



February 18, 2022

Via Electronic Transmission Only

President Alice Reynolds
Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen
Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma
Commissioner Darcie Houck
Commissioner John Reynolds
California Public Utilities Commission

RE: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 – Federal Funding Opportunities

Dear President Reynolds, Commissioner Rechtschaffen, Commissioner Shiroma, Commissioner Houck, and Commissioner Reynolds:

In accordance with President Reynolds’ January 24, 2022 letter regarding Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 – Federal Funding Opportunities, Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc. (“BVES”), provides this letter describing BVES’ plan to apply for available federal funding appropriated through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (“IIJA”). While the United States Department of Energy has not yet established many of the programs or application processes through which applicants can seek federal funding established by the IIJA, based on statutory language, BVES believes that it may qualify for various funding opportunities. BVES provides a summary of its proposed projects for which it plans to seek federal funding in accordance with the IIJA, as well as the relevant sections of the IIJA authorizing such funding, in Attachment A to this letter.

To the extent you have any questions about BVES’ proposed projects or plans to obtain federal funding under the IIJA, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

 /s/ Paul Marconi

Paul Marconi
President, Treasurer & Secretary
Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.
Paul.Marconi@bvesinc.com

cc:
Rachel Peterson, Executive Director, CPUC (rachel.peterson@cpuc.ca.gov)

Christine Jun Hammond, General Counsel, CPUC (christine.hammond@cpuc.ca.gov)
Simon Baker, Acting Deputy Executive Director for Energy and Climate Policy, CPUC
(simon.baker@cpuc.ca.gov)
Pete Skala, Director of Efficiency, Electrification, and Procurement, CPUC
(pete.skala@cpuc.ca.gov)
Grant Mack, Director of Office of Governmental Affairs, CPUC (grant.mack@cpuc.ca.gov)

Attachment A

BVES Summary of Proposed Projects that may Qualify for IIJA Funding

BVES Summary of Proposed Projects that may Qualify for IIJA Funding

Project	Description	Period of Execution	Total Estimated Cost	Applicable Section of IIJA
Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)	Project establishes a smart grid in the BVES distribution system. Converts all meters to AMI, installs collector infrastructure allowing for two-way communication to collect detailed metering information, and installs full Meter Data Management (MDM) with automated importing via Multispeak, dashboard, customer portal, analytics, customer account, outage mapping, transformer and grid analytics, advanced reporting, disconnect/connect where supported, demand and configurable reads (i.e. calculating TOU reads from interval data).	2023	\$1,604,306	Section 40107(a) 42 U.S.C. § 17386(b)
Radford Line Replacement Project	Replaces 2.82 circuit miles of high voltage (34 kV) overhead sub-transmission bare conductors in the High Fire Threat District (HFTD) Tier 3 with a high-performance covered conductor. All wood poles are replaced with approximately 78 high strength fire resistant poles (distressed iron). This line was selected for hardening specifically since it is located in a highly and densely vegetated area in the national forest that is very difficult to patrol and monitor; thereby, presenting a great wildfire threat.	2022	\$5,958,811	Sections 40101(e)(1)(B), 40101(e)(1)(E), 40101(e)(1)(K), and 40101(e)(1)(L)

BVES Summary of Proposed Projects that may Qualify for IIJA Funding

Project	Description	Period of Execution	Total Estimated Cost	Applicable Section of IIJA
Covered Wire Project	Project replaces approximately 18 circuit miles of high voltage (34 kV) overhead sub-transmission bare conductors in the High Fire Threat District (HFTD) Tier 2 with a high-performance covered conductor over approximately 4 years ending in 2025. Additionally, the project replaces approximately 80 circuit miles of high voltage (4 kV) overhead distribution bare conductors in the HFTD Tier 2 with a high-performance covered conductor over approximately 10 years ending in 2031. This project delivers significant risk reduction wildfire threat in the HFTD Tier 2.	2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031	\$6,588,897 \$6,786,564 \$6,990,161 \$7,199,866 \$7,415,862 \$5,092,225 \$5,244,992 \$5,402,342 \$5,564,412 \$5,731,345	Sections 40101(e)(1)(B), 40101(e)(1)(E), 40101(e)(1)(K), and 40101(e)(1)(L)
Bear Valley Energy Storage Project	Project constructs a 5 MW AC 20 MWh (5 MW over 4 hours) Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located at BVES's Main Facility in Big Bear Lake, CA to enhance system reliability and safety during high fire threat weather resulting in Southern California Edison invoking Public Safety Power Shutoff of sub-transmission lines to BVES resulting in complete or partial loss of supplies. The system would also provide emergency response to other adverse weather conditions, wildfire events, and natural disasters resulting in loss of supplies to BVES service area.	2022-23	\$9,863,928	Sections 40101(e)(1)(H) and 40107(a)
Substation Automation	The project connects and automates 9 substations to BVES's fiber network and SCADA system over 3 years. This will enable BVES to improve safety and resiliency of its grid operations and provide improved service support during high fire threat weather events.	2023 2024 2025	\$646,985 \$666,394 \$686,386	Sections 40101(e)(1)(C), 40101(e)(1)(I), 40101(e)(1)(K), and 40107(a) 42 U.S.C. § 17386(b)

BVES Summary of Proposed Projects that may Qualify for IIJA Funding

Project	Description	Period of Execution	Total Estimated Cost	Applicable Section of IIJA
Switch and Field Device Automation	Connects and automates 28 34 kV and 20 4 kV switches to SCADA network over 4 years. This will enable BVES to improve safety and resiliency of its grid operations and provide improved service support during high fire threat weather events.	2023 2024 2025 2026	\$705,834 \$695,765 \$721,586 \$749,528	Sections 40101(e)(1)(C), 40101(e)(1)(I), 40101(e)(1)(K), and 40107(a) 42 U.S.C. § 17386(b)
Capacitor Bank Upgrade Project	Replaces 24 capacitor banks with automated capacitor banks connected to SCADA network over 4 years. This will enable BVES to improve safety and resiliency of its grid operations.	2023 2024 2025 2026	\$341,250 \$324,225 \$333,952 \$343,971	Sections 40101(e)(1)(C), 40101(e)(1)(I), 40101(e)(1)(K), and 40107(a) 42 U.S.C. § 17386(b)
Fuse TripSaver Automation	Connects and automates 160 fuse TripSavers to SCADA network over 4 years. This will enable BVES to improve safety and resiliency of its grid operations and provide improved service support during high fire threat weather events.	2023 2024 2025 2026	\$195,483 \$139,073 \$139,221 \$143,398	Sections 40101(e)(1)(C), 40101(e)(1)(I), 40101(e)(1)(K), and 40107(a) 42 U.S.C. § 17386(b)
North Shore Expansion Project	Installs new feeder from Fawnskin Substation that is double circuited along the western mainline that effectively serves as an express feed to Fawnskin. This arrangement allows splitting the load to allow for better voltage support and system load expansion. Additionally, sets the system up to at a future date install a substation close to Fawnskin by converting one of the circuits to 34 kV.	2024	\$2,932,505	Sections 40101(e)(1)(B), 40101(e)(1)(D), 40101(e)(1)(E), 40101(e)(1)(F), 40101(e)(1)(K), and 40101(e)(1)(L)

BVES Summary of Proposed Projects that may Qualify for IIJA Funding

Project	Description	Period of Execution	Total Estimated Cost	Applicable Section of IIJA
Partial Safety and Technical Upgrades to Maltby Substation	Installs safety, reliability, and technical upgrades to the Maltby Substation. Replaces overhead regulators with pad-mounted regulators, installs pad-mounted IntelliRupter switches, converts substation to be fully underground and updates substation controls. Installs SCADA and physical security enhancements.	2023	\$1,805,973	Sections 40101(e)(1)(B), 40101(e)(1)(C), and 40101(e)(1)(K)
Partial Safety and Technical Upgrades to Village Substation	Installs safety, reliability, and technical upgrades to the Village Substation. Replaces overhead regulators with pad-mounted regulators, installs pad-mounted IntelliRupter switches, converts substation to be fully underground and updates substation controls. Installs SCADA and physical security enhancements.	2023	\$1,226,642	Sections 40101(e)(1)(B), 40101(e)(1)(C), and 40101(e)(1)(K)
Safety and Technical Upgrades to Lake Substation	Installs safety, reliability, and technical upgrades to the Lake Substation and converts the existing substation from an overhead-type to a fully automated underground and pad-mounted design. Installs SCADA and physical security enhancements.	2023	\$2,214,909	Sections 40101(e)(1)(B), 40101(e)(1)(C), and 40101(e)(1)(K)

BVES Summary of Proposed Projects that may Qualify for IIJA Funding

Project	Description	Period of Execution	Total Estimated Cost	Applicable Section of IIJA
Vegetation Management Program	Project provides a comprehensive vegetation management process to: (i) ensure that vegetation does not encroach upon the minimum clearances set forth in regulation, measured between line conductors and vegetation; (ii) reduce the ignition probability and wildfire consequence attributable to “at-risk species” trees, such as trimming, removal, and replacement; (iii) identify, remove, or otherwise remediate trees that pose a high risk of failure or fracture that could potentially strike electrical equipment; and (iv) maintain a centralized vegetation management enterprise system updated based upon inspection results and management activities such as trimming and removal of vegetation.	2023 2024 2025 2026 2027	\$2,000,000 \$2,060,000 \$2,121,800 \$2,185,454 \$2,251,018	Section 40101(e)(1)(G)
Evacuation Route Hardening Program	Project hardens approximately 500 wood poles per year by installing wire wrap fire protection system on the poles along roadways that would be used by residents in BVES’s service area to evacuate in the event of a wildfire or other disaster.	2023 2024 2025 2026 2027	\$810,256 \$834,563 \$859,600 \$885,388 \$913,774	Sections 40101(e)(1)(B), 40101(e)(1)(E), and 40101(e)(1)(K)
Tree Attachment Removal Project	This project is dedicated to the removal of existing distribution line tree attachments in BVES’s distribution system and it includes costs for replacing tree attachments with poles as necessary to safely and reliably route distribution lines and service lines to customers, which will improve system reliability and safety and reduce potential fire hazards in the High Fire Threat District Tier 2 and 3 areas. The project will remove approximately 100 tree attachments per year over 5 years.	2023 2024 2025 2026 2027	\$598,988 \$616,957 \$635,466 \$654,530 \$674,166	Sections 40101(e)(1)(B), 40101(e)(1)(E), 40101(e)(1)(F), 40101(e)(1)(K), and 40101(e)(1)(L)

BVES Summary of Proposed Projects that may Qualify for IIJA Funding

Project	Description	Period of Execution	Total Estimated Cost	Applicable Section of IIJA
Install Fault Indicators	This initiative installs over 129 fault indicators (FIs) in the BVES system to support early detection and remediation of circuit faults and reduces crew deployment response time and restoration time.	2022-23	\$526,521	Sections 40101(e)(1)(C), 40101(e)(1)(I), 40101(e)(1)(K), and 40107(a) 42 U.S.C. § 17386(b)