



**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**FILED**

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Order Instituting Rulemaking for Oversight  
of Energy Efficiency Portfolios, Policies,  
Programs and Evaluation

Rulemaking 25-04-010  
(Filed April 24, 2025)

**MOTION FOR PARTY STATUS OF  
COUNTY OF YOLO**

**April 29, 2026**

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Pursuant to Rules 11.1 and 1.4(a)(4) of the California Public Utilities Commission’s (“Commission”) Rules of Practice and Procedure, the County of Yolo (“County”) respectfully moves for party status in the above-captioned consolidated Application proceeding.

**I. DESCRIPTION OF YOLO COUNTY**

The County of Yolo is a subdivision of the State of California. Located in the Sacramento Valley west of our State’s capital, Yolo County is home to 224,410 residents. Approximately 87% of the County’s population lives in its four cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland. Those living in the unincorporated area are mostly concentrated in the unincorporated communities of Esparto, Knights Landing, Dunnigan, Madison, Clarksburg, Yolo, Brooks, Capay, Zamora, Rumsey, and Guinda.

Yolo County’s population is diverse, both ethnically and socio-economically. The County is a minority-majority county: 41.6% of the population is White (non-Hispanic); 33.4% is Hispanic or Latino; 17.3% is Asian; and 3.4% is Black. Over a third of the households speak a language other than English in the home. The median household income is approximately 7% below the statewide median, and 17.4% of Yolo County’s population lives in poverty (compared to 11.8% statewide). The unemployment rate is 6.3%, above the State’s rate of 5.4%.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

The Northern California Rural Energy Network (“NREN”) emerged from the California Public Utilities Commission’s broader effort to expand ratepayer-funded energy efficiency services to rural and historically underserved communities. In its initial program cycle, NREN focused on building out its service model and developing the staffing, partnerships, and implementation infrastructure needed to effectively deliver services across a large and geographically diverse rural region. As the program has matured, there has been a growing recognition that many adjacent rural communities, including Yolo County, share similar challenges—such as high energy burden, extreme heat exposure, and other climate-related risks—and would benefit from expanded access to NREN-supported services and resources. Yolo County is part of the 6% of the State’s population not currently served by a Rural Energy Network.

The most recent version of NREN’s Business Plan builds on this evolving understanding and explicitly addresses opportunities to broaden the program’s reach. Beginning in the 2028 business plan cycle, NREN proposes to include Yolo County in its service territory and identifies the County of Yolo’s Sustainability Division as a local implementer for program delivery. The Business Plan explains that NREN intends to expand its reach into counties that have historically been underserved and that this expansion will require additional staffing, training, stakeholder engagement, tribal outreach, and strengthened local partnerships. In addition to Yolo County, NREN proposes to expand into a portion of Trinity County that has been served by Redwood Coast Energy Authority through other programs in the past, and explore possible future expansion into other eligible northern California counties.

This proposed expansion represents an important opportunity to better align NREN’s service footprint with existing regional needs and local implementation capacity. Including Yolo County in the Business Plan would have significant benefits for the region and for Yolo County residents. Yolo

County plays a central role in advancing local climate, energy, and resilience efforts through its Sustainability Division and through implementation of the Yolo Energy Partnership, which coordinates energy efficiency, electrification, and resilience programs across rural communities. Yolo County also works closely with the local community choice aggregator (Valley Clean Energy), local jurisdictions, and community-based organizations to connect underserved residents to technical assistance, outreach, and incentives. Including Yolo County in NREN's 2028 Business Plan would allow these existing partnerships and implementation capacity to support expanded energy efficiency services in Yolo County, would help ensure that rural and underserved communities in the County have greater access to ratepayer-funded energy programs going forward, and close an important gap in REN service delivery in California for the portion of the unserved population that pays into the program.

### **III. INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDING**

The County has a clear and compelling interest in this proceeding to ensure that its residents receive the benefits of being included in NREN's Business Plan. The County seeks party status to provide comments on any ruling related to the Business Plan and other issues that may be addressed in this proceeding. The County's participation in this proceeding will not prejudice any party and will not delay the schedule or broaden the scope of the issues in the proceeding.

### **IV. NOTICE**

All correspondence and communication should be directed to the following representative:

Kristen Wraithwall  
Sustainability Manager  
County Administrative Office  
625 Court Street, Room 202  
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**V. CONCLUSION**

For the reasons stated above Yolo County respectfully requests that the Commission grant its motion for party status in this proceeding.

**Dated: April 29, 2026**

Respectfully submitted,  
PHILIP J. POGLEDICH  
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: /s Eric May  
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Senior Deputy County Counsel  
Attorneys for the County of Yolo