**Redwood Coast Airport Microgrid –** *first RE multi-customer microgrid in CA* 

**EPIC 3 Project 11: Location Specific Options for Reliability and Resiliency Upgrades** 

**CPUC PSPS Meeting #2** 

Nikky Avila, PhD Grid Innovation | Pacific Gas and Electric Company December 16, 2020





# PG<mark>&</mark>E

# **Types of Microgrids**

<ul> <li>Description</li> <li>Several retail customers closely clustered on PG&amp;E's grid, seeking to remain energized in the event of a broader grid outage</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Description</li> <li>Utility-initiated projects, driven by cost or</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Grid is owned, maintained and operated by utility</li> <li>Can include both back-up generation and/or various DERs; ownership can vary</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>operational needs</li> <li>Grid is owned, maintained and operated by utility</li> <li>Can include back-up generation and/or various DERs; ownership can vary</li> <li>Includes "remote grids" (fully islanded configurations) and "temporary" configurations where generators are brought in to avoid foreseeable outages (e.g. PSPS, planned outages)</li> </ul>
Key Drivers	Key Drivers
Resilience	Public Safety Power Shutoff
Avoided customer outage	Wildfire risk mitigation
Example	Examples
Arcata Airport community microgrid	Temporary Microgrids
	Remote Grid
	Puloa
Arter Stite	
	Example

Image Credits: Indian Country Media Network; PG&E

## **Background and Partners**

• Humboldt is a rural, isolated community at the end of a TX line.

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- Vulnerable to tsunamis, earthquakes, wildfires and now PSPS events.
- CCA has goals to develop local renewable energy.
- Operate a multi-customer microgrid to satisfy community demand for enhanced resilience
- Demonstrate **scalable** and **replicable** processes
- RCAM project built on **established partnerships** from prior microgrid project.







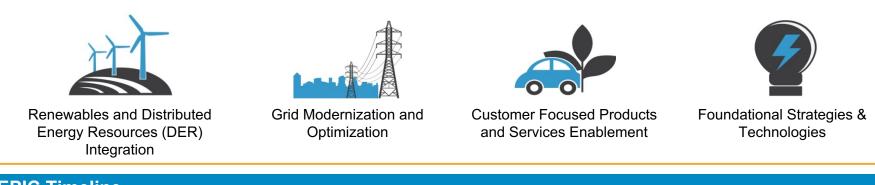


## What is the EPIC Program?

The Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) is a California statewide program that enables PG&E to invest in & pursue new/novel emerging energy solutions to meet California's energy goals & drive innovation in the industry

EPIC promotes building the energy network of tomorrow through innovation focused on

Increased Safety • Improved Affordability • Greater Reliability



 EPIC Timeline

 2014
 2015
 2016
 2017
 2018
 2019
 2020

 EPIC 1 Project Deployment (\$48M, 17 projects)

 EPIC 2 Project Deployment (\$51M, 19 projects)

 EPIC 3 Deployment (\$56M, 43 proposed projects)

lete (16 FPIC 1 Projects 17 FPIC 2 Projects)

33 Projects Complete (16 EPIC 1 Projects, 17 EPIC 2 Projects) Completed Project Reports: <u>www.pge.com/EPICfinalreports</u>

43 Projects in EPIC 3 Application 17-04-028 CPUC Approved in October 2018

# Our Mission

To safely and reliably deliver affordable and clean energy to our customers and communities every single day, while building the energy network of tomorrow.

#### **EPIC Furthers PG&E's Mission**

EPIC helps PG&E build the energy network of tomorrow through the demonstration of new and novel technologies that modernize and optimize the grid, and enables Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Integration and new customer offerings to ultimately improve safety, reliability and affordability for our customers

Invest in a sustainable energy future



**EPIC Advances CA Clean Energy Policy Objectives** EPIC allows IOUs to learn about and demonstrate technologies and systems needed to support resiliency plans and high-DER grid

Affordability and maximizing value for our Customers

#### EPIC Establishes Low Cost / Risk, High Value Learnings - Okay to try new things, "fail fast"

- If technology proves beneficial, streamlines Path-to-Production

## **Technical Details**

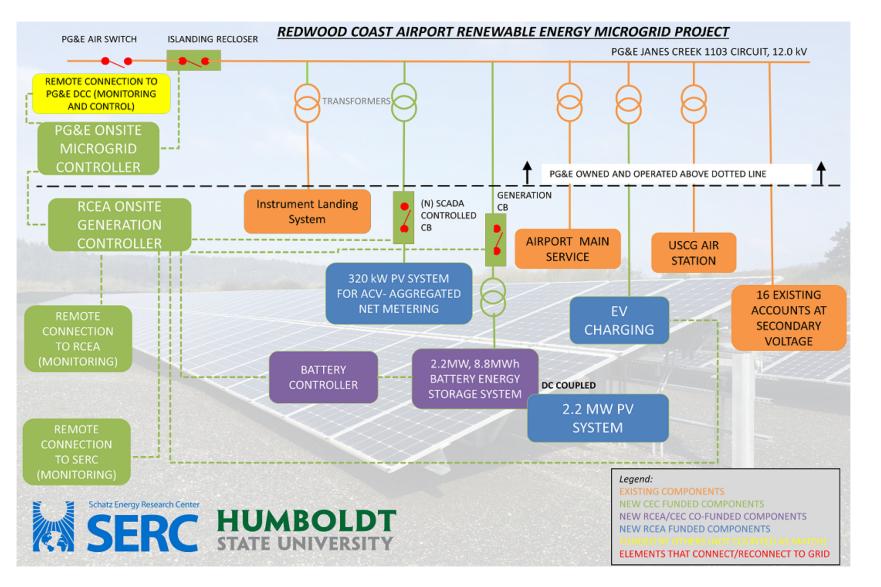
- First 100% RE multi-customer microgrid
- Critical Facilities: Airport and US Coast Guard
- 2.2 MW PV DC-coupled to 2.2 MW/8.8 MWh battery storage; with CAISO wholesale market participation
- 320  $kW_{AC}$  net-metered PV

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 Includes 20 retail accounts - 19 unbundled CCA customers, 1 bundled PG&E customer



### **Simplified Circuit and Operational Responsibilities**



PGSE

- Dotted line represents delineation between the main and microgrid
- Replicable model for allocating operational responsibility in future microgrids
- The PG&E microgrid controller has ultimate authority and can control the Generation Circuit Breaker (on the customer side)

### How to build a microgrid

### Four distinct operational states

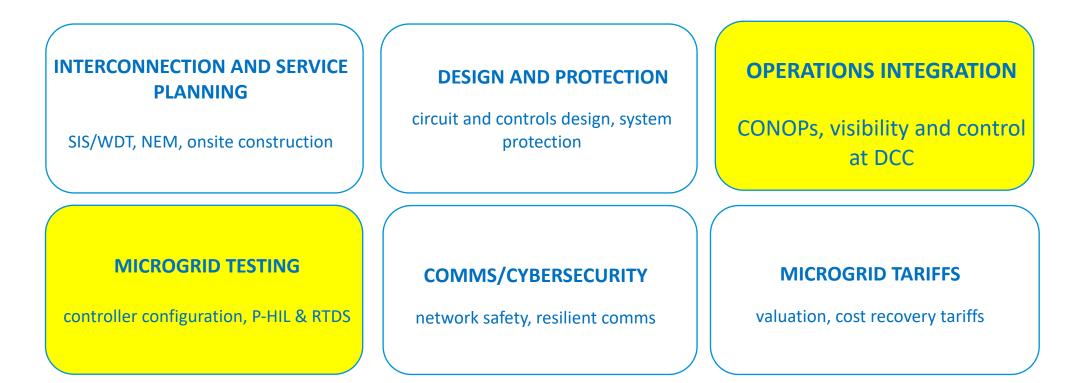
#### **Grid-connected Mode**

PG8E

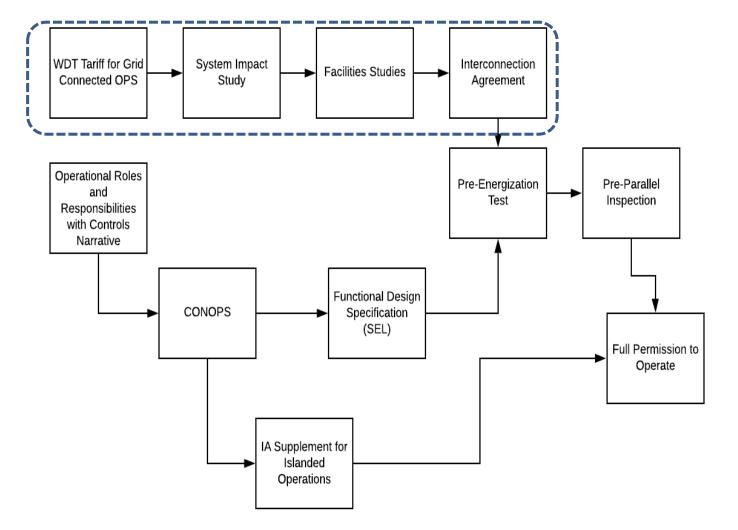
• Third party will control generation asset, participate in wholesale market

#### **Island and Transition Modes**

• DSO will control generation asset, third party will be compensated







### **Concept of Operations (CONOPs)**

- Detailed control & protection scheme; ultimate islanding control with PG&E
- Informs the design of the microgrid RTDS and P-HIL testing at SEL and PG&E

\*The non-islanding interconnection of the PV-BESS can proceed independently



# **Innovation Opportunities and Challenges**

**Technical Innovation** 

First of its kind, advanced testing

**Social Innovation** 

Collaborative partnerships

#### Learning by Doing

Informing standards and policy through action

#### Scaling Challenge

?

Replicate and scale across communities

### **Community Microgrid Enablement Program**

Partner with communities in their resilience efforts by supporting community-driven resilience for critical facilities and vulnerable customer groups.



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