

# 2021 Supplier Diversity Annual Report and Plan

Report to the  
California Public  
Utilities Commission

Redwood Coast Energy Authority  
March 1, 2022



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# 2021 Annual Report

**2022 MARKS THE SECOND YEAR FOR COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATORS' PARTICIPATION IN THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION'S (CPUC'S) SUPPLIER DIVERSITY PROGRAM.** The Redwood Coast Energy Authority's (RCEA) Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program started serving load in May 2017 for the express purpose of empowering its member communities to choose the generation resources that reflect their specific values and needs. Chief among these needs identified through community workshops and input to RCEA's Board of Directors are affordability, local economic development, local control over power resources and generation rates, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, air quality, protection of natural resources, and energy reliability in rural Humboldt County, an area especially prone to extended electric outages.

Several highlights from RCEA's 2021 supplier diversity activities included the establishment of an agency-wide supplier diversity working group, an all-staff training on the CPUC's Supplier Diversity program and certification process, our Certify and Amplify workshop (in English and Spanish) and joining the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE). Regarding Humboldt County's list of certified vendors, four businesses were added to the Clearinghouse and two businesses' certification expired. Humboldt County grossed an 18% increase in certified businesses in 2021.

In implementing activities described in our inaugural report, RCEA learned several lessons that will be employed to increase the efficacy of our supplier diversity efforts in 2022. Instead of increasing the quantity of its supplier diversity activities, RCEA will adapt its current suite of activities to focus on more tailored, high-touch assistance to local vendors to achieve certification. Humboldt County is home to small businesses and sole proprietors who qualify for certification, but do not have the bandwidth to navigate the certification process. This indicates the need to invest more RCEA staff resources to focus on providing one-on-one technical assistance to small businesses with limited bandwidth to engage in the certification process. These lessons and adaptations are further described in the body of this report.

RCEA continues to make progress on its Racial Justice Plan to address inequities in our community. Many aspects of this plan are geared toward increasing diversity and equity in RCEA's hiring practices, governance, workplace culture, program development, and program delivery. RCEA recognizes that equal access to economic opportunity for business enterprises owned by women, minorities, disabled veterans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, (WMDVLGBT) and others experiencing marginalization must be achieved. Policies that promote utility procurement of products and services from WMDVLGBT business enterprises (WMDVLGBTBEs) is a step toward achieving that goal. CPUC staff, in conversation and presentations, has used the term "diverse BEs" as an abbreviated reference to the WMDVLGBTBE acronym. RCEA uses the term "diverse BEs" or "DBEs" hereafter to refer to this group of business enterprises.

In addition to diverse BEs, other types of business owners also experience economic marginalization in society, and RCEA's procurement policies have and continue to help close those gaps. While GO 156 acknowledges Small Business Administration 8(a) certified small businesses (and rightly so), RCEA notes the importance of purchasing from local, Department of General Services-

certified small businesses not recognized through the CPUC’s diverse BE-focused Supplier Clearinghouse. Accordingly, RCEA spent \$10,058.71 on local, DGS-certified small businesses in 2021.

This spend is impactful because our CCA service territory is relatively rural, thus experiencing economic marginalization distinct from our metropolitan neighbors served by their own CCA programs. Our local procurement from small businesses is essential in our service territory, where poverty and low household income are widespread, and where distance creates logistical challenges in procuring goods and services from outside our area.

The following table highlights our most notable local spend:

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Sum of 2021 Spend</b>
Power Purchase - Biomass	\$ 6,403,091.38
Professional Services	\$ 440,033.45
Net Energy Metering customer payouts	\$ 279,939.48
RCEA facility costs	\$ 95,925.10
Electric Vehicle/Heat pump incentives	\$ 36,261.39
Electric Vehicle Charging Network	\$ 10,499.29
Supplies	\$ 3,178.69
Outreach	\$ 9,945.95
Grand Total	\$ 7,278,874.73

\$8,790.33 of the “Net Energy Metering customer payouts” contained in this table went to two certified vendors; however, these are not reported as diverse spend per CPUC staff guidance. \$12,187.54 of the “Grand Total” listed in the table was paid to a local government tribe for professional services. \$155,786.44 of the “Grand Total” consisted of transactions with businesses that are women-owned, but not certified. RCEA engaged with one of these woman-owned businesses and provided guidance on the certification process; however, the business owner was unable to complete the certification process due to a time and resource constraints. While RCEA will be increasing its efforts to assist vendors with the certification process in 2022, it is important to emphasize that this is indeed a material hurdle small businesses face generally, and a more streamlined certification process could provide an equitable opportunity for certification of smaller vendors.

Nevertheless, RCEA is proud of our procurement from these businesses and is excited to continue leveraging GO 156 as an opportunity to further the power our procurement holds to stimulate small, local, and diverse business growth.

## 9.1.1 Diverse BE Program Activities

In 2021, RCEA made progress toward the goals set in the Annual Plan we submitted last reporting cycle. RCEA's 2021 activities and a description of progress as it pertains to each activity are provided below.

### EXTERNAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

- *Host our own version of Certify and Amplify*
  - Description: Using MCE's Certify and Amplify workshop as a model, develop an online supplier clearinghouse certification training, which can be recorded and saved to the RCEA website for later viewing. The purpose of the workshop is to explain the process and benefits of certification for Women, Minority, Disabled Veteran, and LGBT business enterprises, as encouraged by CPUC General Order 156. The goal is to focus on Humboldt County businesses. We plan to collaborate and leverage existing relationships with the Builders' Exchange, chambers of commerce, Prosperity Network, and PG&E to maximize the benefit of this event to our community.
  - Status: RCEA hosted its own Certify and Amplify workshop on November 2nd, 2021. Both PG&E and CPUC were featured speakers. RCEA reached out to three local certified firms to ask them to participate in the workshop as panelists who could provide additional clarity on the technicalities of the certification process to workshop participants; however, none of them were available. The workshop was advertised to 116 total vendors, businesses, and stakeholders (including the Builder's Exchange and numerous local, regional, and state-wide chambers of commerce); 35 of these contacts were local. RCEA created an event for the workshop on our Facebook page which has 1.9K followers. The workshop had 82 registrants that all received post-workshop materials including links to the webinar. The workshop materials were also sent to the CalCCA Marketing Committee, which contains 59 members from California CCAs. RCEA shared a recording of the webinar on our Twitter page, which has 406 followers. We had a total of 52 attendees. RCEA provided a Spanish version of the workshop as well. Both the English-language and Spanish-language workshop recording can be found on RCEA's website. During this presentation, attendees were encouraged to follow-up with RCEA staff for certification support. This workshop was a successful networking event, and the Spanish recording is a unique resource that other participating utilities and vendors can view to supplement their outreach efforts; however, it did not appear to directly increase the number of certified local businesses. RCEA plans to pivot to more targeted vendor engagement in 2022 to increase certification locally.
- *Provide technical assistance to diverse BEs: Encourage local firms and existing vendors to pursue certification*
  - Description: Assist local diverse BEs that are interested in gaining certification to be listed on the state's Supplier Clearinghouse database. Be available to answer technical questions on certification requirements, and assist with the required submission of required materials.
  - Status: RCEA's Certify and Amplify workshop was a key activity intended to provide technical assistance to local firms and existing vendors and is described above. Additionally, RCEA created a draft guidance document for vendors. This

document is specific to RCEA's technical assistance, as opposed to general State guidance. RCEA provided this document, along with other supplemental education and assistance, to one of its long-time vendors, a sole proprietor women-owned business. The business recognized the importance of certification and is highly supportive of supplier diversity; however, the business was unable to complete the process due to the amount of time and resources it takes to become certified. Small businesses, especially sole proprietorships, face this challenge. The woman-owned business described here is the same as the woman-owned business described in the previous report section.

- *Participate in diverse organizations and chambers of commerce*
  - Description: Identify local diverse organizations and chambers of commerce that would be interested in hearing about GO 156 and the State's Supplier Clearinghouse; this may involve being a speaker at a regular meeting or providing information on the benefits of certification.
  - Status: RCEA joined the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE); a national network of governments working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. RCEA will evaluate additional organizations in which to participate in 2022, as described in section 10.1.2 below.
- *Participate in local, state, national supplier diversity events*
  - Description: Similar to the activity above, identify events (preferably local, but also regional and statewide) where RCEA can engage with diverse supplier groups, such as the National Business Inclusion Consortium, the Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council, and the Women's Business Enterprise Council.
  - Status: RCEA attended and successfully networked at the 2021 CPUC/Joint Utilities Virtual Small/Business Expo. 56 attendees visited our booth. RCEA will explore other event opportunities hosted by the organizations above, those who were invited to the Certify & Amplify workshop, as well as other supplier diversity related organizations.

## **INTERNAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FOR 2021**

- *Develop RCEA team that sets supplier diversity goals for each department and works toward achieving established goals.*
  - Description: Each program director will select one member of their team to participate in an RCEA supplier diversity committee (since renamed the "Supplier Diversity Working Group"). This working group will include a representative from RCEA's Transportation, Administration, Power Resources, Demand Side Management, and Operations departments. This working group will be responsible for becoming familiar with supplier diversity requirements, setting goals (qualitative and quantitative), further developing the activities contained in these tables, and crafting strategies to achieve goals.
  - Status: RCEA hosted six working group meetings with staff representatives from each department. A total of 12 staff participated in the working group meetings. These working group meetings were a notable success in that they achieved several goals: institutionalizing supplier diversity at our organization, providing foundational supplier diversity knowledge to staff, enabling the effective coordination and execution of RCEA supplier diversity initiatives, and posting department solicitations to the Clearinghouse board.

- *Track spend and regularly report results to RCEA Board of Directors.*
  - Description: Staff with direct access to contract and invoicing data will track spend with diverse BEs. Staff will prepare a report summarizing the annual Supplier Diversity Report and Plan, and deliver this report for review by the RCEA Board of Directors.
  - Status: RCEA shared the 2020 Supplier Diversity Annual Report and Plan to its Board of Directors in May 2021.
  
- *Share upcoming contracting opportunities with Supplier Clearinghouse database with a priority on local suppliers; respond to diverse BE prospective supplier inquiries*
  - Description: RCEA supplier diversity working group representatives will become familiar with the Supplier Clearinghouse database and resources; when a purchasing or contract opportunity arises, they will reach out to local businesses with GO 156 certification first, then consider other GO 156 suppliers for the given purchase/contract. RCEA will have form on website whereby contractors can enter their e-mail address to be included in upcoming contract and procurement opportunities.
  - Status: RCEA added a form on its website where contractors can enter their e-mail address to be included in upcoming contract and procurement opportunities. RCEA working group members received training on navigating the Supplier Clearinghouse website, including the database. RCEA staff submitted three bid opportunities to the Supplier Clearinghouse bid board in 2021. RCEA received zero responsive bids from certified vendors in response to posted opportunities RCEA developed a supplier diversity web page and added certification information to its “Contracting Opportunities” web page.
    - RCEA’s Power Resources Department posted their Mid-Term Reliability power procurement solicitation to the Supplier Clearinghouse solicitation page. This was the only solicitation the Power Resources Department released in 2021. No inquiries or proposals were received via the Clearinghouse; however, 28 vendors viewed the solicitation, and six vendors downloaded the solicitation.
    - RCEA’s Administrative Department posted their Request for Proposals for Regulatory and Legal Services to the Supplier Clearinghouse page. No proposals were received via the Clearinghouse; however, nine vendors viewed the solicitation and one vendor downloaded the solicitation. One message was received via the Clearinghouse, but RCEA staff do not have credentials to log in to the message board and were thus unable to respond directly to the message in the Clearinghouse and attempted to identify and contact the vendor separately. CPUC staff have indicated that they will discuss and develop solutions for CCAs to have full access to the Supplier Clearinghouse in 2022.
    - RCEA’s Demand Side Management Department posted one solicitation to the Supplier Clearinghouse page. They were not able to access statistics akin to the Power Resources Department, but have been actively working with customer support to obtain those statistics. As stated above, the CPUC will discuss and develop solutions for CCAs to have full access to the Supplier Clearinghouse in 2022.



- *Have supplier diversity training at RCEA all-staff meeting*
  - Description: Staff will deliver a high-level presentation during an all-staff meeting to educate staff on GO 156 background, CPUC requirements, RCEA efforts, and the importance of supplier diversity.
  - Status: RCEA delivered a training at an organization-wide meeting on May 24, 2021, to 25 staff members on the background of the CPUC Supplier Diversity program, CPUC requirements, RCEA efforts, and the importance of supplier diversity.
- *Work with prime suppliers to optimize diverse participation and accurately report. Train prime suppliers in certification requirements so they can educate their subcontractors to certify.*
  - Description: Staff with direct relationships with prime contractors will provide information to said primes to encourage them to certify, and also educate their subcontractors to certify.
  - Status: RCEA will expand subcontractor engagement efforts after successfully certifying eligible prime contractors.

#### **ADDITIONAL 2021 ACTIVITIES NOT CAPTURED IN GOALS ABOVE**

- RCEA staff participated in several meetings with CPUC staff to better understand the opportunities available to CCAs to increase our diverse spend, discuss strategies to improve the CPUC Supplier Diversity program, RCEA's supplier diversity program, and approach to compliance.
- RCEA staff attended the CPUC Supplier Diversity En Banc on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to learn how CCAs can strengthen our supplier diversity efforts.
- RCEA staff participated in regular meetings with other CCAs to strategize how CCAs can maximize supplier diversity in our communities, especially within the unique constraints of Proposition 209.
- RCEA developed a Racial Justice Plan; a strategic suite of policies that guide RCEA's overall efforts to institutionalize diversity, equity, and inclusion across hiring practices, employee retention, employee recruitment, procurement, community relations, and Board representation. Another focus is working more closely with the local tribal governments. RCEA staff presented a progress report on the Racial Justice Plan in July 2021. Activities specifically include revising job descriptions to incorporate equity activities, incorporating equity activities in employee work plans, implicit bias trainings, staff demographics survey, implementing additional equity strategies in hiring, working with tribes on RCEA program development, adding tribal representation on RCEA's Community Advisory Committee, establishing a tribal liaison position, issuing a customer demographics survey, conducting an analysis on customer demographics survey responses, and conducting a program equity evaluation. This effort has been supported by RCEA's involvement in the Environmental Justice CalCCA committee and the broader CCA community.
- RCEA was interviewed for, and featured in, a California Energy Markets' article, "Diversity Lacking Energy Procurement, State Regulators Tell Legislature". This article articulated the current utility supplier diversity landscape in California, the CPUC's

supplier diversity report to the legislature, challenges CCAs are facing, and where CCAs are making headway.

- RCEA crafted this Annual Supplier Diversity Report and Plan.

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## 9.1.2 Summary of Purchases

### WMDVLGBTBE Annual Results by Ethnicity

Redwood Coast Energy Authority			2021 Report		G.O. #156 Sec. 9.1.2	
WMDVLGBTBE Annual Results by Ethnicity						
			2021			
			Direct	Sub	Total \$	%
1	Minority Male	Asian Pacific American	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
2		African American	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
3		Hispanic American	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
4		Native American	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
5		Total Minority Male	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
6	Minority Female	Asian Pacific American	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
7		African American	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
8		Hispanic American	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
9		Native American	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
10		Total Minority Female	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
11	Total Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)		\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
12	Women Business Enterprise (WBE)		\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
13	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Business Enterprise (LGBTBE)		\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
14	Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE)		\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
15	Other 8(a)*		\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
16	<b>TOTAL WMDVLGBTBE</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
17	<b>Net Procurement**</b>		<b>\$3,622,470</b>			

NOTE: \* FIRMS CLASSIFIED AS 8(a) OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION INCLUDES NON-WMDVLGBTBE

\*\* NET PROCUREMENT INCLUDES PURCHASE ORDER, NON-PURCHASE ORDER, AND CREDIT CARD DOLLARS

Direct - DIRECT PROCUREMENT

Sub - SUBCONTRACTOR PROCUREMENT

% - PERCENTAGE OF NET PROCUREMENT

## WMDVLGBTBE Direct Procurement by Product and Service Categories

RCEA does not have sufficient procurement information broken down by product and service categories for our certified vendors.

Redwood Coast Energy Authority				2021 Report				G.O. #156 Sec. 9.1.2			
WMDVLGBTBE Direct Procurement by Product and Service Categories											
				Products		Services		Total			
				\$	%	\$	%	\$	%		
1	Minority Male	Asian Pacific American	Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
2		African American	Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
3		Hispanic American	Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
4		Native American	Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
5		Total Minority Male	Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
6	Minority Female	Asian Pacific American	Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
7		African American	Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
8		Hispanic American	Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
9		Native American	Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
10		Total Minority Female	Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
11	Total Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)		Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
12	Women Business Enterprise (WBE)		Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
13	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Business Enterprise (LGBTBE)		Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
14	Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE)		Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
15	Other 8(a)*		Direct	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%		
16	<b>TOTAL WMDVLGBTBE</b>		<b>Direct</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>		
17	<b>Total Product Procurement</b>			\$0							
18	<b>Total Service Procurement</b>			\$0							
19	<b>Net Procurement**</b>			<b>\$3,622,470</b>							
20	<b>Total Number of WMDVLGBTBEs that Received Direct Spend</b>			0							

NOTE: \* FIRMS CLASSIFIED AS 8(a) OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION INCLUDES NON-WMDVLGBTBE

\*\* NET PROCUREMENT INCLUDES PURCHASE ORDER, NON-PURCHASE ORDER, AND CREDIT CARD DOLLARS

Direct - DIRECT PROCUREMENT

Sub - SUBCONTRACTOR PROCUREMENT

% - PERCENTAGE OF NET PROCUREMENT

## WMDVLGBTBE Subcontractor Procurement by Product and Service Categories

RCEA does not have sufficient procurement information broken down by product and service categories for our certified vendors.

Redwood Coast Energy Authority			2021 Report		G.O. #156 Sec. 9.1.2				
WMDVLGBTBE Subcontractor Procurement by Product and Service Categories									
				Products		Services		Total	
				\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
1	Minority Male	Asian Pacific American	Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
2		African American	Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
3		Hispanic American	Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
4		Native American	Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
5		Total Minority Male	Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
6	Minority Female	Asian Pacific American	Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
7		African American	Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
8		Hispanic American	Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
9		Native American	Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
10		Total Minority Female	Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
11	Total Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)		Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
12	Women Business Enterprise (WBE)		Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
13	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Business Enterprise (LGBTBE)		Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
14	Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE)		Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
15	Other 8(a)*		Sub	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
16	<b>TOTAL WMDVLGBTBE</b>		<b>Sub</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
17	<b>Total Product</b>			<b>\$0</b>					
18	<b>Total Service</b>			<b>\$0</b>					
19	<b>Net Procurement**</b>			<b>\$3,622,470</b>					

NOTE: \* FIRMS CLASSIFIED AS 8(a) OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION INCLUDES NON-WMDVLGBTBE  
 \*\* NET PROCUREMENT INCLUDES PURCHASE ORDER, NON-PURCHASE ORDER, AND CREDIT CARD DOLLARS  
 Direct - DIRECT PROCUREMENT  
 Sub - SUBCONTRACTOR PROCUREMENT  
 % - PERCENTAGE OF NET PROCUREMENT

## WMDVLGBTBE Procurement by Standard Industrial Categories

RCEA's certified vendors did not have SIC or NAICS codes; therefore, RCEA does not have any spend to report in SIC category table, although our net procurement is provided.

Redwood Coast Energy Authority	2021 Report	G. O. #156 Sec 9.1.2
WMDVLGBTBE Procurement by Standard Industrial Categories		

SIC Category	Asian Pacific American		African American		Hispanic American		Native American		Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)	Women Business Enterprise (WBE)	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Business Enterprise (LGBTBE)	Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise (DVBE)	Other 8(a)**	Total WMDVLGBTBE	Total Dollars
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female							
Category 1	\$														
	%														
Category 2	\$														
	%														
Category 3	\$														
	%														
Category 4	\$														
	%														
Category 5	\$														
	%														
Category 6	\$														
	%														
Category 7	\$														
	%														
Category 8	\$														
	%														
Category 9	\$														
	%														
Category 10	\$														
	%														
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$														
	%														

Total Product Procurement	\$0
Total Service Procurement	\$0

Net Procurement***	\$3,622,470
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NOTE:\*FIRMS WITH MULT MINORITY OWNERSHIP STATUS

\*\*FIRMS CLASSIFIED AS 8(a) OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION INCLUDES NON-WMDVLGBTBE

\*\*\*NET PROCUREMENT INCLUDES PURCHASE ORDER, NON-PURCHASE ORDER, AND CREDIT CARD DOLLARS

TOTAL DOLLARS - TOTAL PROCUREMENT DOLLAR AMOUNT IN THE SPECIFIC SIC CATEGORY

% - PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DOLLARS

## Number of WMDVLGBTBE Suppliers and Revenue Reported to the Clearinghouse

CPUC staff stated that CCAs do not need to report their diverse suppliers' revenue and size as reported to the Supplier Clearinghouse because CCAs currently do not have full access to the Supplier Clearinghouse database.

<b>Redwood Coast Energy Authority</b>	<b>2021 Report</b>	<b>G. O. #156 Sec 9.1.2 (D.11-05-019 &amp; D.06-11-028)</b>
<b>Number of WMDVLGBTBE Suppliers and Revenue Reported to the Clearinghouse</b>		

Data on Number of Suppliers												
# WMDVLGBTBEs	Revenue Reported to CHS						Utility-Specific [Year] Summary					
	MBE	WBE	LGBTBE	DVBE	Other 8(a)*	Grand Total	MBE	WBE	LGBTBE	DVBE	Other 8(a)*	Grand Total
Under \$1 million												
Under \$5 million												
Under \$10 million												
Above \$10 million												
<b>TOTAL</b>												

Revenue and Payment Data												
WMDVLGBTBE \$M	Revenue Reported to CHS						Utility-Specific [Year] Summary					
	MBE	WBE	LGBTBE	DVBE	Other 8(a)*	Grand Total	MBE	WBE	LGBTBE	DVBE	Other 8(a)*	Grand Total
Under \$1 million												
Under \$5 million												
Under \$10 million												
Above \$10 million												
<b>TOTAL</b>												

**NOTE: \* FIRMS CLASSIFIED AS 8(a) OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION INCLUDES NON-WMDVLGBTBE**  
**CHS: SUPPLIER CLEARINGHOUSE**

## Number of WMDVLGBTBEs with majority of workforce working in California

Nothing to report as RCEA did not have reportable spend with certified DBEs.

### 9.1.3 Diverse BE Program Expenses

Redwood Coast Energy Authority	2021 Report	G.O. #156 Sec. 9.1.3
<b>WMDVLGBTBE Program Expenses</b>		

Expense Category	Year (Actual)
Wages	\$11,401
Other Employee Expenses	\$1,528
Program Expenses	\$0
Reporting Expenses	\$0
Training	\$0
Consultants	\$0
Other	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,929</b>

### 9.1.4 Description of Progress in Meeting or Exceeding Set Goals

This section is not applicable to CCAs.

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## 9.1.5 Summary of Prime Contractors' Utilization of Diverse BE Subcontractors

RCEA's prime contractors may have utilized diverse subcontractors during the reporting year; however, RCEA does not have these records for 2021. RCEA intends to educate prime contractors in upcoming years so they in turn can educate and encourage their subcontractors to pursue Clearinghouse certification.

<b>Redwood Coast Energy Authority</b>	<b>2021 Report</b>	<b>G.O. #156 Sec. 9.1.5</b>
<b>Summary of Prime Contractor Utilization of WMDVLGBTBE Subcontractors</b>		

	Minority Male	Minority Female	Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)	Women Business Enterprise (WBE)	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Business Enterprise (LGBTBE)	Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise (DVBE)	Other 8(a)*	TOTAL WMDVLGBTBE
<b>Direct \$</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Subcontracting \$</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total \$</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>Direct %</b>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Subcontracting %</b>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Total %</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

<b>Net Procurement**</b>	<b>\$3,622,470</b>
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NOTE: \*FIRMS CLASSIFIED AS 8(a) OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION INCLUDES NON-WMDVLGBTBE

\*\*NET PROCUREMENT INCLUDES PURCHASE ORDER, NON-PURCHASE ORDER, AND CREDIT CARD DOLLARS

% - PERCENTAGE OF NET PROCUREMENT

Direct - DIRECT PROCUREMENT

Sub - SUBCONTRACTOR PROCUREMENT

## 9.1.6 List of WMDVLGBTBE Complaints Received

RCEA did not receive any formal complaints this reporting cycle.

### **9.1.7 Description of Efforts to Recruit WMDVLGBTBE Suppliers in Low Utilization Areas**

This section is not applicable to CCAs.

### **9.1.8 Retention of All Documents/Data**

This section is not applicable to CCAs.

### **9.1.9 Additional WMDVLGBTBE Activity**

Section 9.1.1 describes all of RCEA's 2021 activities supporting diverse BE's.

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## 9.1.11 WMDVLGBTBE Fuel Procurement

RCEA did not procure power products from a Clearinghouse-certified entity during reporting year 2021, nor did RCEA have any owned power plants or power purchase agreements that required fuel provision.

RCEA did, however, post one solicitation to the Supplier Clearinghouse website; although no responses were received via the Clearinghouse, the following data was collected regarding the amount of traffic RCEA's posting received:

- None of the solicitation respondents were notified from the Clearinghouse bid page.
- 28 vendors viewed the solicitation from the landing page.
- 6 vendors downloaded the bid/announcement from the Clearinghouse bid page.
- 24 vendors were added to the announcement/bid via e-mail.

Despite this, RCEA does procure power products from a variety of small, local producers as part of our Board-directed effort to spur and sustain economic development within our service area. In 2021, RCEA procured energy and capacity from a local biomass plant, Humboldt Sawmill Company's Scotia Cogeneration Plant (HSC). RCEA's procurement from HSC sustains a number of local jobs and will continue to do so through the end of the power purchase agreement (PPA), which is currently set for June 2031.

In addition, RCEA launched its Feed-In Tariff program in 2019 which offers an above-market PPA price for new, small-scale ( $\leq 1$  MW) renewable generation within our service area. RCEA signed a number of PPAs under this program in 2020, and currently has 6 MW in total of new solar generation under contract. The six solar facilities are expected to come online in 2022 and 2023.

Lastly, RCEA is funding about half the cost of the Redwood Coast Airport Microgrid (RCAM) project, which is an RCEA-owned hybrid solar-plus-storage resource at our local airport. Design and project management are being provided by the Schatz Energy Research Center, which is a research branch of Cal Poly Humboldt, and installation of the solar array was sub-contracted to a local firm at prevailing wage. RCAM became operational in December of 2021, providing energy resiliency and reliability to surrounding critical facilities in an otherwise rural region.



# 2022 Annual Plan

## 10.1.1 WMDVLGBTBE Annual Short-, Mid- and Long-Term Goals by Product and Service Category

This section is not applicable to CCAs.

## 10.1.2 Description of WMDVLGBTBE Internal and External Activities for 2022

Overall, RCEA's 2022 activities will focus on refining the activities we established last year to increase the number of local businesses that are certified, as opposed to developing new programs.

### **PLANNED EXTERNAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FOR 2022**

#### ➤ *Outreach and education*

- Expand outreach to educate the public and vendors about the Supplier Diversity program through RCEA's web presence.
- Bolster the presence of supplier diversity on RCEA's website. For example, in addition to the existing dedicated supplier diversity page on RCEA's website, also feature information on RCEA's home page.
- Strengthen our partnership with the Norcal Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) to reach their local diverse membership and jointly implement local outreach to educate businesses about the CPUC's Supplier Diversity program and certification opportunities.

#### ➤ *Technical Assistance*

- Provide technical assistance to diverse BE's and encourage local qualified firms and existing vendors to pursue certification.
- Refine the draft RCEA technical assistance guidance document.
- Follow-up with the two Humboldt County-based vendors whose certification lapsed in 2021 to assist with recertification.
- Assist local vendors with certification; be available to answer technical questions on certification requirements and assist with the submission of required materials.
- RCEA staff prepared an internal list of potential vendors to engage in 2022; RCEA plans to develop a more streamlined approach and collateral with which to approach these vendors then conduct outreach to help them certify.
- Coordinate with internal staff who lead high-touch customer programs to evaluate how supplier diversity outreach could be integrated with their communications.

- *Diverse organizations and chambers of commerce*
  - Continue participating in GARE. Identify local diverse organizations and chambers of commerce that would be interested in hearing about GO 156, partnering on supplier diversity activities, and participating in these organizations' supplier diversity related efforts. This may involve being a speaker at a regular meeting, providing information on the benefits of certification, or attending organization events to learn more about their supplier diversity related work.
- *Local, state, national supplier diversity events*
  - Similar to the activity above, continue to identify and attend events (preferably local, but also regional and statewide) where RCEA can engage with diverse supplier groups, such as the National Business Inclusion Consortium, the Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council, and the Women's Business Enterprise Council. RCEA participated in the CPUC's Small Business Expo in 2021 and plans to do so again in 2022.
- *Prime Supplier Engagement*
  - Work with prime suppliers to optimize diverse participation and accurate reporting. Train prime suppliers in certification requirements so they can educate their subcontractors to certify.
  - Staff with direct relationships with prime contractors will provide information to said primes to encourage them to certify and educate their subcontractors to certify. RCEA staff is first emphasizing outreach to motivate prime contractors to certify. Once there is growth in prime certifications, RCEA will develop outreach strategies to engage with prime contractors to encourage their subcontractors to certify.

## **PLANNED INTERNAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FOR 2022**

- *Supplier Diversity Working Group*
  - Continue convening interdepartmental RCEA supplier diversity working group.
- *Track Spend*
  - Staff with direct access to contract and invoicing data will continue to track spend with diverse BEs. Staff will continue to prepare a report summarizing the annual GO 156 submission for review by the RCEA Board of Directors. RCEA will continue this practice in 2022 and all subsequent years.
- *Share Contracting Opportunities with the Supplier Clearinghouse Vendor Database*
  - Increase the number of RCEA contracting opportunities shared with the Supplier Clearinghouse database with a priority on local suppliers; respond to diverse BE prospective supplier inquiries.
  - RCEA will continue to train staff on how to use the supplier database and other Clearinghouse resources. As was the case in 2021, staff will distribute purchasing and contract opportunities to Clearinghouse-certified businesses in addition to our broader distribution list, with a special emphasis on local vendors.
  - RCEA staff leading supplier diversity efforts will issue more frequent reminders to staff to post bids to the Clearinghouse and seek to institutionalize this guidance in its procurement guidelines and procedures documents.

➤ *Staff-wide Training*

- Staff will deliver an annual high-level presentation during an all-staff meeting to refresh staff on GO 156 background, CPUC requirements, RCEA efforts, and the importance of supplier diversity and ensure new staff members are familiar with the Supplier Diversity program and RCEA's respective efforts

### **10.1.3 Plans for Recruiting WMDVLGBTBE Suppliers in Low Utilization Areas**

This section is not applicable to CCAs.

### **10.1.4 Plans for Recruiting WMDVLGBTBE Suppliers Where Unavailable**

This section is not applicable to CCAs.

### **10.1.5 Plans for Encouraging Prime Contractors to Subcontract WMDVLGBTBE Suppliers**

This section is not applicable to CCAs.

### **10.1.6 Plans for Complying with WMDVLGBTBE Program Guidelines**

This section is not applicable to CCAs.

## **Maximizing GO 156 Effectiveness**

GO156 presents a great opportunity for CCAs to help advance economic justice in California; however, CCAs face unique policy challenges when compared to other GO 156-participating utilities. Namely, as government entities, we are prevented by Proposition 209 from considering race, sex, or ethnicity when hiring employees and contracting. The Clearinghouse introduces a legal grey area because of its emphasis on race and gender – two classes of criteria that are expressly disallowed for governments to consider in hiring and contracting. The grey area can cause governments to bear additional risk and cost associated with challenges under Proposition 209.

Fortunately, there are ways to address this challenge to maximize the efficacy of Senate Bill 255's intent. For example, the GO 156 Clearinghouse can be adjusted to include critical equity metrics that public agencies identify and use to increase small, local, and diverse spend: small and local businesses, businesses operating in impoverished and low-income neighborhoods, businesses hiring ex-convicts, and other similar objectives.

CCAs, both independently and through their trade organization CalCCA, have engaged in the *Order Instituting Rulemaking to Revise General Order 156 to Include Certain Electric Service Providers and Community Choice Aggregators and Encourage Voluntary Participation by Other Non-Utility Entities Pursuant to Senate Bill 255; Consider LGBT Business Enterprise Voluntary Target Procurement Percentage Goals; Incorporated Disabled Business Enterprises; Modify the Required Reports and Audits; and Update Other Related Matters* (“GO 156 OIR”). CCA engagement with the CPUC has focused on providing feedback to ensure increased efficacy of CCAs’ implementation, tracking, and reporting of supplier diversity efforts. For example, CalCCA has provided input to the reporting templates to make them more tailored to CCA efforts, participated in meetings with the CPUC to provide suggestions on reporting to further alignment with the unique structure of CCAs’ operations and regulatory requirements. CalCCA, concurrently with individual CCAs, continues to build relationships with diverse organizations to further CCAs’ collective supplier diversity efforts. RCEA continues to support and participate in CalCCA’s ongoing efforts to partner with supplier diversity stakeholders, engage in constructive dialogue with the CPUC, and thoughtfully engage in the GO 156 OIR rulemaking to increase the efficacy of the Clearinghouse and CCAs’ supplier diversity programs.