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## Valley Clean Energy CAC Meeting – April 27, 2023



## Item 8 – Gibson Power Purchase Agreement Update



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# Item 8 – Gibson Power Procurement Agreement Update: Background

- Nov 2020, the Board approved two PPAs resulting from the local RFO: 1) Putah Creek Energy Farm (went into commercial operation in Oct 2022), and 2) Gibson Renewables, LLC (Gibson) - the Gibson Solar project
- Upon receiving and reviewing the interconnection System Impact Study (SIS), Gibson notified VCE that the project would need to be downsized to achieve a cost and utility construction timeline that would be viable
- In Nov 2022, Gibson provided an updated project proposal based on the new configuration to VCE. Based on this information, VCE and Gibson agreed to suspend certain terms of the PPA, while attempting to renegotiate the PPA
- The revised project continues to support several Goals/Objectives of VCE's Strategic Plan, specifically Objectives 2.1 2.2 and 2.3<sup>1</sup>
- The revised project size nearly satisfies VCE's obligation of the Diablo Canyon replacement category of the CPUC's mid-term reliability (MTR) procurement mandate<sup>2</sup>



1) VCE's strategic plan adopted by the Board on 10/8/2020

2) 6/24/21, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted D.21-06-035 requires a resource to be zero-emitting and be available from 5-10pm

# Item 8 – Gibson Power Procurement Agreement Update : Overview

- Counterparty: Gibson Renewables LLC
- 13 MW AC of Solar PV Bifacial modules on Trackers, 13 MW/5-hour of BESS storage (65 MWh)<sup>1,2</sup>
- Term 20 years; COD June 2025
- Multi-Use Plan
- Pollinator friendly
- Major Use Permit through Yolo County Planning. Anticipated project consideration dates:
  - Esparto Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) - April 18, 2023
    - Unanimous Recommendation for Approval to Planning Commission received
  - Yolo County Planning Commission Hearing – June 8, 2023
  - Yolo County Board of Supervisors – June 27, 2023

1) PV field is approximately 25 MWdc, which is 20 MWac. The limiting factor is the 13 MWac point of interconnection

2) BESS = Battery Energy Storage System

# Item 8 – Gibson Power Procurement Agreement Update: Challenges to Siting Solar Facilities

Suitable land for Solar Energy Facilities (SEFs) should have the following characteristics:

- Flat terrain.
- Minimal to no shading impacts.
- Close to existing grid infrastructure.

Over 85% of land in Yolo County is zoned agricultural, and of that, 75% is under a Land Conservation Contract (Williamson Act or Farmland Security Zone).

Alternative locations were considered, but they lacked the necessary infrastructure or site attributes

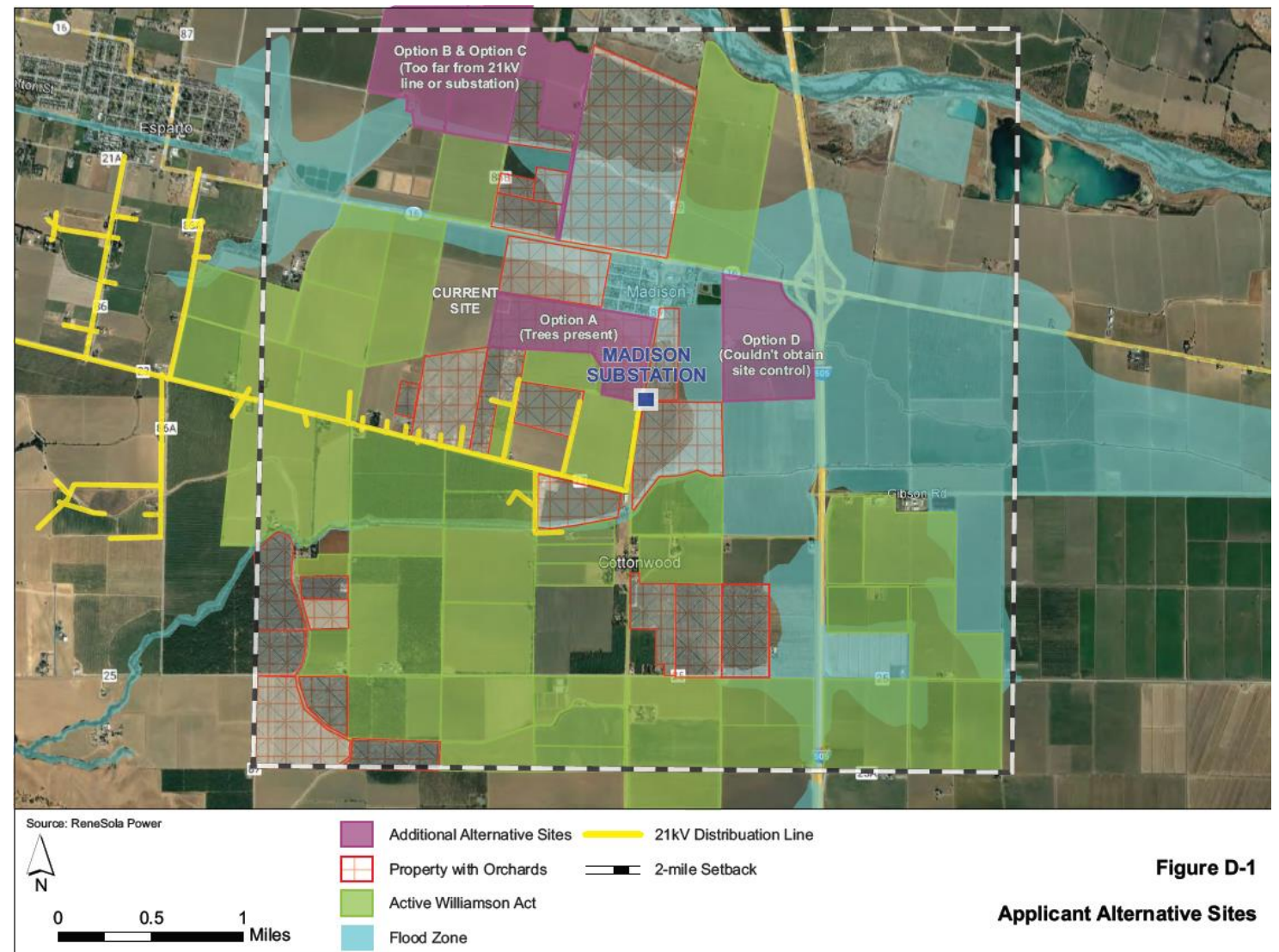


Figure D-1

Applicant Alternative Sites

Source: Gibson Solar Farm Draft EIR



# Item 8 – Gibson Power Procurement Agreement Update: Site Details

## Site Details

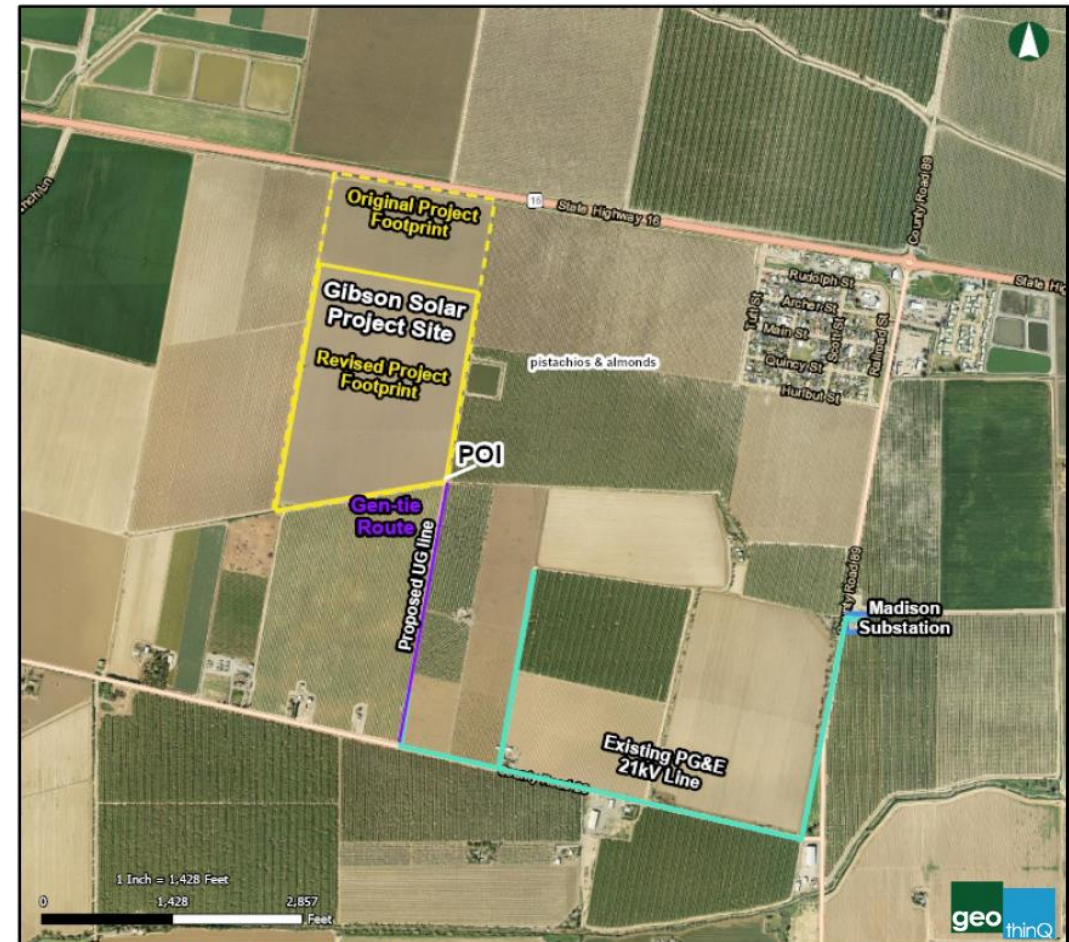
- Net Parcel Acreage: ±147 acres
- Address: State Hwy 16, Esparto, CA
- Zoning: A-N (Agricultural Intensive)
- POI: Existing PG&E 21kV Distribution Line

## Original Configuration

- 147 Acres impacted
- 20MW AC Solar
- 6.5MW/4-hour ESS

## Revised Configuration

- <100 acres impacted
- 13MW AC Solar
- 13MW/5-hour BESS



# Item 8 – Gibson Power Procurement Agreement Update: Multi-Use Plan Features



## Native vegetation substrate

- Serve as pollinator habitat
- Reduced water demand

## Apiaries

- Supports local and regional agricultural production

## Sheep Grazing

- Natural vegetation control vs chemical or mechanical means



# Item 8 – Gibson Power Procurement Agreement Update: Partnerships & Labor Agreements



## Union PLA

Gibson Renewables has executed a project labor agreement with:

- Operating Engineers Local 3
- Northern California Carpenters Regional Council on behalf of itself its affiliated local unions
- Northern California District Council of Laborers and its affiliated local unions
- IBEW Local 340, and
- Ironworkers Local 118.

## UCD Research

Gibson Renewables has partnered with University of California, Davis Wild Research Center to curate the seed mix for the project and conduct research on how co locating solar PV and apiary can positively the local agricultural climate.

- Memorandum of Understanding and Gift Agreement with UCD executed.



Source: UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

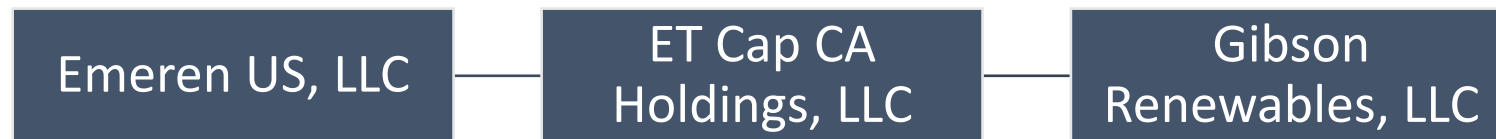


# Item 8 – Gibson Power Procurement Agreement Update: Status of Development

	Gibson Solar
<b>Land Use Permit Process:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public meeting with Esparto/Madison advisory committees</li> <li>• Public hearings – Planning Commission (PC) &amp; Board of Supervisors (BOS)</li> </ul>
<b>Land Use Permit Type:</b>	Major Use Permit with Focused EIR
<b>Est. Approvals:</b>	Anticipated PC - June 8, 2023 Anticipated BOS - June 27, 2023
<b>Completed Studies:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural Resources Assessment</li> <li>• Biological Resources Assessment</li> <li>• Preliminary Drainage Assessment</li> </ul>
<b>Interconnection:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PG&amp;E Fully executed interconnection agreement</li> <li>• CAISO Full Capacity Deliverability Study (FCDS) Allocation anticipated Q4 2023</li> </ul>

# Item 8 – Gibson Power Procurement Agreement Update: Counterparty

- In November 2020, ReneSola Power Holdings, LLC acquired selected assets via ET Cap CA Holdings LLC, which included the Gibson Renewables, LLC
- In October 2022, ReneSola announced the acquisition of Emeren Limited, a United Kingdom-based utility-scale solar power and battery projects developer in Europe
- January 2023, ReneSola Power announced that it had changed its corporate name to Emeren Group Ltd ("Emeren")<sup>1,2,3</sup>



1) Located in Pleasanton, CA, Emeren US, LLC is a publicly traded (NYSE: SOL)

2) 300 MW project development, project finance, and asset sales in CA, NC, MA, OR, MN etc

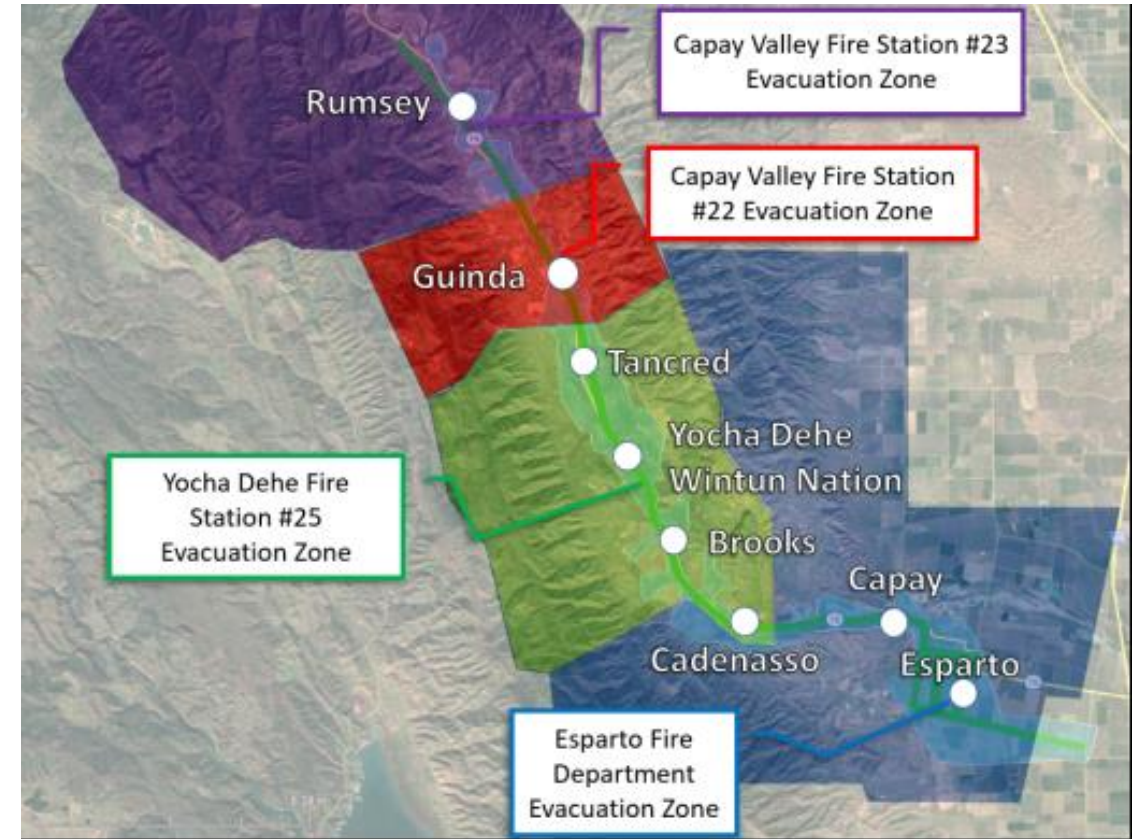
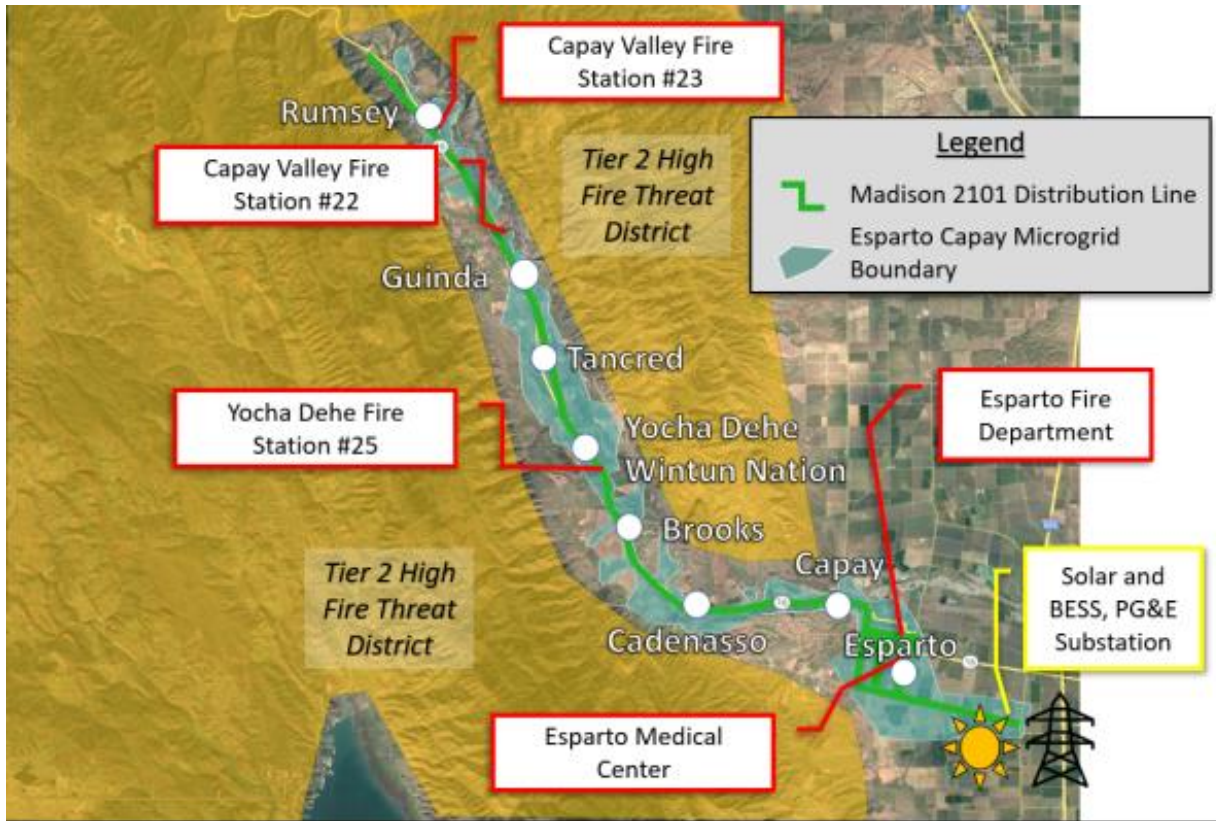
3) 500 MW+ project pipeline under development



# Item 8 – Gibson Power Procurement Agreement Update: CDFA Grant Opportunity

- In March 2023, VCE submitted a grant application to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for \$5.7M to enable the Gibson project to have the capability to operate in a microgrid state
- The grant opportunity is part of the CDFA's Community Resilience Centers Program. The project would utilize the proposed Gibson project as well as additional electrical infrastructure (grant funds would support this additional infrastructure) to serve the Capay valley in times of electrical outages
- The overall project would be called the Esparto Capay Multi-Customer Microgrid project.
- The grant application received support from Senator Dodd, Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry, The Climate Center and PG&E
- The project will serve the Capay valley via PG&Es Madison circuit 2101
- 5 community resilience centers (CRCs) are served by this circuit and the Gibson project could serve these centers during a power outage

# Item 8 – Gibson Power Procurement Agreement Update: CDFA Grant Opportunity – Capay Valley Benefits



- Capay valley is surrounded by a Tier 2 High Fire Threat Zone
- Each CRC has a corresponding evacuation zone associated as defined by the Yolo County Office of Emergency Services



# Item 8 – Gibson Power Procurement Agreement Update: Conclusion

## Conclusion:

- The initial Gibson project was higher cost and delayed due to interconnection issues outside of the developer's control
- The re-sized project is cost-competitive, utilizes less land, supports VCE's strategic plan, meets regulatory mandates and has potential microgrid capability



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# Valley Clean Energy CAC Meeting - April 27, 2023

## Item 9 – Electric Vehicle Rebate Pilot Program





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# Item 9 – Electric Vehicle Rebate Pilot Program

*Requested Actions: Review and Recommend Phase 1 Extension of Valley Clean Energy’s Electric Vehicle Rebate Pilot Program, Provide Feedback on Phase 2 Program Concepts*

## Background

- EV Rebate Program Launched September 2022
- Program Design Successful
  - 5 Low-Income Rebates Disbursed; 21 Standard Rebates Disbursed/in-progress
  - 1 Previously Opted Out Customer Returned to VCE for Rebate
- \$20,000 for Marketing/Outreach and Program Admin to be moved to Rebate Fund





# Item 9 – Electric Vehicle Rebate Pilot Program

## Phase 1 Extension:

Staff Recommends Allocating  
Additional \$20,000 from  
Programs Fund for Rebates

Allows CAC and POTG to Explore  
Add'l Program Design Elements  
for Phase 2 (Anticipated Launch  
Q4 2023)



# Item 9 – Electric Vehicle Rebate Pilot Program

## Proposed Budget:

Resource	Source	Proposed Budget	Notes
Rebates	EV Rebate Programs Budget	\$7,500	Current budget remaining
Allocated for Marketing/Outreach and Program Admin	EV Rebate Programs Budget	\$20,000	Reallocating as M+O; program admin handled internally
Recommended for Phase 1 Extension	Programs Budget	\$20,000	Rebates would remain the same for P1 extension
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,500 – Could be used for 6 low-income and 9 standard BEV rebates</b>	<b>\$119,000 total remaining in Programs Fund</b>



# Item 9 – Electric Vehicle Rebate Pilot Program

## Discussion: Phase 2 Program

### *Design Concepts*

- Additional incentives for residential vehicle charging
- Additional incentives for residential vehicle-grid integration (VGI)
- Additional incentives for residential EV charging infrastructure upgrades (e.g. electrical panel upgrades)
- New incentives for commercial charging
- Revised incentives for EV vehicle purchase/lease

