



Valley Clean Energy Alliance

Supplier Diversity 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Annual Plan

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2024 Annual Report

Launched in June 2018, Valley Clean Energy Alliance (VCE) is the official electricity provider for customers in the cities of Woodland, Winters, and Davis, and unincorporated Yolo County. VCE is a Joint Powers Authority providing a state-authorized Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program, serving a little over 60,000 customers throughout Yolo County. The vision of VCE is to enable the participating jurisdictions to determine the sources, modes of production, and costs of the electricity they procure for the residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial users in their areas.

The California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) General Order 156 (GO 156) implements California Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) § 366.2 and §§ 8281-8286 and establishes rules for the purpose of increasing procurement from business enterprises owned and controlled by women, minorities, disabled veterans, persons with disabilities, and LGBT individuals. In addition, Pub. Util. Code § 366.2(m)(1) requires CCAs with gross annual revenues exceeding \$15 million to annually submit a plan for increasing procurement from small, local, and diverse businesses in all purchase categories, including, but not limited to, renewable energy, energy storage systems, and smart grid projects.

However, in compliance with Proposition 209, CCAs as local government entities do not explicitly give preferential treatment to bidders based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. To comply with Proposition 209, CCAs may collect this information only after contracts are signed, and responses are kept separate from procurement decision makers, so that this information does not influence any current or future solicitation or selection process. Proposition 209 limits CCAs as public agencies from engaging in several of the activities associated with supplier diversity under GO 156, but there is still much CCAs can do to support small, local, and diverse businesses within their service areas.

As we work to support Senate Bill 255 (Bradford, Chapter 407, 2019), it's important to note that while VCE meets the threshold of a large CCA, as designated by California Energy Commission (CEC), VCE is a small entity with limited contracting opportunities. Our CCA employs 7 full-time staff members and 2 part-time employees. *[If you have time, it would be helpful to cite the most recent figure for MWh of load served, and then add another sentence about being fully procured for foreseeable needs and load, and compliance with RPS, RA, IRP procurement requirements and not having had a need for new procurement/RFOs in 2024]* In 2024, VCE neither listed any requests for proposals/offers nor contracted with any new vendors. Chances to engage with, and work with, diverse suppliers on an annual basis is restricted by our limited opportunities. Despite these barriers, VCE continues to develop equitable and inclusive initiatives that support our local community and its businesses.

This report describes VCE's work in support of the Legislature's objectives in Senate Bill 255.

9.1.1 Description of Supplier Diversity Program Activities in 2024

Internal Strategies and Activities

Working With Other CCAs

The California Community Choice Association (CalCCA) represents the interests of California's community choice electricity providers in the legislature and at state regulatory agencies, and VCE is a member. VCE regularly participates in the monthly CalCCA Equity Committee Meetings. The Equity Committee Meetings provide a forum for CCAs to discuss their programs and initiatives on diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as bring in presenters from external agencies. The Equity Committee is a valuable learning opportunity for VCE staff, as well as a place to voice ideas and receive feedback from peers.

Additionally, VCE stays abreast on GO 156 by participating in quarterly Supplier Diversity Meetings with other CCAs across the state, as well as quarterly Supplier Diversity Meetings with staff from the California Public Utilities Commission.

Participating in Events

While opportunities for VCE to attend events in 2024 was limited, VCE did promote and participate in a joint-CCA supplier diversity workshop. The workshop was called "Certify and Amplify" and was hosted by Marin Clean Energy, Ava Community Energy, and Silicon Valley Clean Energy on August 21, 2024. Local suppliers tuned in to learn about the Supplier Diversity Clearinghouse, supplier certification process, and benefits of certification. The workshop allowed VCE to gather information about CCA supplier diversity initiatives, and evaluate the possibility of hosting a similar workshop in our service area.

Collaboration with Community

In 2024, VCE strengthened our collaboration with community-based organizations and stakeholders including the County of Yolo, the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Cool Davis, De Colores, and RISE.

De Colores is dedicated to bridging communication gaps between the Latino community and service agencies, acting as trusted messengers and experts in the community. De Colores is spreading the word on VCE programs to the community with authenticity and cultural humility to make services more accessible. The non-profit is also proving VCE staff with valuable feedback on how to best communicate and connect with our Latino community.

RISE, INC or Rural Innovations in Social Economics, is a nonprofit that specializes in rural program design and delivery for Western rural Yolo County. VCE and RISE connect regularly to ensure that VCE is listening to and meeting the needs of our rural community members.

VCE finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with Cool Davis in 2024 to share resources, co-sponsor events, and collaborate on outreach and education. Cool Davis is a non-profit that

works to increase community resilience through equitable and inclusive strategies that lower greenhouse gas emissions and help our region adapt to a changing climate.

2020-2025 Strategic Plan

As a customer- and community-focused organization, VCE adopted a Strategic Plan in November 2020. The Plan was recently extended and will guide VCE through 2025. The plan seeks to bring customer value to all segments of the communities served – including those that have been historically underserved/under resourced.¹ To accomplish this goal, VCE’s objectives include:

- Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, in VCE’s leadership, hiring, promotion, and contracting policies.
- Developing engagement strategies to increase awareness of, and participation in, local control of VCE’s energy supply and programs with a particular focus on engaging disadvantaged and historically marginalized communities;
- Designing and implementing a strategy to engage local business and agricultural customers; and
- Integrating and addressing the concerns and priorities of emerging and historically marginalized communities in the design and implementation of VCE’s services and programs.²

VCE’s Strategic Plan will be updated in 2025, with the next major update happening in 2029. Minor updates to the plan will take place every two years.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policies

Hiring Practices

VCE is an equal opportunity employer that strives for diversity in its hiring practices, consistent with the requirements of Proposition 209. Specific to each field, VCE works to promote job vacancies within professional minority organizations. For example, while recruiting for programs and marketing, VCE contacted California State University – Sacramento to coordinate the distribution of the job advertisements with a series of cultural clubs, affinity groups, and organizations focused on the advancement of minority populations.

Environmental Justice Policy Statement and Legislative Platform

Recognizing that environmental justice issues are deeply ingrained in energy supply and policy as well as society as a whole, the VCE Board of Directors adopted an Environmental Justice

¹Valley Clean Energy Strategic Plan, p. 3 (October 8, 2020). Available at: <https://valleycleanenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/Item-13-Ratify-Strategic-Plan-11-12-20.pdf>.

² *Id.*, Strategic Goals 3.1, 3.3, 3.7, and 6.5.

Statement on November 12, 2020.³ The statement includes actions that VCE can take to address inequities and environmental justice issues within the energy sector. Actions include addressing the priorities and concerns of disadvantaged communities in the design and implementation of VCE's services and programs, targeting outreach campaigns to involve disadvantaged communities in VCE workshops and meetings of the Board of Directors and the CAC, and further integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion in our internal hiring, promotion, leadership and contracting policies.

In addition, the 2022 VCE legislative platform included the following guidance for legislative activities on various topics, including environmental justice and local economic development & environmental objectives.

Environmental Justice:

- a. Engage in legislation that directly or indirectly impacts the ability of underserved communities in the VCE service territory to have affordable, reliable, and clean energy.
- b. Support legislation that strengthens the resilience of vulnerable communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- c. Support legislation that enables all communities in California, including emerging and historically marginalized communities, and individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, age, disability or socioeconomic status, to participate in the transition to a zero-carbon electrical grid in a cost-effective manner.
- d. Support efforts to enable all communities in California, including emerging and historically marginalized communities, and individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, age, disability or socioeconomic status to participate in the decarbonization of the state's building stock and the transportation sector.

Local Economic Development & Environmental Objectives:

- a. Support legislation that enhances opportunities for CCAs to promote local economic development through locally designed programs that meet the unique needs of its member agencies and customers.
- b. Support efforts to enhance development of local and regional sources of renewable energy.
- c. Support legislation that enables CCAs to collaborate with their member jurisdictions on local energy resources and projects to advance environmental objectives.

³ Valley Clean Energy's Statement on Environmental Justice (November 12, 2020). Available at <https://valleycleanenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/Item-14-Ratify-Environmental-Justice-Statement-11-12-20.pdf>.

Board Diversity

VCE is managed by a Board of Directors with designated representatives from each of the communities it serves. The board is comprised of two people each from the Woodland, Davis and Winters City Councils, and two from the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. The VCE Board Members are appointed annually by their respective agencies.

VCE's board is currently being led by an Indian American male as chair and a Mexican American/Native American female as Vice Chair.

Board Member	Diversity Response
1	I am a female, Mexican American over 60. I have 20% Native American DNA from my father, and I am married. My husband and I both have Master Degrees, he is a veteran.
2	Decline
3	I am an Indian-American cisgender heterosexual male. I have not served in the military
4	Decline
5	Decline
6	I am a white, female, aged 67. My pronouns are she/her. I am not a veteran.
7	Decline
8	Decline

External Strategies and Activities

Supplier Diversity Website

VCE provides supplier diversity information on its website.⁴ This webpage contains an introduction to the Supplier Diversity Program, VCE's past Supplier Diversity Reports, and numerous resources on supplier diversity certification. Visitors to the page will find links to the Supplier Clearinghouse and the Department of General Services. Resources include a checklist of documents required for Supplier Clearinghouse certification, a certification process overview, and a list of available certifications in California. To assist small business in applying for our opportunities, a link to California Capital Procurement Technical Assistance Center (California Capital PTAC) has also been provided. California Capital PTAC's mission is to help small businesses build their government contracting capacity. They provide free one-on-one counseling, custom bid matching, as well as host workshops and webinars.

⁴ <https://valleycleanenergy.org/supplier-diversity/>

Supplier Diversity Language

During 2022, VCE developed the following language for inclusion in future requests for proposals and solicitations:

Pursuant to California Senate Bill 255, Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) are required to report to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on their diverse suppliers, as defined by CPUC General Order 156. Qualified businesses can become GO 156 Certified through the CPUC and are then added to the GO 156 Clearinghouse database. VCE encourages all eligible parties to get certified with the CPUC as a woman, minority, disabled veteran and/or LGBT owned business enterprise.

Respondents that execute an Agreement with VCE will be required to complete a Supplier Diversity questionnaire and Labor Practices questionnaire. VCE will not consider race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in procurement decisions; providing such information in an Offer will not impact the selection process or good standing of executed agreements.

For overview information on the CPUC Supplier Diversity Program, please visit the program homepage (<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/supplierdiversity/>).

For information on the certification process and requirements, please visit the Certifications page (<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/about-cpuc/divisions/news-and-public-information-office/business-and-community-outreach/supplier-diversity-program/certification>).

Supplier Communications

In 2024 VCE communicated with both prospective vendors and established suppliers to ensure they were informed about GO 156 and supplier diversity certification. VCE accomplished this through a diversity questionnaire, automatic updates on Request for Offers and Proposals (RFO/RFP), promotion of the Certify and Amplify Workshop, and tailored outreach.

While VCE has not seen growth among its vendors in certifications due to supplier communications, potential contractors are becoming aware of GO 156 and the benefits of becoming certified, as well as the resources that are available to help them through the process.

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

VCE continues to contract with Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) to deliver high-quality services and personnel support. The services SMUD provides include, among others, customer care, data management, and wholesale energy services. The dependence upon support from SMUD employees includes the incorporation of SMUD best practices for procurement,

recruitment, and diversity, including SMUD's Sustainable Communities initiative, and its supplier diversity initiative, the Supplier Education & Economic Development (SEED) program.

To be designated a SEED vendor, the supplier must be certified with the DGS Office of Small Business and DVBE Services as a "Small Business" or "Micro Business." In addition, the vendor must qualify as a SMUD ratepayer for the preceding 6 months prior to the bid or proposal due date. SEED vendors are given a 5% bid price advantage, an evaluation point advantage, and access to sheltered market solicitations only released to SEED vendors. The program includes outreach to local small businesses through multiple events and workshops each year.

Lastly, SMUD's Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) works to incorporate concepts of DE&I into everything they do, cultivating diversity and creating a culture based on trust.

Community Development and Clean Energy Equity

For VCE, our community members are at the heart of everything we do. Our mission is to provide our community with clean energy, product choice, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions, all while keeping affordability in mind. To continue to support our mission, VCE received Board approval to reduce rates by 5% for all customers, including our small and diverse businesses. The 5% discount is estimated to save our customers a total of \$5 million over 1 year with the commercial and industrial class seeing a savings of \$2.7 million a year. On average, each commercial and industrial customer can expect to see an annual savings of over \$550.

Our most vulnerable residents the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE), Family Electric Rates Program (FERA), and Medical Baseline customers receive an even greater rates discount of 10%, which is a total estimated energy savings of \$2.4 million per year. On average residential CARE, FERA, and Medical Baseline customers can expect to see about a \$9.50 savings on their energy bill each month.

In the pursuit of clean energy equity, VCE launched ERRO the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Rebate program in partnership with the County of Yolo to provide weatherization, energy efficiency, electrification, and rebate application assistance to Yolo County residents, focusing on low-income customers and customers struggling to pay their electricity bills. Customers can call a VCE service line to receive one-on-one help from home energy experts, to assess high bills, make a home energy plan, choose a contractor, apply for home energy rebates, and much more.

As VCE starts 2025, plans for Phase 2 of our EV program, as well as an Economic Development Rate are advancing. Phase 2 seeks to make the purchase of an EV more economical for low- to medium-income customers. In addition to providing incentives for charging equipment and home electrification upgrades. The Economic Development Rate will be designed to help new businesses become established in our territory, grow, or maintain jobs, by offering reduced electric rates.

Grants and External Funding

On July 31, 2024, in pursuit of the SMUD Shine Award, VCE submitted a Letter of Support to join the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce in their project initiative to educate LGBTQ+ and allied businesses in the greater Sacramento region on energy cost savings, efficiency and clean energy issues. As part of this initiative, VCE committed to leading four workshops within our service territory open to all small businesses with a focus on outreach to traditionally underserved sectors such as LGBTQ+, women, and minority owned small businesses. The workshops would focus on the following crucial subjects:

- Energy efficiency best practices and behavior change
- Clean power options to improve energy outcomes
- Rate savings through energy efficiency, electrification, and rebates and incentives

Unfortunately, at the start of 2025, the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber informed VCE that the award was not granted.

On August 15, 2024, VCE, in partnership with the County of Yolo, De Colores, Cool Davis, and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation submitted a proposal for an EPA grant in the Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program. The grant plan incorporated several projects including two microgrids, an expansion of VCE/Yolo County's Electrification Retrofit Rebate Outreach (ERRO) program, community outreach performed by De Colores and Cool Davis, rebates for electrification, and other associated projects. All projects were to be responsive to community needs, equitably distributed, and inclusive of all voices, especially those of farmworkers, low-income families, and tribal communities.

The recent federal administration changes led to executive orders on January 27, 2025, that terminated the EPA's Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program. At this time, the funding is no longer available.

In the face of uncertain funding opportunities, VCE will continue to monitor, collaborate on, and pursue outside funding for the development of our local community, focusing on projects that support the people who need it most.

Workforce Development and Data

VCE is committed to ensuring its energy projects contribute to the local economy and local workforce, consistent with our strategic goals. In 2021, VCE initiated two solar + storage projects. For larger project, the seller is obligated to contribute a total of \$300,000 over the first 10 years of the project to a VCE-administered Workforce Development Fund with the goal of increasing the creation and engagement of a skilled and trained workforce. The seller is also required to contribute \$150,000 into a Local Sustainability Fund. The seller for the smaller project is obligated to contribute a total of \$200,000 in the first 10 years to a Workforce Development and Local Sustainability Fund.

As these funds become available over the next several years, VCE will be developing expenditure guidelines to ensure funds are put toward efforts that align with the goals/objectives of VCE's Strategic Plan.

As a result of a project signed late in 2020, \$10,000 has been contributed to a clean energy and battery storage workforce training program located within twenty (20) miles of the project. VCE has finalized this workforce training program in partnership with Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) and Ormat, a leading geothermal energy company. The curriculum will provide information on wind, geothermal, solar, and energy storage industries. The curriculum is suitable for a variety of audiences from high schoolers looking to gain early exposure to adults seeking new careers. VCE and RCEA are currently seeking instructors who are interested in being trained to provide the curriculum to their students.

Supplier Diversity Contact Information

Information on VCE's Supplier Diversity Program, including past reports and helpful links, can be at the following URL: <https://valleycleanenergy.org/supplier-diversity/>.

If vendors are interested in receiving news on RFP/RFO from VCE as they come up, they can join our list serve. Information on how to signup for updates can be found here: <https://valleycleanenergy.org/solicitations-rfps/>.

Any questions or feedback from prospective vendors can be emailed to VCE at Info@valleycleanenergy.org.

9.1.2 Supplier Diversity Results of Goods and Services (Non-Power Purchases)

This section summarizes VCE's procurement of goods and services, excluding power purchases, from eligible suppliers. Direct spending and subcontractor spending are broken down based on procurement from women-owned businesses, LGBT-owned businesses, disabled veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by disabled individuals, and minority-owned businesses, with further subcategorization by minority ethnicity. A table detailing VCE's procurement expenditures by eligible supplier type is provided in Attachment A.

As previously noted, as a local government entity, VCE is legally prohibited under the California Constitution (Prop 209) from granting preferential treatment to diverse businesses in the contracting process. The CPUC's Supplier Clearinghouse which serves the private sector entities does not support public agency local small business or micro business initiatives. The California Department of General Services (DGS) Small Business, Micro Business and Disabled Veterans databases are designed for use by public agencies consistent with Proposition 209.

Number of Eligible Suppliers with Majority of Workforce Working in California

Information on the number of VCE's diverse suppliers with the majority of their workforce in California is not readily available. In 2024 VCE contracted with no GO 156 certified direct

suppliers, only one subcontractor was certified as a both a WBE and MBE. Information on the entity's workforce was not found in the Clearinghouse. Additionally, no suppliers identified as eligible for certification to our Supplier Diversity Survey.

Direct Suppliers and Subcontractors – California Residence

Out of the 36 vendors that VCE worked with in 2024, both for power procurement and non-power purchases, 6 responded to our Supplier Diversity Survey. Out of the 6 respondents, 5 were for non-power purchases. 3 vendors stated that 100% of their workforce was in California, 1 answered that 70% of their workforce was in state, and the 1 supplier stated that 36% of their workforce was in California. For most non-power purchase respondents, a majority of their workforce resides in California.

Regarding the other 30 vendors, VCE does not have the information available to know whether a majority of their workforce resides in state.

Supplier	Average Percentage of Workforce in CA
1	100%
2	100%
3	100%
4	36%
5	70%
Sum of Average Percentage	81%
Number of Suppliers	5

Direct Suppliers and Subcontractors – Total

VCE worked with 44 direct suppliers with an additional reported 3 subcontractors in 2024. From the results of our Supplier Diversity Survey, 50% of the respondents utilized subcontractors. Of the 6 vendors that responded to the survey, 3 vendors reported to using one subcontractor each. Zero direct suppliers were GO 156 certified but 1 subcontractor was identified as a Minority Female Business Enterprise.

9.1.3 Supplier Diversity Program Expense

VCE incurred the expenses listed in the table below in connection with its supplier diversity program in 2024.

Expense Category	Year (Actual)
Wages	\$ 2,702.86
Other Employee Expenses	\$ -
Program Expenses	\$ -
Reporting Expenses	\$ 455.00
Training Expenses	\$ -
Consultant Expenses	\$ -
Other Expenses	\$ -
Total	\$ 3,157.86

9.1.4 Description of Progress in Meeting or Exceeding Set Goals

This section is not applicable to CCAs.

9.1.5 Description of Prime Contractors Utilization of Diverse Subcontractors

In reply to our Supplier Diversity Survey, 50% of the respondents answered that they used subcontractors for their VCE contracts. One prime contractor was identified as utilizing a subcontractor certified as both a WBE and MBE to fulfill their obligations to VCE. The prime contractor spent \$65,017.28 on the Minority Female Business Enterprise in calendar year 2024.

It is possible that VCE's prime contractors subcontracted with WMDVLGBTBE suppliers but did not respond to VCE's data request or our Supplier Diversity Survey. While VCE did not contract with any new vendor in 2024, any supplier contracts from previous years would have included language on GO 156 and the Supplier Clearinghouse, as described above in Section 9.1.1.

While SMUD did not respond to our survey, we do know that they run the Supplier Education and Economic Development (SEED) program to encourage supplier diversity in non-energy procurement. The subcontractor providing billing and data management to VCE is a SEED vendor. To be designated a SEED vendor, the supplier must be certified with the DGS Office of Small Business and DVBE Services as a "Small Business" or "Micro Business."

New Diverse Prime and Subcontractors During 2024

VCE did not contract with any new vendors or receive word on any new subcontractors in year 2024. Attained from our Supplier Diversity Survey, a previously existing subcontractor did certify as a Minority Female Business Enterprise on April 30, 2024.

9.1.6 List of Supplier Diversity Complaints Received and Current Status

VCE did not receive any written or verbal complaints from a diverse supplier in 2024.

9.1.7 Description of Efforts to Recruit Eligible Suppliers in Low Utilization Areas

This section is not applicable to CCAs.

9.1.8 Retention of All Documents/Data

VCE acknowledges the GO 156 requirement to retain all documents and data relied upon in the preparation of this report.

9.1.9 Description of Supplier Diversity Activities and Progress in Power Procurement

VCE is committed to purchasing from local and small businesses wherever possible. However, opportunities to develop wholesale energy contracts with diverse businesses are limited. Due to VCE's small service territory and limited number of customers, VCE hasn't contracted for new power procurement in the last two years. Additionally, because of the nature of the industry, the number of diverse power providers to contract with is low. As explained by the utilities in previous reports, the wholesale electric marketplace is comprised of large, long-term assets primarily owned and operated by large corporations and financial institutions. The generating resources that provide electricity to California customers are capital intensive to construct and operate, thus there are limited opportunities for small to medium-sized businesses to enter the market as primary developers, owners, or operators. Thus, most counterparties in this sector do not meet the GO 156 criteria. For example, in its 2023 Supplier Diversity Report, PG&E reported spending of 0.07% of its total power procurement with power providers meeting the GO 156 criteria.⁵

In addition, the GO 156 reporting template tracks CCAs' physical power procurement in the form of (1) renewable and non-renewable physical power, and (2) fuels procured for generation (diesel, nuclear, or natural gas). VCE's physical power needs that are not met through its long-term contracts for renewable generation are filled through short-term hedges to minimize exposure to price volatility. VCE does not contract with fossil-fired generators for electricity, nor does VCE contract for any fuels for non-generation (i.e., natural gas). Because VCE does not procure diesel, nuclear, or natural gas to generate electricity, VCE does not engage in transactions with eligible suppliers for such fuels. A table detailing VCE's expenditures with diverse power procurement suppliers is provided in Attachment B.

As a local government entity, VCE is legally prohibited under the California Constitution (Proposition 209) from granting preferential treatment to diverse businesses in the contracting process. The CPUC's Supplier Clearinghouse which serves the private sector entities does not support public agency local small business or micro business initiatives. The California

⁵ Pacific Gas & Electric Company, *2023 Supplier Diversity Annual Report and 2024 Annual Plan*, Appendix D (PDF 47), March 1, 2024. Accessible at: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/news-and-outreach/documents/bco/go-156-procurement-plans/2023/pge-2023annual_2024plan-fin-cpuc.pdf.

Department of General Services (DGS) Small Business, Micro Business and Disabled Veterans databases are designed for use by public agencies consistent with Proposition 209.

2025 Annual Plan

10.2 Description of Supplier Diversity Program Activities for 2025

Although VCE does not have specific numeric targets for contracting with diverse suppliers due to the limitations imposed by Prop. 209, our plan aims to continue improving and expanding on our existing outreach, information, and education strategies to support and encourage supplier diversity by bringing awareness to GO 156, diverse supplier resources and opportunities, and supporting the needs of our local community. Looking at year 2025 VCE continues to have limited contracting opportunities with no need to pursue new long-term energy contracts this year. VCE will, however, continue to focus on engagement of our existing prime contractors and subcontractors, as well as informing diverse suppliers in our local community about resources and opportunities to contract with VCE as they arise. VCE will continue to identify and encourage eligible vendors to complete the certification process as well as ensure our prime contractors are aware of the Supplier Clearinghouse when they source subcontractors.

2025 Internal Program Activities

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).
 - VCE will continue to implement the Strategic Plan objectives to engage a diverse set of suppliers to respond to VCE's solicitations for services and contracts in all categories, including, but not limited to, renewable energy, energy storage systems, and smart grid projects, in accordance with G.O. 156.
- CCA Collaboration.
 - VCE will participate in DEI information sharing activities among the CCAs to identify and assess best practices. For example, VCE will continue to attend the monthly CalCCA Equity Committee Meeting.
 - VCE will take part in ongoing meetings with CPUC Supplier Diversity staff and CCAs to coordinate efforts to improve diverse spend.
 - VCE will also explore the potential to collaborate with other CCAs on DEI initiatives consistent with VCE's Environmental Justice policy and related Strategic Plan goals/objectives.

2025 External Program Activities

- Solicitations.
 - VCE will continue to include supplier diversity questionnaires, as well as information and language on the CPUC Supplier Diversity program in our solicitations.

- VCE will send Requests for Proposals directly to the Supplier Diversity Clearinghouse to share these opportunities with existing certified vendors.
- Upon awarding a contract, VCE will assess vendor for Clearinghouse certification or, when not certified, eligibility for certification. For vendors who are qualified, VCE will provide guidance materials and a description of the benefits of certification.
- Outreach and Education.
 - VCE will expand outreach to educate the public and vendors about the Supplier Diversity program through VCE's website, social media, and community events.
 - VCE will provide Supplier Diversity information at future VCE contractor and vendor workshops.
 - VCE will continue to add relevant updates and resources to our Supplier Diversity webpage and promote it to businesses and their networks.
 - VCE will provide flyers or printed media on Supplier Diversity at community events.
 - When a need for future electricity, capacity, renewable energy, or resiliency procurement arises, VCE will reach out to potential suppliers to announce opportunities for a diverse set of suppliers to participate in all categories, including, but not limited to, renewable energy, energy storage systems, and smart grid projects.

Plans to Encourage Prime Contractors to Subcontract Small, Local, and Diverse Businesses

- Work with VCE contractors/vendors.
 - VCE will continue to encourage eligible vendors to complete the certification process as well as ensure our prime contractors are aware of the Supplier Clearinghouse as they go out to source subcontractors, where relevant.
 - VCE staff will continue to identify and attend events where VCE can engage with diverse supplier groups.
 - VCE will develop and implement an enhanced strategy for collecting information from prime contractors.