



Update February 2022

# Presentation Overview

Summary Update

CMEP viability for rural areas

Power independence and small microgrids

Bridging the gap for rural power resilience

Grants and new programs



# CMEP Update

The 11 step PG&E Community Microgrid Enablement Program is a great long term program for communities that are not in what PG&E considers a, “high wind and fire alert area” prone to PSPS events.

If it's not going to safe-island during the emergencies that matter the most, it's not worth the effort for coastal rural communities.



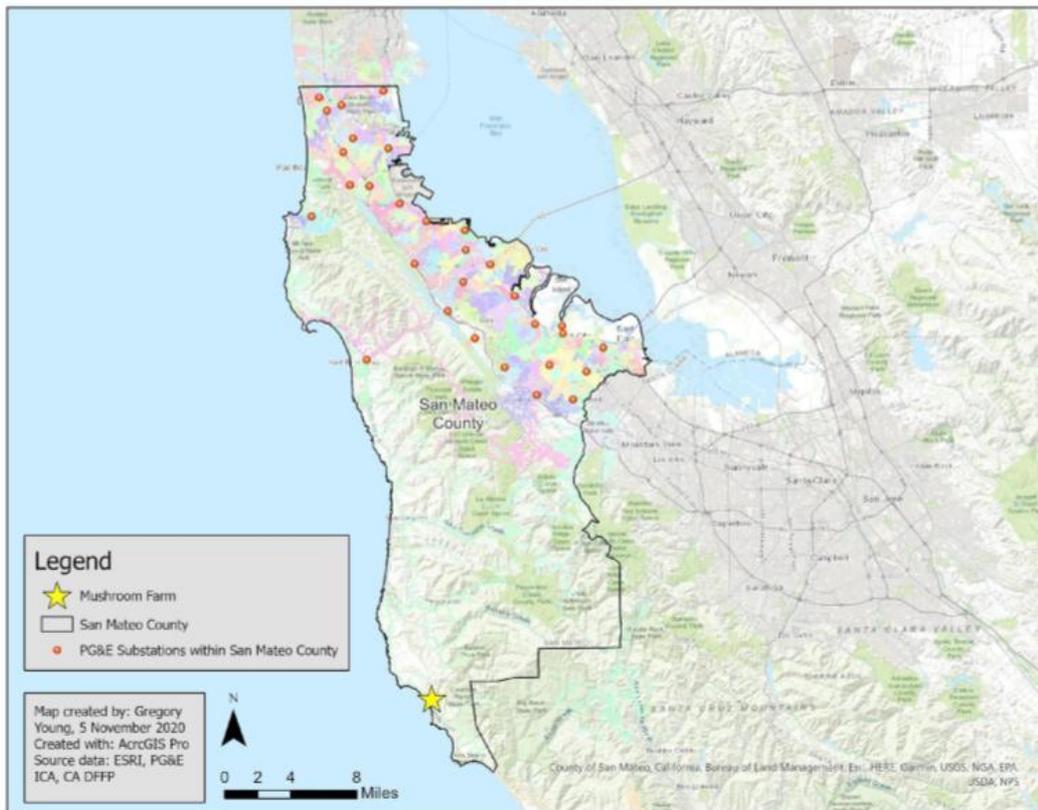
## Small is Better

Small, behind the meter safe-island microgrids make more sense.

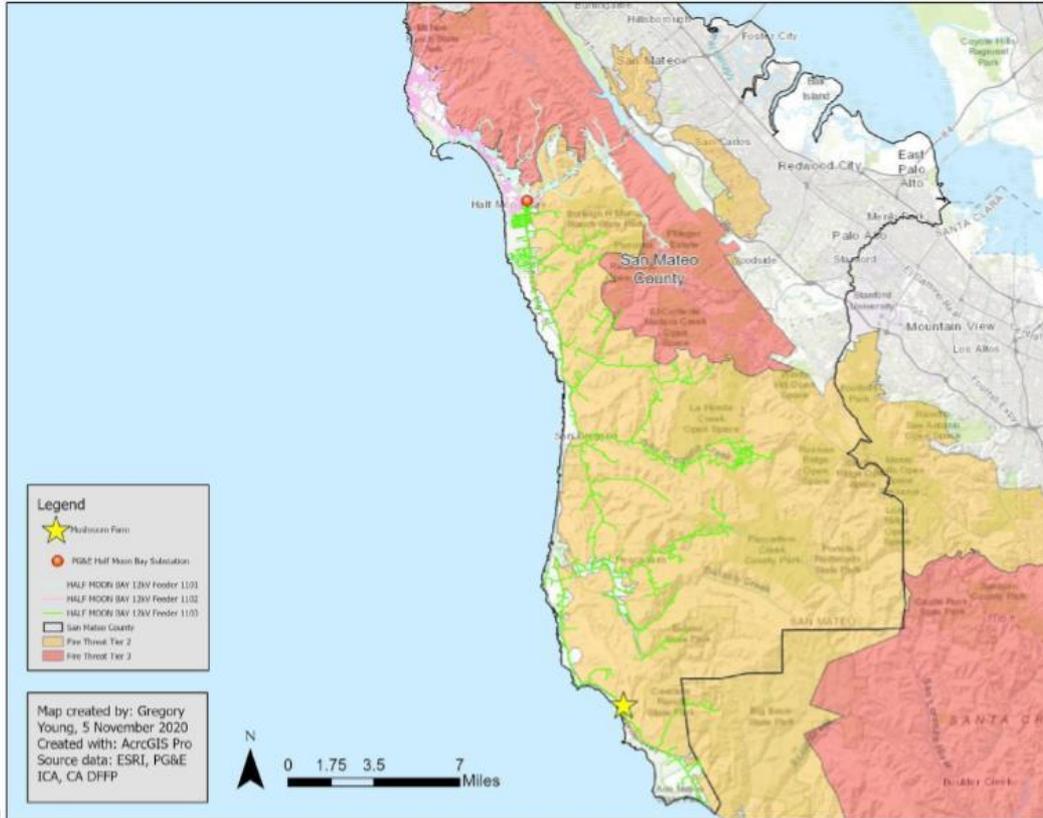
Community MG's are an issue in the San Mateo coastside area because PG&E only has one substation for the entire area, and the entire area is Tier 2 fire threat. Geographic challenges also make the CMEP program difficult for places like La Honda.



# Feeders within San Mateo County



# Three feeders out of the Half Moon Bay Substation

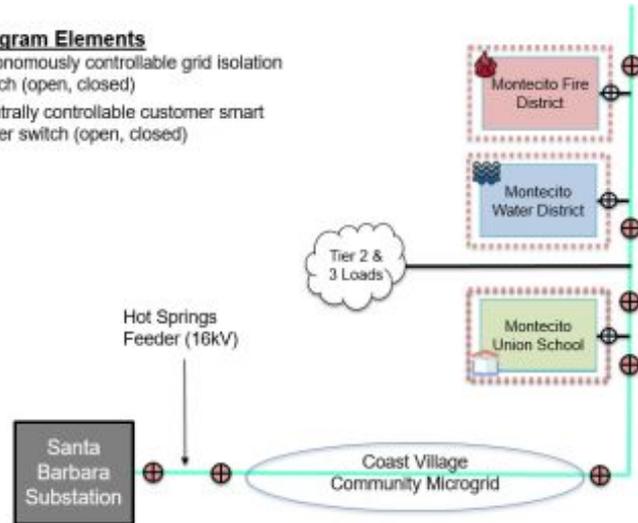


# Waiting to Connect

Current market mechanisms make power interconnects difficult. Instead of waiting to connect, Clean Coalition is turning every building within the MG boundaries into a safe-island solar microgrid. This is exactly what I've been talking about with La Honda critical facilities. [The Goleta Load Pocket MG](#) is an example.

## Diagram Elements

- ⊗ ⊕ Autonomously controllable grid isolation switch (open, closed)
- ⊗ ⊕ Centrally controllable customer smart meter switch (open, closed)



# La Honda Power

## **Bridging the Gap for Rural Power Resilience**

Communities are largely unaware of power options.

Outreach and education is needed

Having programs isn't enough. These are urgent needs. An organization to bridge the gap is needed. La Honda Power is here.



# La Honda Power

## **Bridging the Gap for Rural Power Resilience**

La Honda Power is being formed to help accelerate the process of rural power resilience. Working with South Coast Sustainable, we'll find projects in San Mateo County, engage and prepare the community (like the [Oakland Eco Block](#) project does), design the solution with Clean Coalition (requires a planning grant), and seek funding for the build with the help of RMCP and friends.



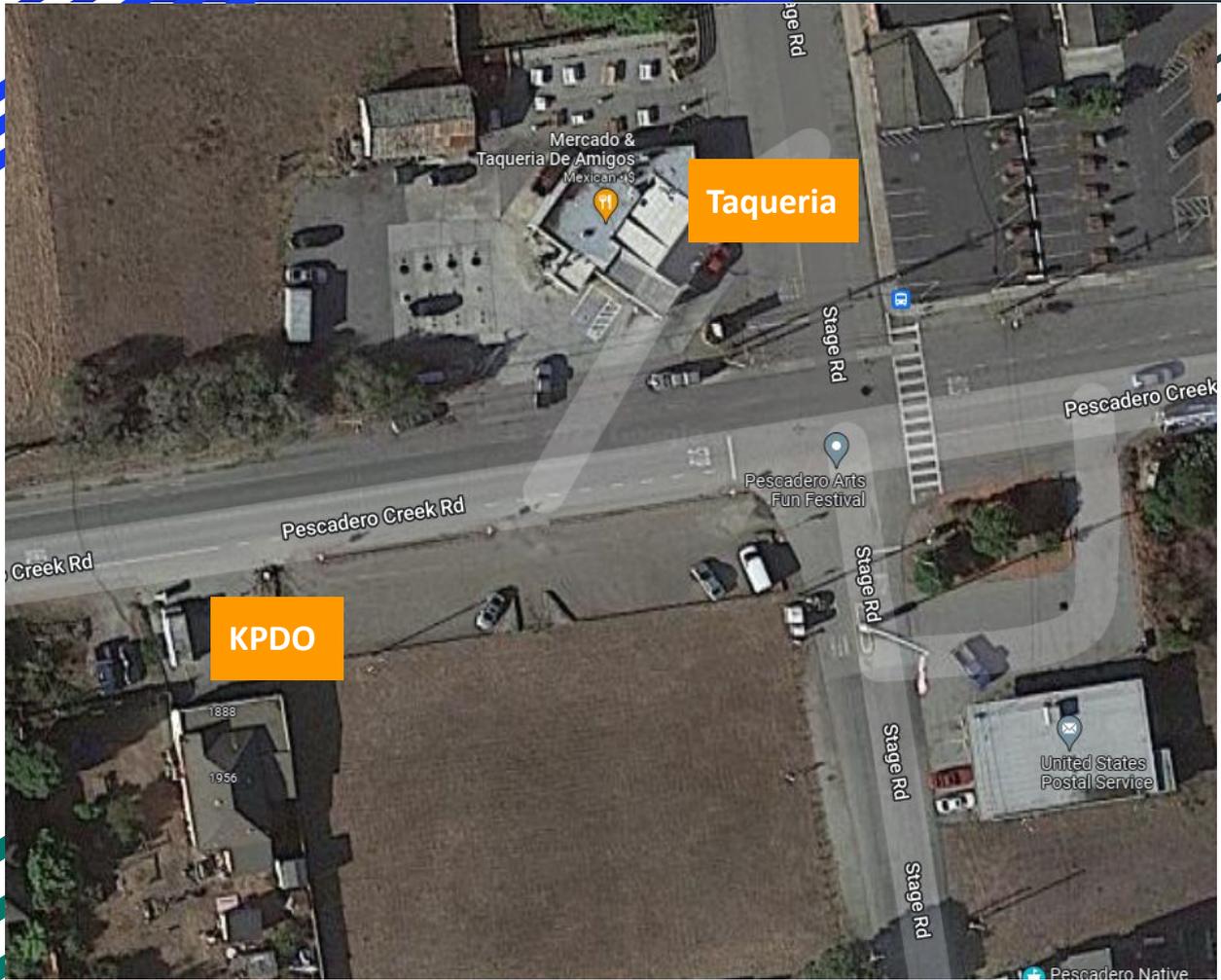
# La Honda Power Update

## **Pescadero needs reliable power and communications**

KPDO 89.3 FM in Pescadero, California is more than a community radio station, it's a critical facility that provides information to residents during emergencies. When the power goes out, the station goes down forcing residents to rely on HAM radio for information. The power shutoffs and low power fluctuations also damage station electronics, which are expensive to replace.

The station and its antenna need reliable, safe battery backup systems with enough solar panels to keep communications up during prolonged power shutoffs.





# La Honda Power Update

## **Grants and new programs**

Everyone says there's a lot of money...we just need to apply for it

Scenic Drive Slide Ribbon Cutting event was beneficial

PCE is thinking about a new program.

There needs to be a statewide fossil fuel generator buy back program. Immediate assistance for isolated rural communities.

In front of the meter community microgrids through programs like CMEP are a good long term solution once market mechanisms are changed.



# La Honda Power Update

## Power Independence

Every San Mateo Coastside critical facility should become a behind the meter safe-island sustainable microgrid as soon as possible. Every rural home should be power independent or connected to a small safe-island microgrid in 10 years or less.

