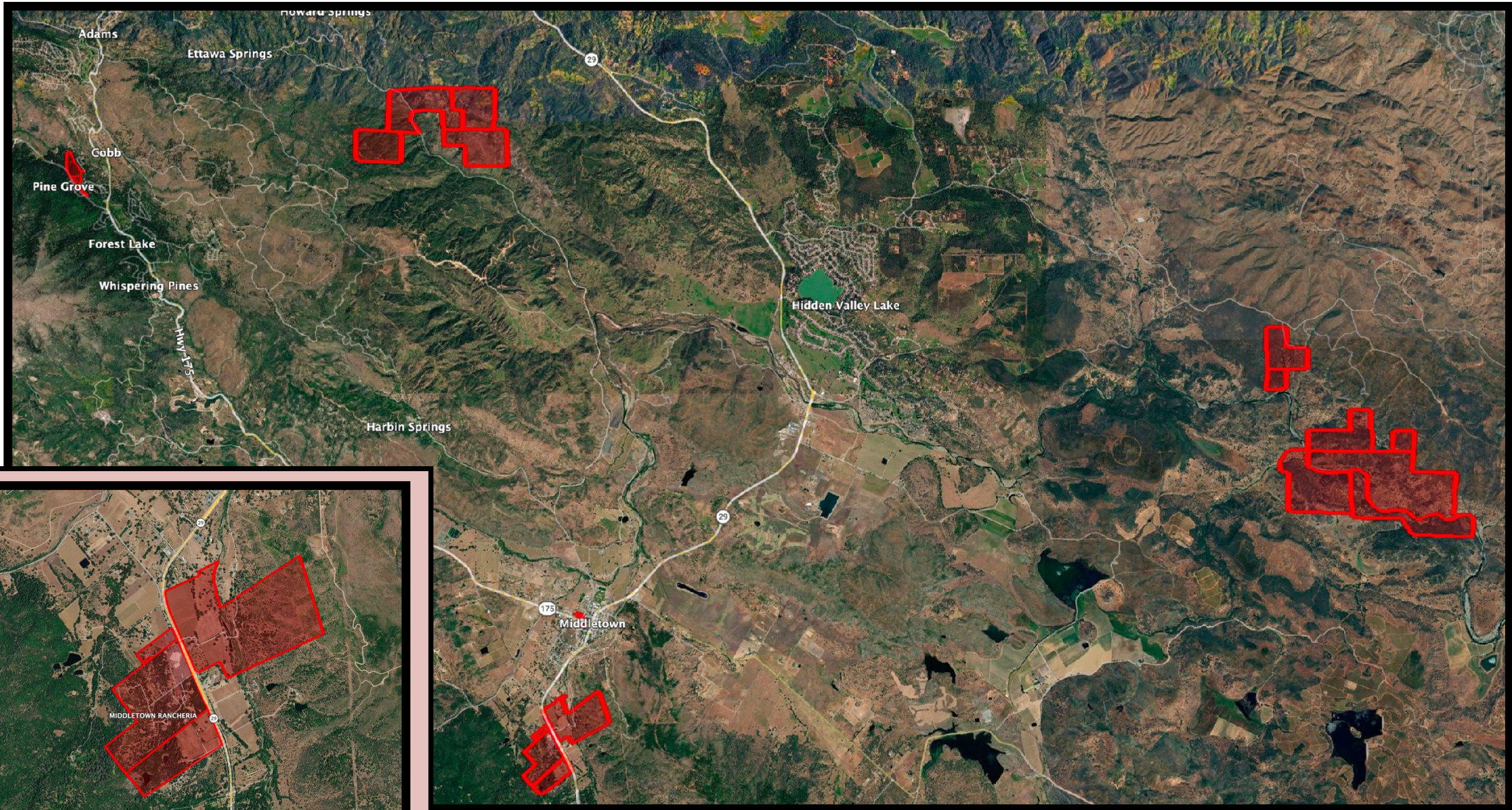


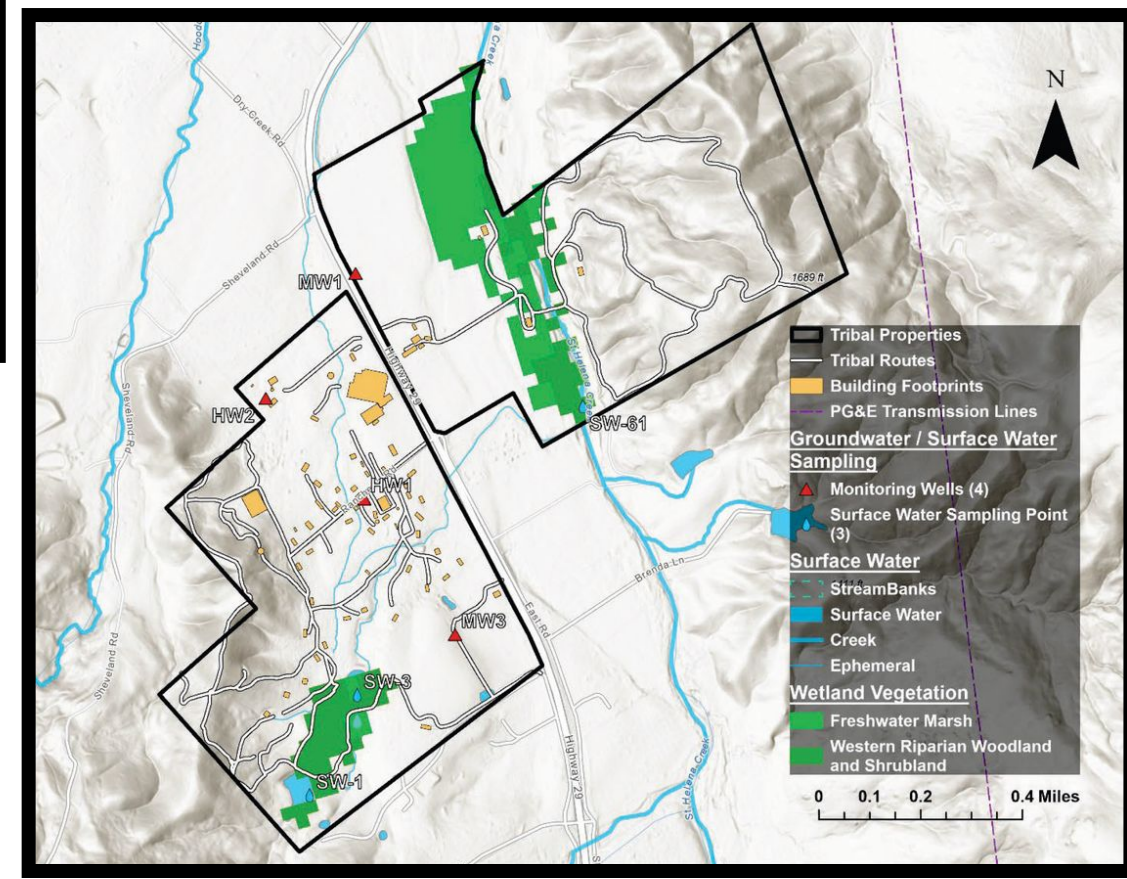
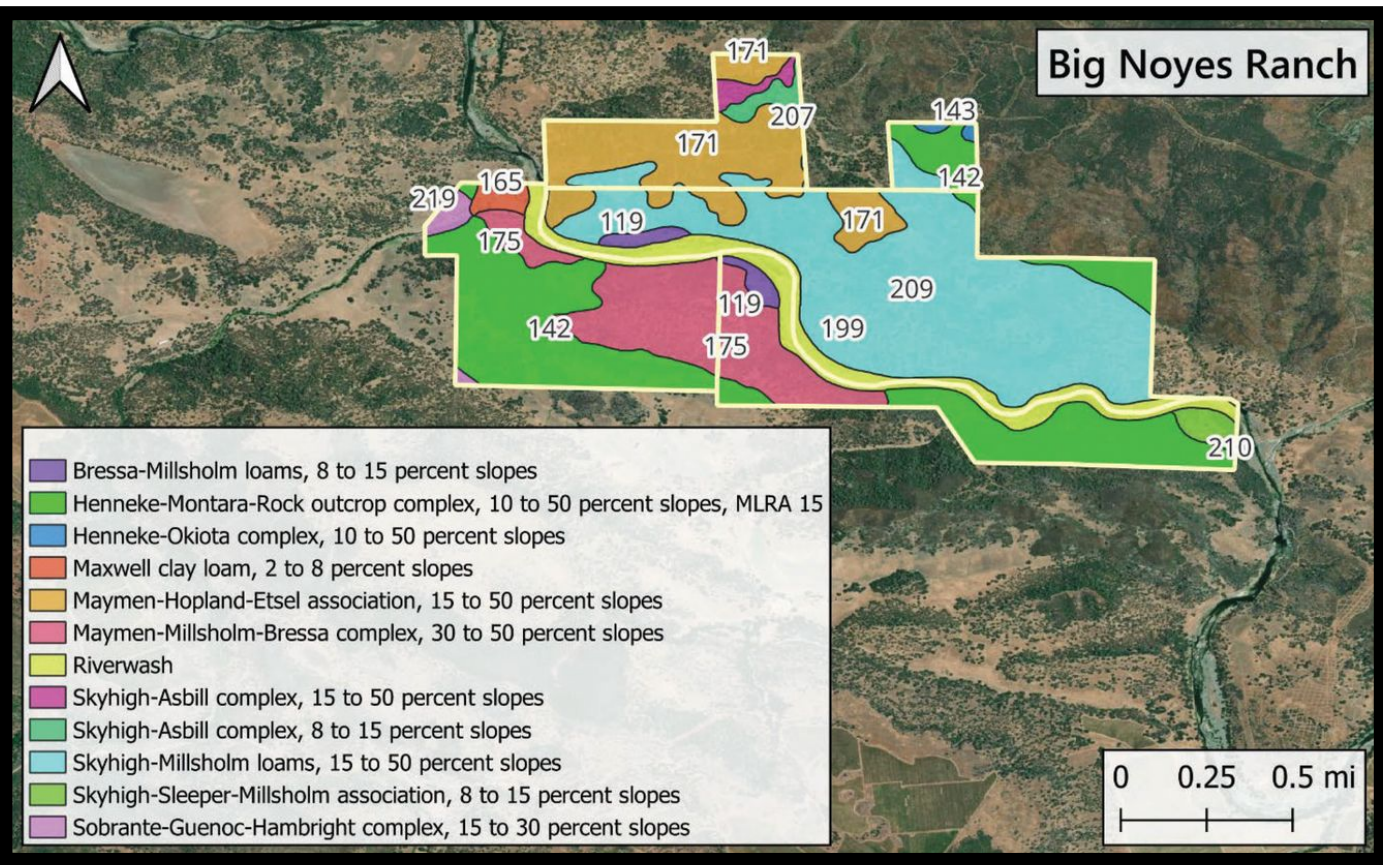


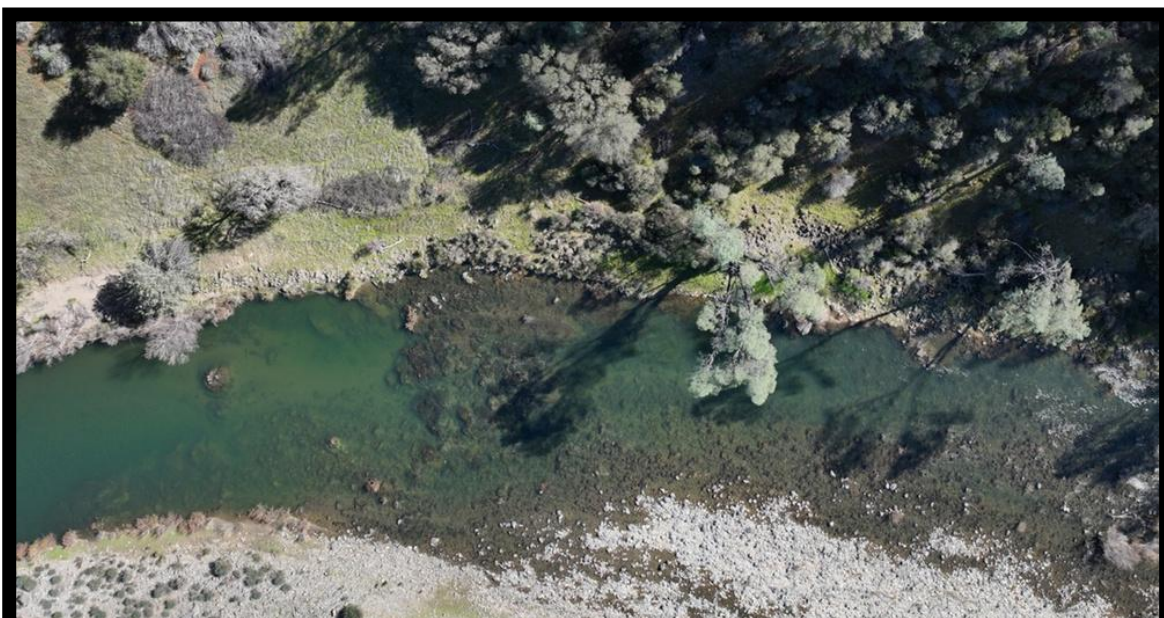
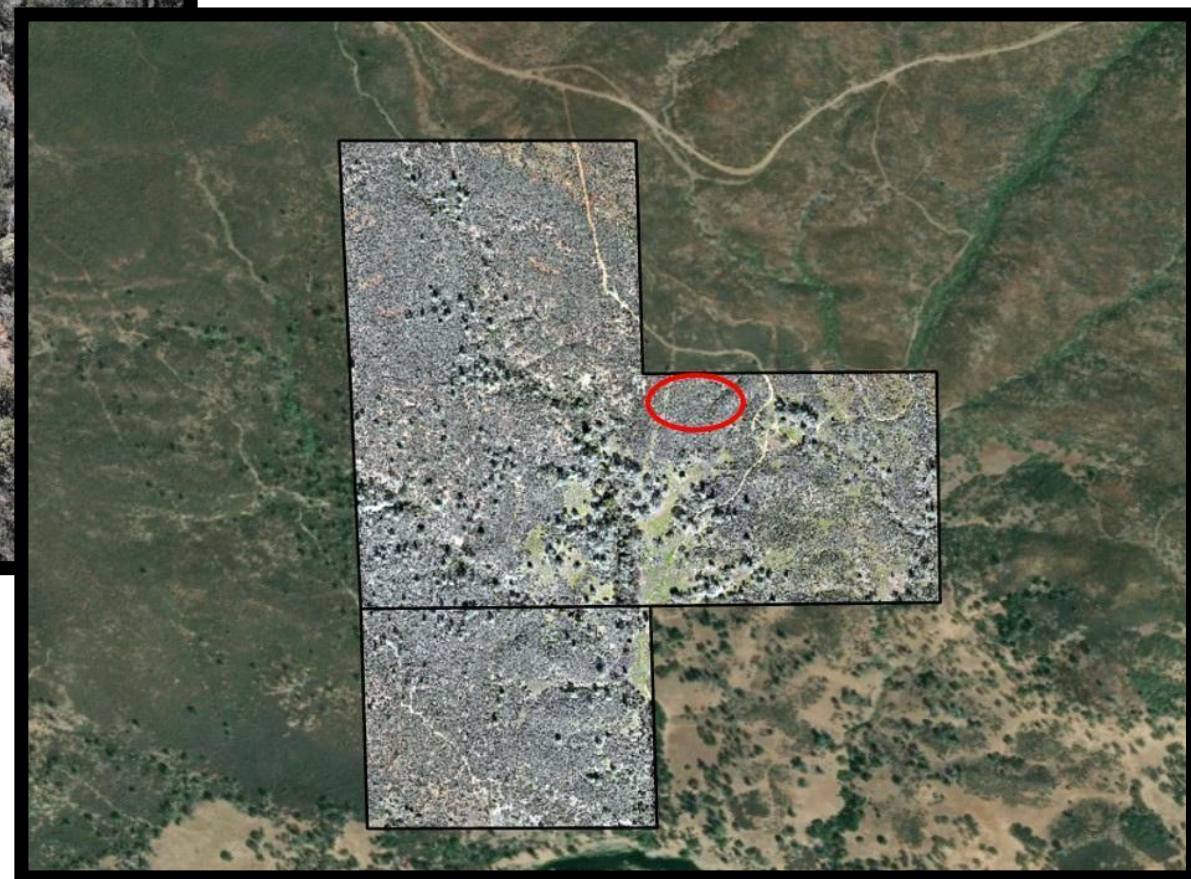
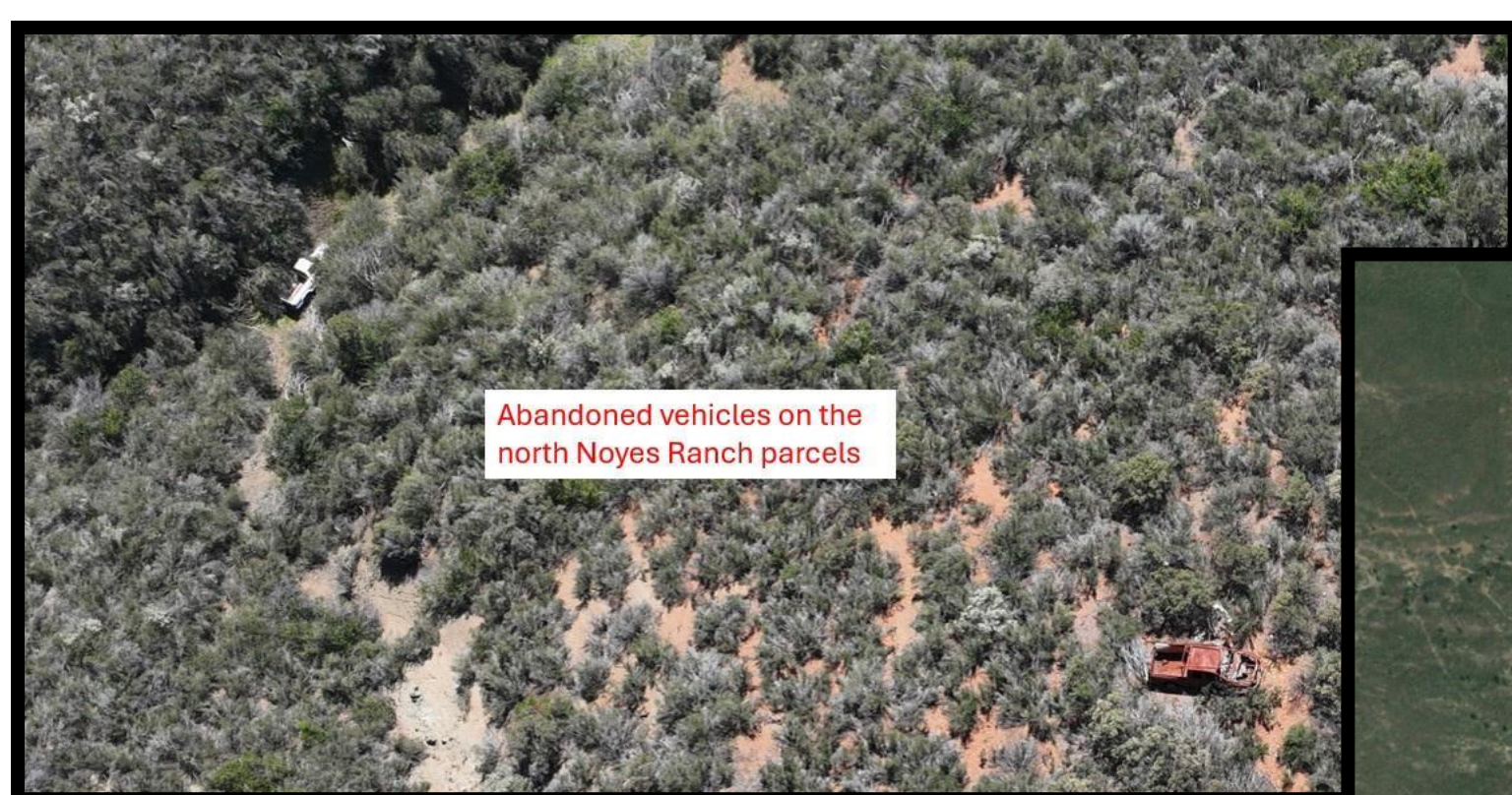
Putah Creek at Noyes Ranch, Middletown, CA, Tribal Fee Land

RISE Catalyst Project

- **Climate Resilience**
- **Cultural Resilience**
- **Workforce Development**









Environmental Youth Summer Internship

- Introduction to Tribal Lands
- Native Plant Identification
- Invasive Species Removal
- Land and Creek Restoration
- Forest Health
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Cultural Resources
- Introduction to Mapping







Pinoleville Solar Port & Workforce Development





Build
community
connections

Support
academic
success

Empower
youth

OUR GROUP





The Program



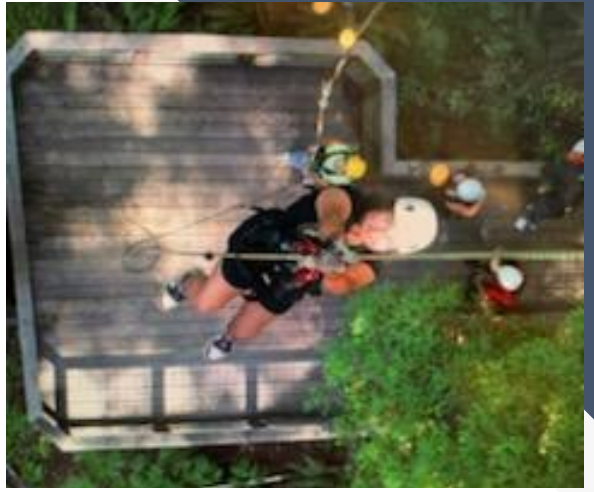
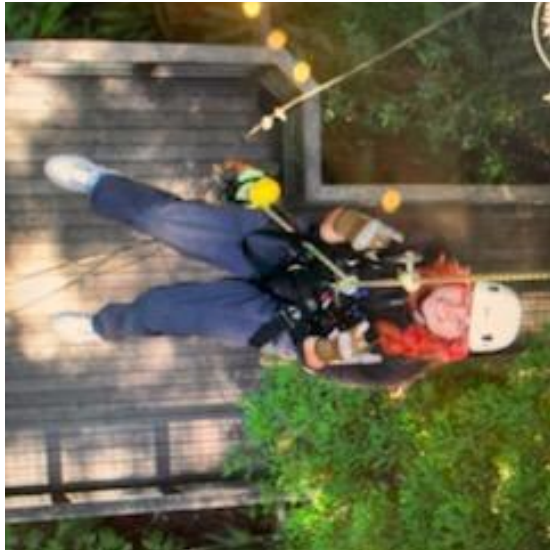




Field Trips



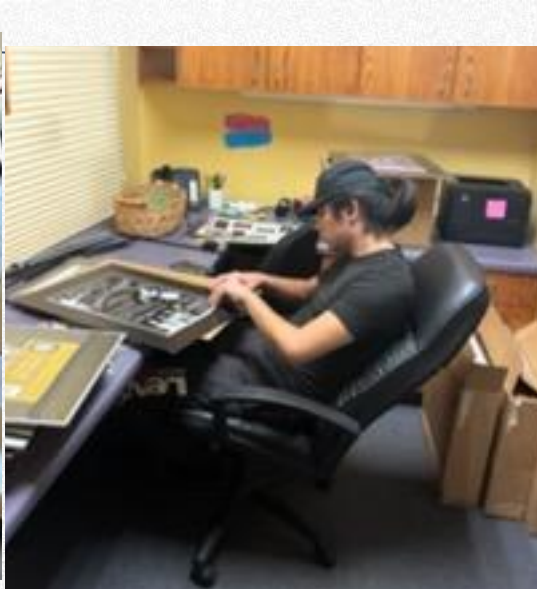






The background features a light gray field with dark gray, wavy, horizontal lines that resemble a topographical map or a stylized landscape. A thin, dark grid is overlaid on the entire image, with vertical and horizontal lines intersecting to form a subtle pattern.

Work





THANK
YOU
RISE!

Building Lives by Building Structure (BLBS) / GRID Workforce Development

Franklin E Richards

Chairman of the BOD/Training Coordinator for BLBS

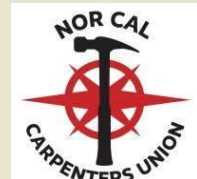


Redwood Region
RISE



BLBS / GRID Workforce Development

- This application will fund a workforce development training program that will sustain the building of small affordable homes.
- Complete the two affordable homes partially completed by BLBS students.
- Collaboration between **BLBS** who specializes in home construction training, and **GRID** who specializes in training on solar power and battery storage systems in homes



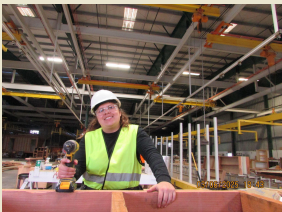
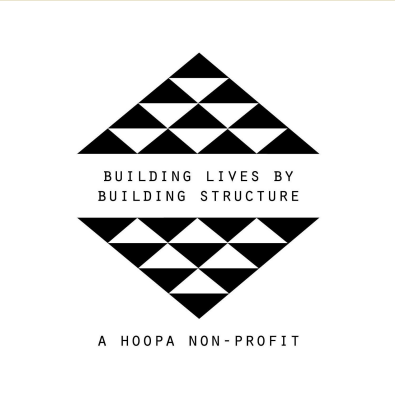
BLBS / GRID Workforce Development

→ **The problem or opportunity** your project tackles

→ This training program addresses a HUGE need for small, affordable, energy-efficient homes on the Hoopa Valley Reservation and other Tribes.

→ It creates a pathway for career success for 16–24 year-olds wanting to learn a trade, addresses the lack of employment opportunities (28% unemployment rate in Hoopa)

→ Goal is self-sustainability for the workforce development program & provide affordable housing opportunities.



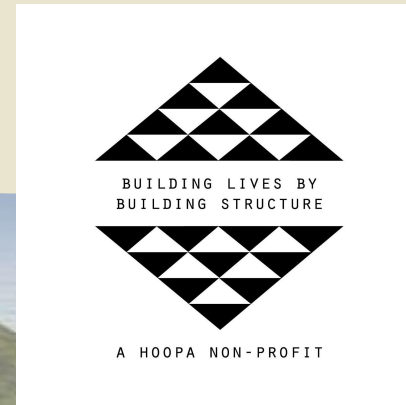
BLBS / GRID Workforce Development

- **Aligns with RRISE** strategy to “Help create thriving-wage opportunities for workers in our region” serving Eastern Humboldt County, Yurok and Karuk lands.
- Graduates will have the training needed to enter a Carpenters Union apprenticeship program, build homes, or install solar power / battery storage.



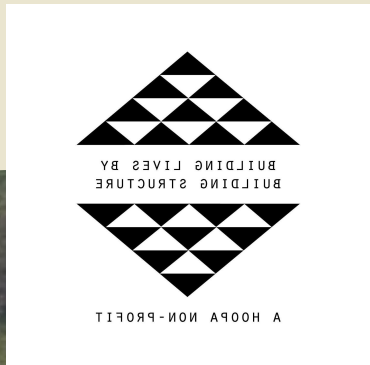
BLBS / GRID Workforce Development

- **Aligns with RRISE** strategy to “Help create sustainable economic growth by diversifying our local and regional economies”
- Training local youth to repair/replace homes and add solar power and battery storage will keep local dollars circulating in the local economy.

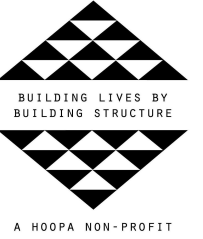


BLBS / GRID Workforce Development

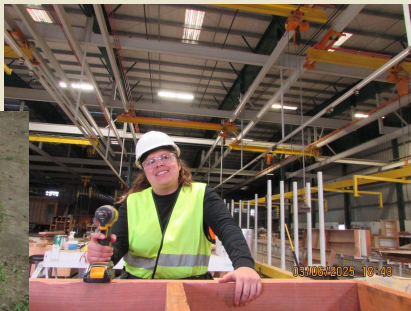
- **Aligns with RRISE** goal to “Advance California’s goals for a climate-forward future”
- Adding renewable solar power and battery storage to homes will decrease use of fossil fuels.
- Developing a local workforce will reduce the need for long-distance workers which reduces energy use.



BLBS / GRID Workforce Development



- **Aligns with RRISE** goal to “Impact Priority Communities”
- This project will empower a community living on the Hoopa Valley Reservation that has a high poverty and unemployment rate.
- Opens a path for local Native American youth to develop thriving wage careers with an opportunity for direct-entry into the Carpenters Union as an apprentice.



BLBS / GRID Workforce Development

→ What makes the project **unique or innovative**

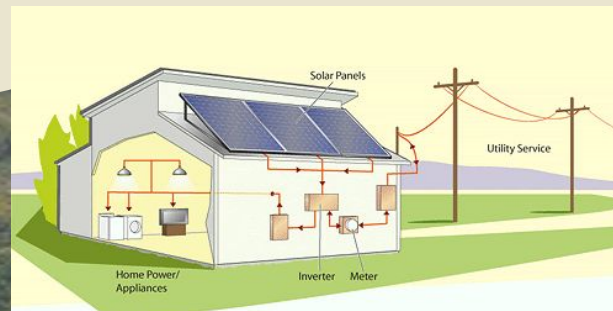
- Partnership with the Hoopa Valley Tribe is key to this project. Their Hoopa Modular Plant provides a secure state-of-the-art facility for home construction. The Hoopa people are the oldest home builders in California.
- Bringing the integrated cranes into the construction process will dramatically increase the efficiency and productivity of BLBS' and GRID's work.

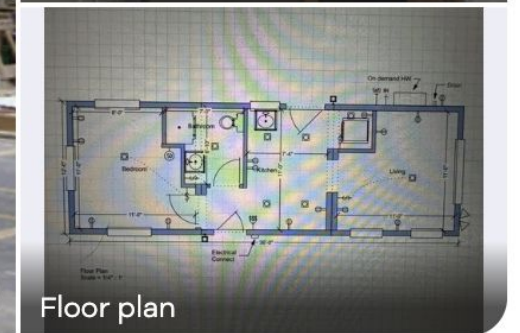


BLBS / GRID Workforce Development

→ What makes the project **unique or innovative**

- BLBS is a unique All Native American run and operated 501c3 non profit located on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation. BLBS has an in-kind donation of 10k per month rent free lease from the Hoopa Tribe and BLBS pays no utilities.
- GRID installs and trains locals in solar photovoltaic systems, battery storage, and electric vehicle charging systems for low-income families.





[Veteran Homebuyers: 2026 VA Loan Requirements](#) | [How much home can I afford? \(Find out!\)](#)

● Mobile house for sale

\$90,000

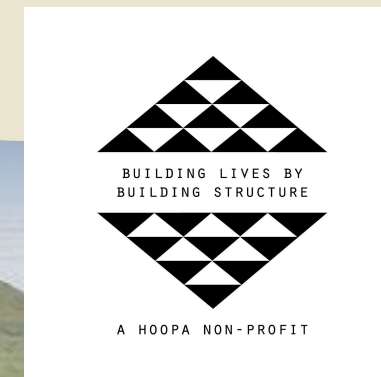
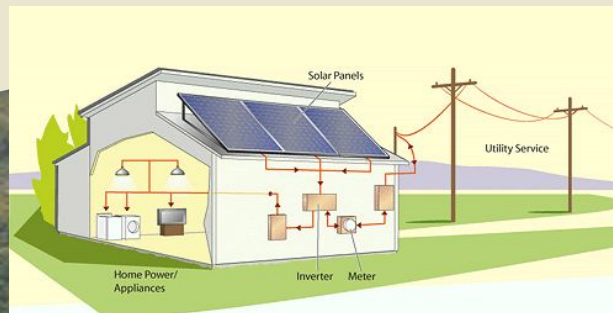
151 Cal Pac Rd Unit BAY6, Hoopa, CA 95546

Est.\$581/mo

Get pre-approved

BLBS / GRID Workforce Development

Thank You!



Blue Lake Tribal Energy, LLC





Redwood Region RISE

August 2026



The Opportunity

Humboldt County is **an international leader in microgrid research, innovation, and deployment.**

Blue Lake Rancheria has been at the forefront of parting with the Schatz Energy Research Center at Cal Poly Humboldt to drive the innovations that have resulted in this success.



The Opportunity

....but this regional leadership has yet to be **leveraged into any commercial enterprise.**

BLR is uniquely positioned to **capitalize on the Tribe's experience and reputation to offer energy-system design and deployment services** to other Tribes, governments, and businesses.



Progress to Date

\$2.27million in funding secured for launch period (yrs. 1-3):

- \$1.27million Tribal Nations Grant Fund competitive Impact Grant
- \$0.5million Redwood Region RISE Catalyst Grant
- \$0.5million Indigenous Power and Light Fund award for BLR Microgrid 2.0 project (includes funding for BLTM)



Progress to Date

Evaluating creation or acquisition of a solar installation team:

- Would add turn-key installations as a business offering in addition to consulting/engineering services.
- BLR's internal budget for Microgrid 2.0 includes \$3.6million for new solar arrays.
- Opportunity for collaboration with other BLR enterprises – example: timber-framed pavilions and car ports ☐.



Next Steps

- **Establish or acquire solar install unit:**
Funding available, but needs to be used or redirected by spring 2027.
- **Finalize business plan:** Strategy, staffing, service offerings (highly dependent on staffing outcomes), marketing.
- **Begin engaging potential project partners:**
Focus on Tribes and the region (starting with the Blue Lake Rancheria).

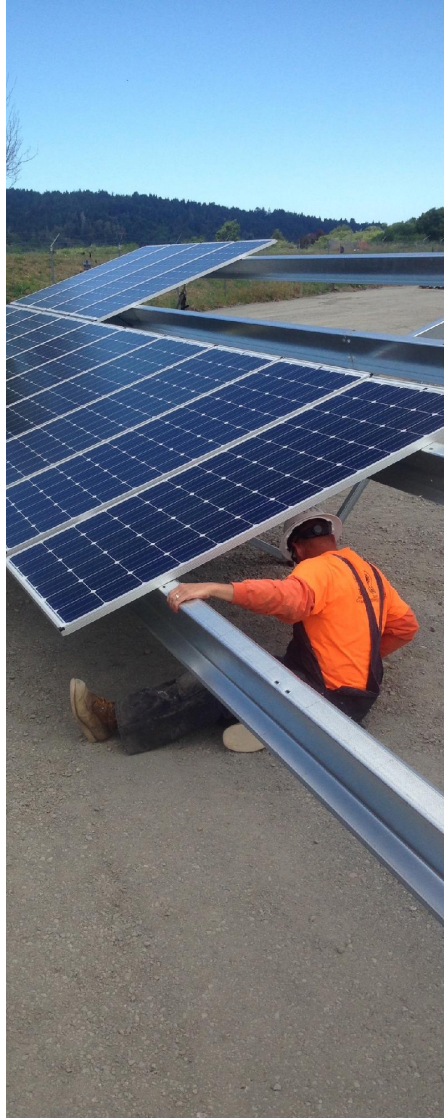




Thank you!



Renewable & Resilient Energy Sector: Going Forward





Redwood Region **RISE**



Cal Poly
Humboldt.