Katherine Douglas Public Comment

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From: Craig Lewis <craig@clean-coalition.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 5:01 PM
To: Laura Capps; Roy Lee; Joan Hartmann; Bob Nelson; Steve Lavagnino
Cc: Chris Henson; Wade Cowper; Gina Fischer; Aaron Hanke; Cory Bantilan; sbcob; Ben Schwartz
Subject: SB County Community Microgrid opportunities for economic, environmental, and resilience benefits

Madam Chair and Honorable Supervisors,

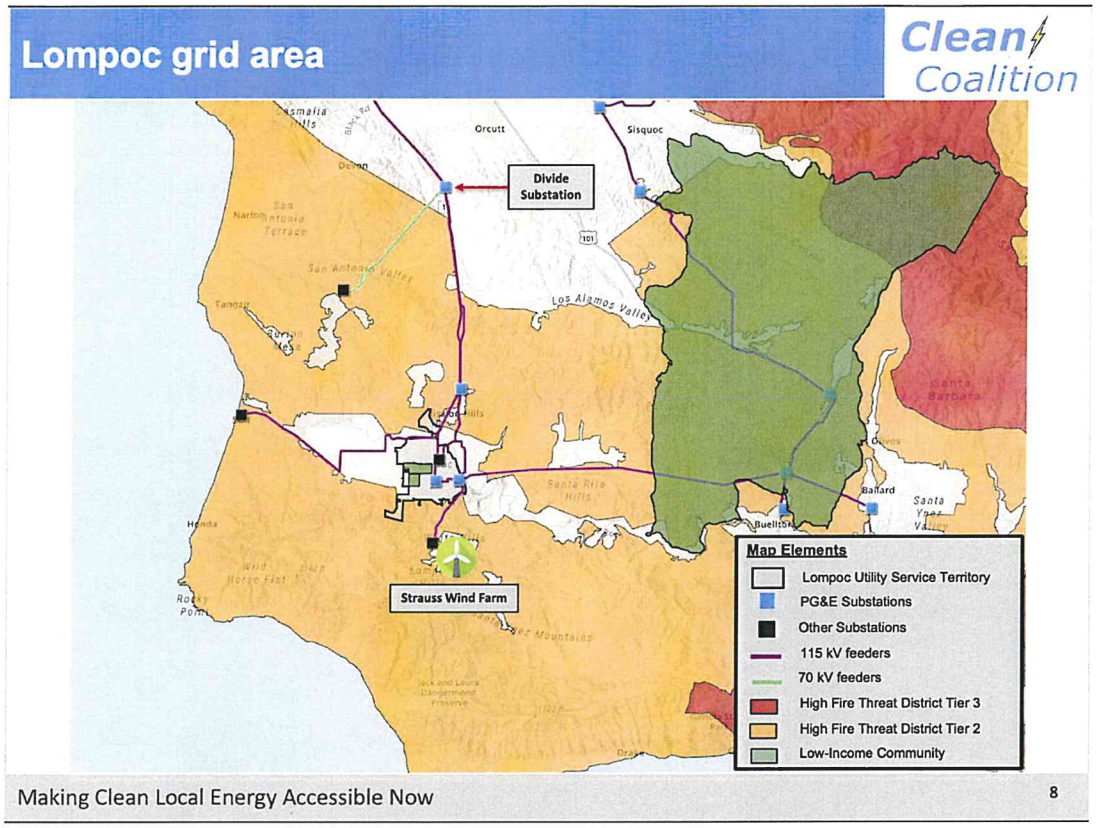
As promised at the end of my public comments on the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) item yesterday, I send this email to illuminate the tremendous benefits that Community Microgrids can deliver to Santa Barbara County, spanning a trifecta of economic, environmental, and resilience benefits.

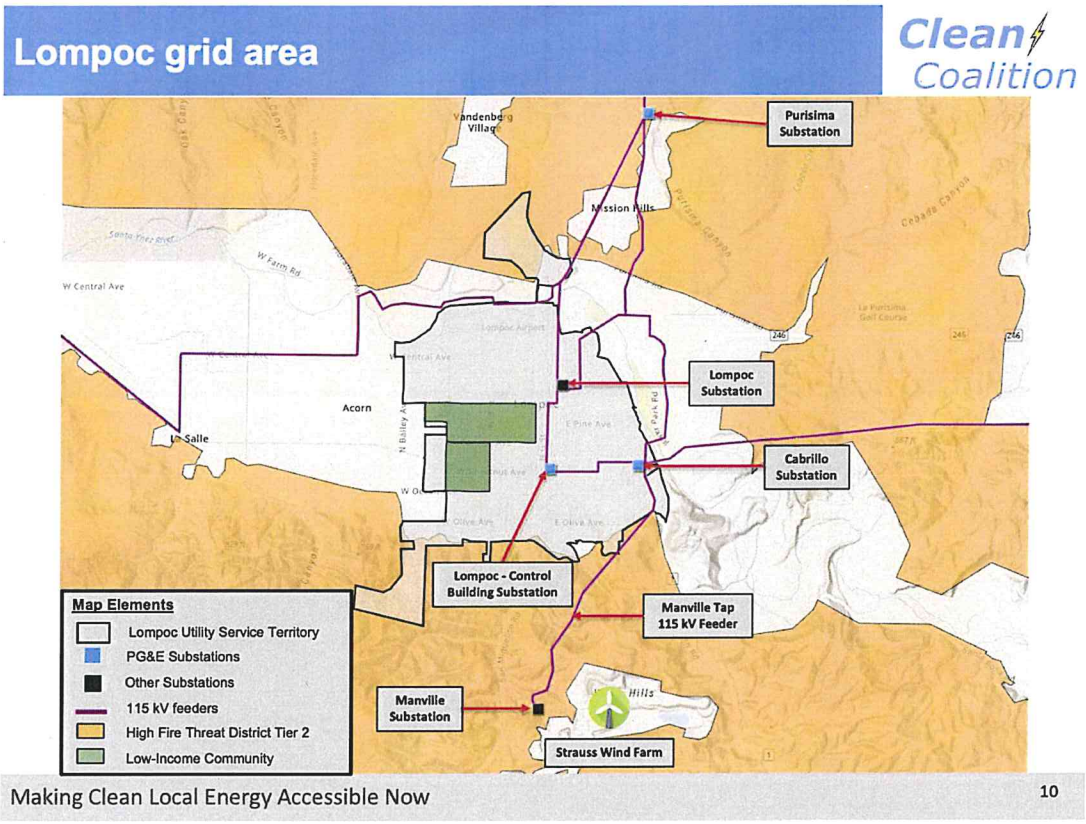
The Clean Coalition has been pursuing renewables-driven Community Microgrids in Santa Barbara County for many years, and I want to share some information in that regard, organized into a single email, in the hopes that you will find this information to be useful in planning for the best possible future for our County.

First, please see the email below about the Community Microgrids webinar that the Clean Coalition conducted last Thursday. The recording of that webinar and its associated presentations are available for download at this link:

> https://clean-coalition.org/news/unleashing-the-community-microgrid-market-segment-from-ann-arbor-to-california-to-hawaii-6-march-2025/

Second, following the Strauss Wind Energy Project (SWEP) ribbon-cutting early last year, the Clean Coalition did an initial grid assessment around the opportunity for a North County Community Microgrid to deliver an unparalleled trifecta of economic, environmental, and resilience benefits to North County communities. In addition to the SWEP's 100 MW of wind, the substantial deployments of solar in the Cuyama Valley and at Vandenberg Space Force Base, plus the 50 MW of additional solar being considered by the City of Lompoc, could power a renewables-driven Community Microgrid across the entire North County, similar to how the Goleta Load Pocket (GLP) Community Microgrid can deliver a solar-driven solution for the entire South County. Here's a couple slides from the Clean Coalition's initial grid assessment of the North County region:





Lastly, please see the following items for additional information that is highly relevant to Community Microgrids for Santa Barbara County:

1) 90-second Community Microgrids video near the top of this webpage:

https://clean-coalition.org/community-microgrid-initiative/

2) Article from November 2019 about the economic, environmental, and resilience benefits of the 100 MW Strauss Wind Energy Project (SWEP). The Clean Coalition helped establish strong support for the SWEP across policymakers and community leaders throughout Santa Barbara County. The SWEP went operational in December 2023 and instantly nearly doubled the amount of renewable energy being generated within Santa Barbara County. The Clean Coalition is now working with BayWa, the SWEP developer/owner to consider a large energy storage solution that will enable the SWEP to provide foundational energy resilience for a Lompoc Community Microgrid:

https://www.noozhawk.com/article/strauss_wind_energy_project_propel_santa_barbara_energy_resilient_future

3) Article about the reliability & resilience benefits of the 40 MWh Vallecito Energy Storage Resilience (VESR) project that the Clean Coalition helped facilitate. VESR is is located near Carpinteria High School and has been successfully operating since January 2021. As the first major energy storage project in Santa Barbara County, VESR is leading the way for hundreds of additional MWh of energy storage in the County:

https://clean-coalition.org/news/vallecito-energy-storage-resilience-vesr-project-online-december/

4) Colorful 2-page overview of the Goleta Load Pocket Community Microgrid, one of the most ambitious Community Microgrid initiatives in the world:

https://clean-coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GLPCM-2-page-overview-06_rf-1-Oct-2019.pdf

5) Article about the Solar Microgrids facilitated by the Clean Coalition for the Santa Barbara Unified School District (SBUSD) and delivering guaranteed bill savings of $7.8 million (now tracking to more than $25 million due to rapidly increasing electricity rates) and an additional $6.5 million in value-of-resilience (VOR) for free:

https://www.edhat.com/news/santa-barbara-school-board-approves-solar-microgrids

The Clean Coalition has a multitude of additional initiatives that facilitate state-of-the-art Solar Microgrids, Community Microgrids, and EV Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) and other electrification measures for cities, counties, universities, school districts, utilities, community choice aggregators, retirement communities, neighborhoods, apartment complexes, and individual facilities, etc -- and I hope to support Community Microgrid collaborations with Santa Barbara County accordingly.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions and/or ideas...

Power On!

Craig Lewis
Executive Director
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San Diego | Colorado Springs
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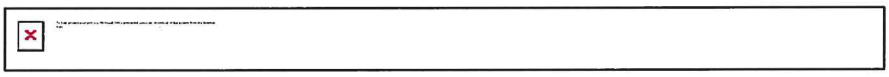
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Clean Coalition** <info@clean-coalition.org>
Date: Fri, Mar 7, 2025 at 12:01 PM
Subject: Webinar recording & slides: Unleashing the Community Microgrid market segment, from Ann Arbor to California to Hawaii
To: <craig@clean-coalition.org>



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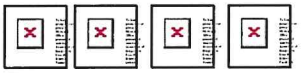
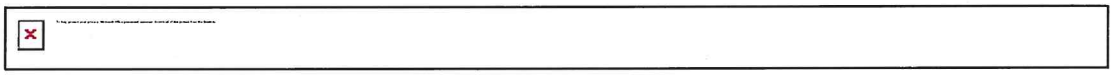




Unleashing the Community Microgrid market segment, from Ann Arbor to California to Hawaii

Thursday 6 March, 9-10:30am PT

Community Microgrids are revolutionizing energy resilience and sustainability in diverse regions!

View webinar

The recording and slides from today's webinar are now online.

- Craig Lewis' presentation slides are available in PPT and PDF format.
- Ben Schwartz's presentation slides are available in PPT and PDF format.
- Missy Stults' presentation slides are available in PPT and PDF format.

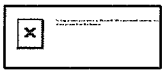
This webinar showcased real-world examples of how communities are overcoming barriers to deploy Community Microgrid solutions that deliver unparalleled economic, environmental, and resilience benefits.

Featuring Missy Stults from the City of Ann Arbor Sustainability Division, we highlighted Ann Arbor's groundbreaking Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) initiative and its scalable approach to community-owned, 100% renewable energy systems. Insights also included Clean Coalition-led projects in California and innovative efforts in Hawaii, providing a comprehensive look at the potential of Community Microgrids to transform energy markets.

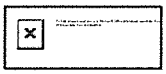
This webinar covered:

- Real-world strategies for deploying Community Microgrids in diverse settings.
- Key policy and technical solutions to unlock the market potential of Community Microgrids.
- The broader implications of Community Microgrids for energy resilience and sustainability.

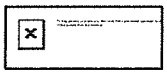
Presenters:



Missy Stults, PhD works with all city operations, residents, businesses, the University of Michigan, nonprofits, and others to make Ann Arbor one of the most sustainable and equitable cities in America. Prior to joining the City, Missy worked with local governments and indigenous communities around the nation to advance their climate and sustainability goals, including during her time as the Climate Director at ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and as a consultant to philanthropic organizations. Missy has a PhD in urban resilience from the University of Michigan, a Masters in Climate and Society from Columbia University, and undergraduate degrees in Marine Biology and Environmental Science from the University of New England.



Tim Hade (LEED AP), the Chief Development Officer and Co-Founder of Scale Microgrids recently moved to Santa Barbara with a $100 million funding allocation to bring Solar Microgrids to the Santa Barbara region. Scale Microgrids focuses on developing sustainable distributed generation technologies to serve mission critical facilities. Prior to co-founding Scale, Tim served as the Business Development Manager for ENER-G Rudox (now Centrica Business Solutions), where he oversaw development of the company's microgrid projects, and built the company's performance contracting division. In 2015, Tim's white paper "Sustainable Load Balancing: Integrating Distributed Natural Gas, Solar PV, and Energy Storage Assets" was named the 2015 Renewable Energy World Paper of the Year. Prior to joining the clean tech industry, Tim served on Active Duty as an officer in the United States Air Force. He holds a B.S. from the United States Air Force Academy and an MBA from Stanford University.



Craig Lewis, the Executive Director of the Clean Coalition, has over 30 years of experience in the renewables, wireless, semiconductor, and banking industries. Previously VP of Government Relations at GreenVolts, he was the first to successfully navigate a solar project through California's Renewable Portfolio Standard solicitation process. Craig was energy policy lead on Steve Westly's 2006 California gubernatorial campaign. His resume includes senior government relations, corporate development, and marketing positions at leading wireless, semiconductor, and banking companies such as Qualcomm, Ericsson, and Barclays Bank. Craig received an MBA and MSEE from the University of Southern California and a BSEE from the University of California, Berkeley.

Ben Schwartz represents the Clean Coalition in proceedings at the CPUC, focusing on microgrids, interconnection, net energy metering, renewable procurement, rate design, and more. With a background in environmental studies and public policy, he brings valuable insight to the diverse local, state, and national policy work done at the Clean Coalition.