

PG&E agrees: California should go all-electric in new construction

[Article was originally posted on www.greenbiz.com]

By *Stephanie Greene & Leah Louis-Priscott,*

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), California's largest combined gas and electric utility, became the first dual-fuel utility in the country to formally support ending new gas hookups in buildings. In a letter to the California Energy Commission (CEC) in late June, PG&E endorsed efficient, all-electric new construction as part of the state's Title 24 energy code process.

California's building energy efficiency standards govern new construction in California and set a precedent for other states. The California Energy Commission (CEC) updates these codes every three years and is updating codes through the Title 24 process for the 2022 code cycle. This is a critical opportunity for California to ensure its buildings achieve lower energy costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and maintain healthy indoor and outdoor air quality.

By publicly supporting an ambitious new building code, PG&E indicates that it is willing to forgo future gas investments on behalf of its customers and the state's climate goals. In its letter to the CEC, PG&E states it "welcomes the opportunity to avoid investments in new gas assets that might later prove underutilized as local governments and the state work together to realize long-term decarbonization objectives."

Thus far, PG&E is the only U.S. utility serving gas customers to formally voice its support for a state-wide all-electric new construction standard. Electric utilities, such as Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), have well-established electrification incentive programs and enthusiastically have backed an all-electric new building code.

To meet California's — and the world's — climate goals, use of fossil fuels like gas will need to decrease at least 80 percent by 2050. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says that to prevent catastrophic impacts of climate change, we need to stay below 1.5 degree Celsius of global warming, which will require the world to halve emissions by 2030 and fully decarbonize by 2050.

Energy and Environmental Economics (E3) has conducted several important studies for California on this topic, and its modeling shows that the most



cost-effective path to achieving these necessary emissions reductions requires rapidly electrifying buildings. These results are supported in a number of other studies across states, showing that electrification of the buildings sector is the least-cost pathway to economy-wide decarbonization.

As recent RMI analysis shows, California has the second-largest volume of direct building emissions in the United States and is responsible for 8 percent of the nation's onsite building emissions. In addition, California adds more new gas customers than any other state in the country. From 2013 to 2017 the state added nearly 250,000 new gas customers and in 2018 alone, 75,000 new California homes (both single and multi-family) were built with gas infrastructure.

PG&E, one of the largest gas providers in the state, serves about 40 percent of the gas customers in California. Rather than continuing to expand a fossil fuel infrastructure network that is not aligned with California's climate and air quality goals, the state should require all-electric new construction.

All-electric new construction in California is the right path forward, conferring several key benefits:

- Reducing building sector emissions. Even with its current climate policies, California is not on track to meet its 2030 emissions reduction target. Electrifying new buildings helps close that gap and avoids making it

worse. If the CEC requires new construction to be all-electric in the 2022 energy code, RMI analysis finds that the state would abate over 1 million metric tons of CO2 emissions annually by 2030.

- Improving health and air quality. Fossil fuel appliances, especially gas stoves, emit pollutants known to harm health and increase asthma risk. One in eight Californians has asthma, and asthma rates are even higher in lower-income communities and communities of color. Furthermore, over 12 million Californians living with a gas stove are breathing levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) that would be illegal outdoors, while 1.7 million are breathing levels of carbon monoxide that exceed outdoor limits. These health risks can be avoided by building all-electric homes.
- Improving affordability for consumers. Electric space and water heating can reduce costs over the lifetime of the appliances compared to fossil fuels. RMI analysis found that a new single family home in Oakland with electric space and water heating saves customers over \$2,000 compared to heating with gas.
- Reducing utility customer costs and investor risk. All-electric new construction would also help utilities such as PG&E avoid investing in assets that will outlive their use-



California Sub-Bid Request Ads



Is requesting quotes from certified and qualified MBE, DBE, WBE, SBE, SBRA, LSAF AND (HUB) Zone Subcontractors, Suppliers, and Service Providers for the following (but not limited to) work:

SUBS/SERVICE PROVIDERS

Clear & Grub, Construction Stake, Earthwork & Base, Imported Borrow, Elect @ Pump Plant, Elect Building, Landscaping, Erosion Control, Masonry Building/Other, Mechanical - Building, Pavement Grinding, Rebar, Sign Structures, Signs Roadside, Stripe & Mark, Struct Conc -Wall, Struct Conc - Building, Struct Excavate Site, Traffic Control, Trucking Dirt Haul, Trucking High/Low Haul, Underground Pipe Jack, & Water Proof Bridge

SUPPLIERS/SERVICE

Aggregate, Rip Rap Mat'l, Conc Pump, Equip Rent - Crane, Pipe - Steel, Pipe PVC, Ready Mix Conc. Struct Steel, Traffic Control Supply, and Security Guard Serv.

LAKE PUMP STATION WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, LAKE COUNTY

Project No. 2450.03

BID DATE: AUGUST 6, 2020 @ 3:00 PM

All Quotes Due Prior

Sukut Construction, LLC

4010 W. Chandler Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92704

Contact: Eric Bodyfelt

Phone: (714) 540-5351 • Fax: (714) 545-2003 • Email: estimating@sukut.com

Plans/specs are available for viewing at our office by appointment, by Sukut FTP, or from Owner. Subcontractors must be prepared to furnish 100% performance and payment bonds and possess current insurance and workers' comp coverage. Sukut will assist qualified subcontractors in obtaining bonds, insurance, and/or lines of credit. Subcontractors/Vendors will be required to sign Sukut's Standard Subcontract/Purchase Order. Copies are available for examination. Please contact Eric Bodyfelt at Sukut Construction for assistance in responding to this solicitation.

Sukut Construction's listing of a Subcontractor in its bid to the agency is not to be construed as an acceptance of all the Subcontractor's conditions or exceptions included with Subcontractor's price quotes. Quotations must be valid for the same duration as specified by Owner for contract award.

Sukut Construction, LLC
An Equal Opportunity Employer

**Request for Certified/ Self-Certified Small Business Subcontractors & Suppliers
From all SBA, WBE, VOSB, SDVOSB & HubZone Subcontractors/Sub-Consultants/ Vendors
registered as a SBA business for:**

**Project Name: Design-Build Stabilize Cliff & Repair Hillside Erosion Damage on Vandergrift Blvd &
Rattlesnake Canyon Road
Project No.: N62473-16-D-1852 X012
Owner: NAVFAC Southwest**

Reyes Construction is requesting bids in the areas described, but not limited to: (Subcontractors) Fencing, Traffic Control, Landscape/ Tree Cutting, Concrete Swale, Installation of Wire Mesh & Cable Netting, QC Testing for Soil & Concrete. (Suppliers) K-rail, Wire Mesh and Cable Netting

Quotes Requested by: July 29th 2020 at 1pm

REYES CONSTRUCTION, INC.

State License Number 507561

1383 South Signal Drive, Pomona, CA 91766

Phone: 909-622-2259 • Fax: 909-622-3053

Contact: Brenda Martinez Mon-Fri 7:00 A.M - 4:00 P.M

Assistance will be available in obtaining bonds, lines of credit, Insurance, necessary equipment, supplies, materials or related technical assistance.

Plans, Specifications, and Contract requirements can be viewed online at no additional cost:

1) Via iSqFt - please send an email request to estimating@reyesconstruction.com

2) Sharefile- please send an email request to estimating@reyesconstruction.com

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Contact Info:

795 Folsom Street, 1st Flr, Room 1124

San Francisco, CA 94107

Email: sbe@sbeinc.com

Website: www.sbeinc.com

Phone: (415) 778-6250, (800) 800-8534

Fax: (415) 778-6255

Publisher of

Small Business Exchange
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California Sub-Bid Request Ads

Sub-Bids Requested from qualified **DBE** Subcontractors and Suppliers For:

**GRAHAM HILL WATER TREATMENT PLANT
FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT RFQ**

Owner: City of Santa Cruz
Location: Santa Cruz, CA

Bid Date: August 27, 2020 @ 4:00 P.M.

J.F. Shea Construction, Inc.

667 Brea Canyon Road, Suite 30 • Walnut, CA 91789

Phone: (909) 595-4397, Fax: (909) 444-4268

Contact: Lori Olivas, lori.olivas@jfshea.com

J.F. Shea Construction, Inc. is soliciting your participation in the preparation of this bid. We are particularly interested in bids from subcontractors/suppliers for the following work items:

Demolition, AC Paving, Aggregates, Ready-Mix Concrete, Reinforcing Steel, Masonry, Structural Steel, Miscellaneous Metals, Steel Decking, Roofing, Sheet Metal, Sealants, Doors/Frames/Hardware, Glazing, Metal Framing & Drywall, Painting & Coatings, Signage, Toilet Partitions and Accessories, Equipment, Electrical and Instrumentation

Plans and Specifications: You may obtain a free download from Ebidboard at <https://www.ebidboard.com/public/rfps/showrfp.asp?mbrguid=ABAB07D2-4AD4-4494-8A29-E9C52EB9572A&projectguid={77C0120F-B297-4357-A7FC-5156E655AD3E}>

Plans may also be viewed at the Dodge Plan Rooms or at our Walnut Office.

J.F. Shea Construction, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and intends to negotiate in good faith with interested DBE firms and intends to utilize the lowest responsive bidder. J.F. Shea expects potential subcontractors to be bondable. J.F. Shea will pay for up to 1% for subcontractor bond costs. Subcontractors and Suppliers are expected to bid per plans and specifications, including requirements for warranties. Standard manufacturer's warranties, if not in conformance with owner's specifications, will not be accepted.

W.A. Rasic Construction Company

is requesting bids from local businesses and certified **DBE/WBE/MBE/SBE** Subcontractors and Suppliers as well as local individual hires for the following project:

**City of Morro Bay WRF Lift Stations
and Offsite Pipelines
Bid No. 17-082**

Location: Morro Bay, California
Owner: City of Morro Bay

Revised Bid Date: August 12, 2020 at 2:00 PM

Estimated Bid Value: \$27,000,000
Addendums Issued: 3

W.A. Rasic Construction is looking for local individual hires to join our team for the above listed project as well as quotes from certified DBE's (minority businesses, women's business enterprise and labor surplus area firms) and local businesses for Services, Suppliers, and Subcontractors for the following, but not limited to, scopes of work:

Shoring Engineering, SWPPP Development, Video Recording of Existing Conditions, Trucking (Soil Disposal), CPM Scheduling, Aggregate Material Suppliers, HDPE/FPVC Supplier, Misc. Pipe Appurtenances and Mechanical Piping supplier, Dewatering, Sewer By-Pass, Erosion Control, Bore & Jack, Microtunneling, Precast Concrete, Asphalt Paving, Fencing, Landscaping, Masonry, Rebar, Structural Steel, Miscellaneous Metals, Paintings & Coatings, Electrical & Instrumentation, Striping, Potholing, Building Trades

All Subcontractors must be licensed in the State of California at the time of bid and have a valid DIR Registration Number. W.A. Rasic is a Union Signatory Contractor to all Building Trades and thus any subcontractor must be signatory or willing to sign a project labor agreement. Subcontractors and suppliers are advised to submit their quotes 2 working days before the Prime's bid due date for evaluation and completion of all necessary forms to submit with our bid. Please use the following Drop Box link containing the Plans and Specifications which are available at no cost. <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2hiqmcwglw8oazm/AADVVMWcx8RxjzTKN3C5AvvKa?dl=0>

Plans and Specifications are also available at no cost for review from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday at our office located at 4150 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802. Assistance in obtaining bonds, lines of credit, insurance, equipment, supplies, materials or related services are available to all firms. W.A. Rasic is also willing to break any work items down into smaller categories or quantities and we can also arrange delivery schedules in order to facilitate maximum local and DBE business participation.

Please contact Mariah Medina via phone (562) 928-6111 or email (mmedina@warasic.com) if you have any questions or require further assistance.

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFIED/CERTIFIED
DBE PARTICIPATION from
SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS/SERVICE
PROVIDERS**

Crows Landing Road Bridge over
San Joaquin River Project
County of Stanislaus Contract 9589
DBE Goal 11%

Bid Date: August 13th, 2020 2:00 PM

**Quotes not received by 10:00 AM on bid day may
not be reviewed & evaluated.**

Flatiron West Inc. requests DBE subcontractor and supplier participation for the following items of work, but not limited to: CAS/Roadside Signage, Bridge Demo, Clear & Grub, Erosion Control, Landscaping/Irrigation, AC Paving, AC Dike, Cold Plane AC, CISS Pile, Joint Seal Assemblies, Post Tensioning, Rebar, Underground Utilities, Fencing, Metal Railing, MBGR, Bridge Concrete Barrier, PTFE Bearings, Striping & Markings, Minor Concrete, Trucking, HAZ Mat Trucking, Aggregates (including: Structure Backfill & Sub Base), Ready Mix, Concrete Pumping Services, Steel Pipe Pile, Misc. Metals/Iron & Steel, Deck Drains, Underground & Pipe Products, SWPPP Plan & Materials, Lead Plan, Geotextile Materials, Bridge Bearings, Street Sweeping, Traffic Control, Biologist Services.

Non-DBE Subs/Suppliers: You will be expected to carry a proportionate percentage of 2nd-tier DBE participation with your quote. 2nd-tier DBE participation will be evaluated with your price.

100% performance/payment bonds will be required for the full amount of the subcontract price. Please contact Flatiron for any assistance to this solicitation, including obtaining bonding, insurance, equipment, materials and/or supplies. Provide all scopes/quotes as early as possible to enable estimators to perform a thorough evaluation of all quotes received. Quotes will be broken down into comparable packages as reasonably necessary to facilitate participation. Quotes must be valid for the same duration as specified by the Owner for Contract Award. We are signatory to Operating Engineers, Laborers, Cement Masons, Carpenters and Pile Drivers Unions. Non-signatory subs will be required to sign an agreement for trades covered under our union agreements. Flatiron intends to work cooperatively with all firms for all bid items you are licensed and qualified to perform. Bid items can be split to facilitate participation from all certified firms. Flatiron will reimburse for bond premium up to 2%. **Firms must possess & provide current contractor's license number & DIR Registration number on the quote.** Firms must possess insurance and workers compensation coverage meeting project requirements. Waiver of Subrogation is required. Please contact Flatiron for any assistance required by your firm. Subcontractors/Suppliers will be required to execute our standard agreements and agree to our standard and general terms & conditions. Copies are available for review on our Box.com ftp site upon email request.

For **FREE** project documents from our Flatiron ftp site, please send an email request to NorCalBids@flatironcorp.com to view/access/download plans and specs for FREE from our BOX.com ftp site, or to set-up an appointment to view and meet with an estimator in our office. Project documents may also be viewed in our office by appointment only.

Project documents may also be purchased and downloaded from Modesto Reprographics online plan room at <https://www.modestoplanroom.com> Click on Public Jobs. You will need to register for an account to purchase and download the project documents.

Please send all quotes by email to
NorCalBids@flatironcorp.com
or to our BID FAX at 707-746-1603.

Flatiron West, Inc.
2100 Goodyear Rd Benicia, CA 94510
Phone 707-742-6000 Bid Fax 707-746-1603

All Quotes should be emailed to:
NorCalBids@flatironcorp.com

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California Sub-Bid Request Ads

Pacific States ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACTORS, INC.

CAL LIC. NO. 723241
11555 Dublin Boulevard
Dublin, CA 94568-2909
Phone: (925) 803-4333 • FAX: (925) 803-4334
ESTIMATOR: Christopher Pieri
EMAIL: cpieri@pacificstates.net

Pacific States Environmental Contractors, Inc. (PSEC) is preparing a bid as a Prime Contractor for the project listed below:

PROJECT:
900 INNES REMEDIATION PROJECT
Contract No. 1000016646

OWNER:
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
1155 Market Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

REVISED BID DATE: September 9, 2020 at 2:30pm

We hereby encourage responsible participation of certified (DBE) Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and (SBE) Small Business Enterprise and solicit their subcontractor or materials and/or suppliers quotation for the following types of work including but not limited to:

TRUCKING, DEMOLITION, SURVEY, ABATEMENT AND OFFSHORE WORK

Plans and specifications may be reviewed at our office located at 11555 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA or at your local Builders Exchange, or reviewed and downloaded from the City & County of San Francisco Department of Public Works Site: https://stgint.sfdpw.org/_Layouts/DPWPORTAL/Construction.aspx?ID=2217

Fax your bid to (925) 803-4334 to the attention of Estimator Christopher Pieri or email cpieri@pacificstates.net. If you have questions for the Estimator, call at (925) 361-1617 When submitting any public works bid please include your DUNS number and DIR number. For questions regarding registration for DIR use the link at www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html

If you need support services and assistance in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, insurance, necessary equipment, materials and/or supplies or related assistance or services, for this project call the Estimator at (925) 361-1617, or contact your local Small Business Development Center Network (<http://californiasbdc.org>) or contact the California Southwest Transportation Resource Center (www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRCs). PSEC is willing to breakout portions of work to increase the expectation of meeting the SBE/DBE goal.

At our discretion, 100% Payment and 100% Performance bonds may be required as a subcontract condition. This will be a PREVAILING WAGE JOB. PSEC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.



SKANSKA • TRAYLOR • SHEA

Skanska-Traylor-Shea JV
5055 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA
requests sub-bid quotes from all interested firms, including certified DBE's for Chain Link Fence and Signage on the
Westside Subway Extension Section 1 project.
Owner: LACMTA (Metro). Contract No. C1045.
Bid Date: July 31, 2020 at 2:00pm

Plans & Specs can be viewed at our office Monday - Friday 8am to 4pm (call for appointment) or downloaded free at the following links:

Link to 113WS Chain Link Fence RFP:

<https://skanskausa.sharefile.com/i/15dd151c942f4dbcb>

Link to 114WS Signage RFP:

<https://skanskausa.sharefile.com/i/1382d6cb51d849c38>

Should you have any questions or desire to quote on this project, please contact Connie Brown, DBE Administrator at 213-694-3522 or connie.brown@skanska.com. Assistance in bonding, insurance, lines of credit or obtaining equipment, supplies and materials is available upon request. This advertisement is in response to Metro's DBE program. Skanska-Traylor-Shea JV intends to conduct itself in good faith with DBE firms regarding participation on this project. More info about this project is available at www.skanska-traylor-shea.com.

Skanska-Traylor-Shea JV
is an EEO/AA/Vet/Disability Employer



O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc.
1520 Fourth Street • Berkeley, CA 94710
Phone: 510-526-3424 • FAX: 510-526-0990
Contact: Donat Galicz

REQUEST FOR DVBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR:

**New Dublin High School
Increment 1 Partial Site Package,
Second Comprehensive High School
Southeast Corner of Central Parkway &
Chancery Lane, Dublin, CA
Dublin Unified School District**
BID DATE: August 6, 2020 @ 2:00 PM

We are soliciting quotes for (including but not limited to):

Trucking, Temporary and Permanent Erosion Control Measures, QC/QA Testing, Temporary Fencing, SWPPP, Survey, Lime Treatment, Demolition, Sawcutting, Minor Concrete, Traffic Control, and Construction Materials

Donat Galicz (510-809-3498 dgalicz@ocjones.com) and Jason Martin (510-809-3432 jmartin@ocjones.com) are the estimators on this project and they are available to provide assistance or answer questions regarding the project scope of work including bid requirements, break out of bid items, plan or spec interpretation, bonding or insurance requirements, and other bid assistance. Plans and specs are available to review at our Berkeley office, or can be sent out via Building Connected. PDF format quotes should be emailed to the estimator or faxed to 510-526-0990 prior to noon on the date of the bid. Quotes from DVBE Subcontractors, Suppliers and Truckers are highly encouraged. OCJ is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DVBE participation. Subcontractors must possess a current DIR, Contractors License, and insurance and workers compensation coverage including waiver of subrogation. OCJ may require Performance and Payment bonds on subcontracts. OCJ will pay the bond premium up to 2% of the contract value. All subcontractors are required to execute OC Jones' standard subcontract agreement, comply with all insurance requirements, and name OCJ as additional insured. Copies of our agreement and insurance requirements are available upon request. OCJ is a Union contractor, and we are signatory to the Operating Engineers, Laborers, Teamsters, and Carpenters. OCJ is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

DESILVA GATES CONSTRUCTION

11555 Dublin Boulevard • P.O. Box 2909
Dublin, CA 94568-2909
(925) 829-9220 / FAX (925) 803-4263
Estimator: VICTOR LE
Website: www.desilvagates.com
An Equal Opportunity/
Affirmative Action Employer

DeSilva Gates Construction (DGC) is preparing a bid as a Prime Contractor for the project listed below:
HAZEL AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - PHASE 3
SUNSET AVENUE TO MADISON AVENUE
Contract No. 4415,
Federal Aid Project No. STPL-5924(253)
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal Assigned is 12%

OWNER: COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
9660 Ecology Lane, Sacramento, CA 95827
REVISED BID DATE: August 6th, 2020 @ 2:00 P.M.

DGC is soliciting quotations from certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, for the following types of work and supplies/materials including but not limited to:

CLEARING AND GRUBBING/DEMOLITION, COLD PLANE, PROJECT & BUSINESS SIGNS, ELECTRICAL, FENCING, LANDSCAPING/IRRIGATION, MINOR CONCRETE, MINOR CONCRETE STRUCTURE, ROADSIDE SIGNS, SLURRY SEAL, MASONRY WALL, STRIPING, SWPPP PREP/WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN PREPARE, UNDERGROUND, TRUCKING, WATER TRUCKS, STREET SWEEPING, CLASS 2 AGGREGATE BASE MATERIAL, HOT MIX ASPHALT (TYPE A) MATERIAL, RUBBERIZED HMA (GAP GRADE) MATERIAL.

Plans and specifications may be reviewed at our offices located at 11555 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA or 7700 College Town Drive, Sacramento, CA, or at your local Builders Exchange, or reviewed and downloaded from the ftp site at <ftp://ftp%25desilvagates.com:f7pa55wd@pub.desilvagates.com> (if prompted the username is ftp@desilvagates.com and password is f7pa55wd@pub.desilvagates.com) or from the Owner's site at <http://www.saccountybids.net/>

Fax your bid to (925) 803-4263 to the attention of Estimator Victor Le. If you have questions for the Estimator, call at (925) 829-9220. When submitting any public works bid please include your DUNS number and DIR number. For questions regarding registration for DIR use the link at www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html

If you need DBE support services and assistance in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, insurance, necessary equipment, materials and/or supplies or related assistance or services, for this project call the Estimator at (925) 829-9220, or contact your local Small Business Development Center Network (<http://californiasbdc.org>) or contact the California Southwest Transportation Resource Center (www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRCs). DGC is willing to breakout portions of work to increase the expectation of meeting the DBE goal.

At our discretion, 100% Payment and 100% Performance bonds may be required as a subcontract condition. This will be a PREVAILING WAGE JOB. DGC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Visit www.sbeinc.com
to download the latest SBE
Newspaper and Newsletter



Supporting Entrepreneurs & Workers with Disabilities

By *Jovita Carranza*,

For the 80 kids at Milestones Day School in Massachusetts, going to school means more than receiving an education; it also means a safe place to receive therapy and develop skills for a future career.

Alex Smith-Michaels is the founder of Milestones – a school for students with disabilities. In many ways, Ms. Smith-Michaels is ideally suited for the role, as she has both autism and bipolar disorder, and has had to overcome the trauma she experienced in the educational and psychiatric systems as a result of her disabilities.

Thirty years ago, The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law, enshrining the rights of more than 57 million Americans to have equal access and inclusion in society. While this advancement of equality has been monumental, entrepreneurs with disabilities still face unique barriers, including lack of funding and challenges establishing credit, as well as a significantly higher likelihood of going into business without support from family members and mentors.

As head of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), it is my mission to ensure the federal government's resources are helping underserved entrepreneurs succeed – this includes women, veterans, minorities, and small business owners with disabilities.

Throughout the country, individuals with disabilities have found a successful path in starting their own business. As Alex explains, “being an entrepreneur is something that I can work

around my disability. I don't have to fit every single mold. As a person with a disability, you can be a lot more successful as an entrepreneur in a lot of ways. The aspects of running a business that I am really good at, I can shine. And the areas where I don't do well, I can hire out.”

To provide critical economic support to these small businesses during the pandemic, we launched the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), and it has been one of the most successful disaster response efforts in history.

Alex received a forgivable PPP loan to help keep her school open and her 75 staff on payroll. “If we didn't get the PPP and I had to lay off or furlough my staff or not provide health insurance for them, it would negatively impact Milestone's students,” Alex said. “The reason they take risks and make progress is based on their unique relationship with the staff. I don't know what would have become of the company without the loan.”

PPP was a financial lifeline not only for non-profit schools like Milestones, but also for mental health facilities, social service centers, and transition programs. More than 12,000 non-profits and small businesses just in this sector received PPP loans, totaling nearly \$13 billion in forgivable loans.

As we celebrate the progress we've made toward equitable opportunity for individuals with disabilities, we know much work remains. Thankfully, our nation's small businesses are helping lead the charge by hiring individuals with disabilities.

There are many benefits to hiring disabled individuals, including an expanded pool of talent, ability to meet workforce needs, a diversified and inclusive workforce, and creative business solutions and goodwill among customers. To help keep that momentum going, the SBA has put together a toolkit to assist small businesses in hiring more people with disabilities.

For individuals with disabilities, entrepreneurship can be a powerful mechanism for success. SBA is working to ensure every individual, especially those in underrepresented communities, can access non-traditional pathways to success. Resource partners like the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy are helping launch the next generation of entrepreneurs with disabilities and working to combat the many barriers which lead to widespread unemployment and underemployment within the disability community.

Entrepreneurs like Alex remind us of the tremendous progress our nation has made in the past three decades toward equality for people of every ability. Their stories also underscore the resiliency and strength of the American small business owner. Our country's 30 million small businesses contributed significantly to the thriving economy we enjoyed just a few months ago and they will be the same ones leading the recovery effort.

SOURCE:

<https://www.sba.gov/blog/supporting-entrepreneurs-workers-disabilities>

PG&E agrees: California should go all-electric in new construction

■ Continued from page 1

ful lives, because such assets are not aligned with the climate goals we need to meet in the next decade. PG&E's estimated average cost to provide gas service to one single family home is between \$7,050 and \$9,500. While most of the up-front installation cost for this infrastructure is paid for by the requesting customer, some costs are recovered in rates from all gas customers. These costs would be unnecessarily paid for over decades by customers or would risk becoming stranded for investors.

- Developing the market for efficient, electric technology. By adopting an all-electric

new construction energy code, California would solidify the state's commitment to move away from fossil fuels in buildings. This would provide critical market certainty for appliance and equipment manufacturers, who then can help to grow the market and bring down costs for electric retrofits.

- Supporting local governments. 30 cities and counties in California have adopted local building codes and ordinances for all-electric new construction in their jurisdictions, and 50 more across the state are considering following suit. By enacting a statewide all-electric code, the state would alleviate the administrative burden on local governments and show clear support for municipal climate goals.

To stay on track for a 1.5 degrees Celsius climate-aligned future, utilities and their customers cannot afford to invest in more gas assets for new buildings, and California's largest investor-owned utility agrees.

All-electric buildings are cheaper, cleaner and healthier than buildings with gas, and efficient electric alternatives are readily available today. By supporting this measure, PG&E did the right thing for its customers and the climate.

SOURCE:

<https://www.greenbiz.com/article/pge-agrees-california-should-go-all-electric-new-construction>