



Supplier Diversity

2023 Annual Report & 2024 Annual Plan

Report to the California Public Utilities Commission



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Introduction

Beginning in 2018, the City of Irvine, CA began pursuing opportunities to form a Community Choice Aggregator (CCA), made possible by Assembly Bill 117 (AB 117), with the following objectives:

- 1) Provide cost-competitive electric services;
- 2) Promote local economic development;
- 3) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to the use of electric power within Orange County; and
- 4) Increase the use of renewable energy resources relative to the incumbent utility.

A technical feasibility study for the CCA Program was completed in January 2020. After nearly 11 months of collaborative work by representatives of the founding member Agencies¹ plus independent consultants, local experts and stakeholders, Orange County Power Authority (OCPA) was formed in November 2020 for purposes of implementing Orange County's first community choice energy program.

In October 2023, OCPA celebrated its first full year of service for both residential and commercial customers. OCPA ended the 2023 calendar year serving 232,810 residential and 33,361 commercial customers. OCPA offers three rate plans, with a pre-selected plan selected by each member agency's leaders. Buena Park, Huntington Beach, and Irvine all opted for 100% Renewable Choice rate plan and Fullerton opted for the Smart Choice 69% renewable rate plan. All new customers are enrolled into the OCPA plan pre-selected by the member in whose jurisdiction they reside, but always have a choice to move between rate plans, including the Basic Choice 38% renewable rate plan.

In December 2022, the OCPA Board of Directors set the rate schedule for 2023, which took effect in mid-January, offering a Basic Choice 38% renewable rate plan at a cost 2% lower than the incumbent investor-owned utility's (IOU's) equivalent generation rates. In January 2024, the OCPA Board of Directors set a new rate schedule for 2024, increasing the discount offered, and increasing the renewable energy content in each product offering. The changes resulted in OCPA offering its Basic Choice renewable rate plan at a cost 3% lower than the IOU's equivalent generation rate with a minimum of 44% renewable energy. The Smart Choice plan now offers 72% renewable energy.

¹ Founding member agencies consist of the cities of Irvine, Fullerton, Buena Park, and Huntington Beach.

As a member of OCPA, customers can count on stable and competitive electric rates; increased renewable energy; and the opportunity to take advantage of energy efficiency rebates, educational programs, and grants for businesses to create more energy-efficient facilities.

OCPA is operating from a position of strength and purchasing the necessary power for its customers who are committed to bringing cleaner energy to our communities and reducing dependence on fossil fuels. While OCPA is still a young organization, it will work to establish a supplier diversity program and identify ways to increase procurement from small, local, and diverse businesses. OCPA will do so within the limitations of Proposition 209, which prohibits government agencies like CCAs from giving preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in hiring or contracting.

Section 9.1.1 - Description of Supplier Diversity Program Activities During the Previous Calendar Year (2023)

In 2023, OCPA was focused on engaging with local leaders, making connections with diverse communities, increasing awareness of our organization and mission, and hiring staff to build out our CCA. OCPA attended a variety of local business and chamber of commerce events with the goal of increasing knowledge and awareness of power and non-power contracts available to businesses, as well as offering technical assistance to businesses thinking of applying to be an OCPA vendor.

The list of local and diverse business outreach activities included:

Date	Event/Meeting	Description
April 6, 2023	Small Business Diversity Network - Access to Capital	Panel and expo for diverse business owners to learn how to work engage with corporate entities and access resources to facilitate business growth
April 11, 2023	Asian Business Association OC - Corporate Advisory Board Meeting	Discussion for ABAOC to learn how to engage with corporate entities regarding supplier diversity goals most effectively
May 11, 2023	OC Procurement Alliance	A large forum and network of government procurement professionals meeting to discuss trends, successes, and best practices
July 27, 2023	FACCOC - Power Networking Luncheon	Introduced the concept of CCA and OCPA to Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County (FACCOC) members
August 3, 2023	VACOC - Board Meeting Luncheon	Introduced the concept of CCA and OCPA to Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce Orange County (VACOC) members
August 22, 2023	Asian Business Association OC - Business Panel	Panel discussion for small and diverse business owners to learn how to engage with public agencies', i.e., OCPA's, business needs
September 17, 2023	Fiesta Latina en Irvine	Expo for local businesses and stakeholders to commemorate and highlight the city's cultural diversity
September 23, 2023	Buena Park Culture Fest	Expo for local businesses and stakeholders to commemorate and highlight the city's cultural diversity
September 19, 2023	Small Business Diversity Network -	Panel and expo for diverse business owners to learn the benefits and process of become certified

	State of Procurement Conference	vendors for procurement
September 21, 2023	OC Black Chamber - Annual Banquet	Commemorative event for the OC Black Chamber and its members/partners
September 23, 2023	OCIACC - Mehregan Fall Festival	Expo for various organizations to engage with members of the OC Iranian American Chamber of Commerce
September 27, 2023	CPUC Annual Go 156 Supplier Diversity Expo	Expo for small and diverse businesses to meet with representatives from utility companies, public agencies, community choice aggregators, prime contractors, resource centers and other businesses
September 28, 2023	CPUC Annual Go 156 Supplier Diversity En Banc	Forum for small and diverse businesses to learn from representatives of utility companies, public agencies, community choice aggregators, prime contractors, resource centers and other businesses
October 28, 2023	Ektaa Diwali Fest 2023	Expo for local businesses and stakeholders to commemorate and highlight the city of Irvine's cultural diversity
November 17, 2023	ABAOC Awards Gala	Recognized by ABAOC as a Sustainability Advocate and partner
November 17, 2023	FACCOC - Gala & Awards Luncheon	Recognized by the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County for OCPA's work in sustainability

In June 2023, OCPA held two (2) multicultural briefings to further expand community choice energy awareness among community leaders. To complement multicultural outreach, OCPA regularly seeks energy and sustainability forums to help promote ways local businesses can partner with OCPA. Industry-specific presentations included the following presentations:

- Exchange Club of Irvine
- Climate Resiliency in Orange County Investigative Hearing
- Sustain SoCal 14th Annual Energy Event
- OC Leaders Roundtable: Clean Energy Choice (Climate Action Campaign)

OCPA continues to translate notices to residential customers and other print collateral into several languages to reflect Orange County's cultural diversity. In 2023, OCPA added two more languages to our operational processes to increase access to information and education. OCPA is now translating notices and other key communication materials into Spanish, Chinese (traditional), Chinese (simplified), Korean, Vietnamese, Farsi, Arabic, Tagalog, and Japanese. OCPA will continue to conduct outreach to these communities

and find new opportunities to engage with more diverse groups and associations meaningfully.

In addition, OCPA staff continue to participate in CPUC Supplier Diversity and CCA Staff Quarterly Meetings to learn new strategies and find better ways to engage with small and diverse businesses.

In compliance with Proposition 209, OCPA explicitly does not give preferential treatment to bidders based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. OCPA issued a voluntary supplier diversity survey in January 2024 to collect information for this report. The survey can be found in Appendix A.

In summary, a total of 14 suppliers responded to the survey issued in January where two (2) respondents identified as “Qualified as a WMDVLGBTBE but not GO 156 Certified.” The other 12 indicated that they are not certified and do not qualify. OCPA has identified the need to continue to educate existing and future vendors about the CPUC’s Supplier Clearinghouse registration process and how a business may qualify.

More information about future steps OCPA plans to take can be found in section 10.1.2.

Section 9.1.2 – Supplier Diversity Results of Goods and Services (non- power purchases) if procured

		Direct Spend \$	Sub Spend \$	Total \$	%	Product Spend \$	Service Spend \$	Total \$	%
Minority Male	African American	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Asian Pacific American	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hispanic American	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Native American	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Minority Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Minority Female	African American	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Asian Pacific American	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hispanic American	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Native American	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Minority Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Women Business Enterprise (WBE)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Business Enterprise (LGBTBE)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Persons with Disabilities Business Enterprise (DBE)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8(a)*		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Supplier Diversity Spend		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Procurement						\$7,713,413			
Net Product Procurement						\$1,089,753			
Net Service Procurement						\$6,623,660			
Total Number of Diverse Suppliers that Received Direct Spend						N/A			

Section 9.1.2 –Description of Diverse Suppliers with Majority Workforce in California

Per Proposition 209, public agencies, such as OCPA, are prohibited from granting preferential treatment to an individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. Therefore, OCPA is limited in the actions it can take to diversify its procurement. Since its establishment in November 2020, OCPA has focused on creating a financially stable organization and hiring staff for its operations. Moreover, OCPA has enacted several policies to guide future procurement of products, services, and power.

OCPA sent a voluntary supplier diversity survey (Appendix A) to our vendors to collect data on certification status, barriers to certification, and their internal supplier diversity efforts.

For 2023, OCPA received 14 responses, representing a 55% increase in responses over the 9 responses received for the 2022 calendar year report. Despite receiving a low response rate, OCPA is encouraged by the progress and will continue to educate the business community on how to do business with OCPA. Accordingly, OCPA intends to continue enhancing and building out its supplier diversity program and strategy to increase the response rate for future reports.

OCPA began enrolling its first customers into electric service in April 2022, and this enrollment process continued through 2023. During this period, OCPA experienced significant growth in operations and resources, which will be captured in future versions of this report. In the meantime, the 2023 report captures the early start-up phase of the organization and the spend of its resources.

Based on the results of the survey sent out, none of the respondents were a certified Diverse Supplier. However, nine (9) of the fourteen businesses that responded indicated they are headquartered in California with a majority workforce in California.

Section 9.1.3 – Supplier Diversity Program Expense

Expense Category	Year (Actual)
Wages	\$9,800
Other Employee Expenses	\$0
Program Expenses	\$0
Reporting Expenses	\$3,000
Training	\$0
Consultants	\$5,625
Other	\$30,165
TOTAL	\$48,590

Section 9.1.5 – Description of Prime Contractors Utilization of Diverse Subcontractors

OCPA's Prime contractors did not report any WMDVLGBTBE subcontractor spend in 2023. In 2024, OCPA will develop efforts and initiatives to encourage prime contractors to increase their utilization of diverse subcontractors. This will include but not be limited to connecting prime contractors with diverse suppliers.

Section 9.1.6 – List of Supplier Diversity Complaints Received and Current Status

OCPA has not received any WMDVLGBTBE complaints.

Section 9.1.9 – Description of Supplier Diversity Activities and Progress in Power Procurement

None of the power suppliers responded as being GO 156 certified. OCPA looks forward to working with the power supplier industry to further the efforts of GO 156 within the limits of Proposition 209.

Section 9.1.9 – Supplier Diversity Results in Power Procurement

			Direct Power Purchases \$	Direct Fuels for Generation \$			Totals \$		%
			Renewable and Non-Renewable Power Products	Diesel	Nuclear	Natural Gas	Direct	Sub	Total \$
1		African American	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2	Minority Male	Asian Pacific American	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
3		Hispanic American	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4		Native American	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5		Total Minority Male	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
6		African American	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
7	Minority Female	Asian Pacific American	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
8		Hispanic American	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9		Native American	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
10		Total Minority Female	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11	Total Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
12	Women Business Enterprise (WBE)		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
13	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Business Enterprise (LGBTBE)		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
14	Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE)		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
15	Persons with Disabilities Business Enterprises (DBE)		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	0
16	8(a)		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
17	Total Supplier Diversity		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
18	Net Power Procurement		\$267,471,486						
19	Net Direct Power Purchases		\$267,471,486						
20	Net Direct Fuels for Generation		\$0						
21	Total Number of Diverse Suppliers		0						

Section 10.2 – Description of Supplier Diversity Program Activities Planned for the Next Calendar Year (2024) & Plans to Encourage Prime Contractors to Subcontract Small, Local, and Diverse Businesses

This coming year promises to be an exciting one for OCPA as we plan and look to move closer toward the goals upon which we were founded. In 2024, we will seek to further support our small, local, and diverse businesses with the Supplier Diversity activities that are set forth below:

- Continue and expand memberships and event sponsorships with local and ethnic chambers, business associations, and professional associations.
- With support from OCPA's Community Advisory Committee, identify and pursue opportunities for deeper engagement with local and ethnic chambers and business associations through participation in economic development and business advocacy committees, and collaboration on outreach and training events aimed at local, small, and diverse businesses that are potential OCPA suppliers.
- Collaborate with member agencies on diverse supplier outreach and training events and promotional materials.
- Participate in the CPUC/Joint Utilities Business Expo and support similar regional events in collaboration with member agencies, chambers, CCAs, energy partners, and other entities.
- Continue outreach, advocacy, and support for diverse supplier certification through the CPUC Supplier Clearinghouse.
- Refine data collection practices and processes within the organization.
- Host a workshop with CPUC staff to create better awareness of the Supplier Clearinghouse and its certification method.
- Educate internal staff on the Supplier Clearinghouse registration process to better assist businesses that may want to certify.
- Educate relevant staff on how to search the Supplier Diversity Clearinghouse to identify additional potential vendors for future supply needs.

- Report on local businesses as well as those certified as small businesses by the California Department of General Services.

OCPA will seek to further encourage our prime contractors to engage small, local, and diverse businesses.

Building on last year's comprehensive outreach, the coming year's plans will focus on enhancing engagement with diverse business communities through financial literacy panels, corporate advisory sessions, sustainability-themed networking luncheons, and educational workshops on digital trends and business resilience. Emphasizing collaboration with community organizations and incorporating virtual events will ensure broader reach and inclusivity.

Sections Not Applicable to CCAs

Section 9.1.2: Number Of WMDLGBTBE Suppliers and Revenue Reported to The Clearinghouse

Section 9.1.4: Description Of Progress in Meeting or Exceeding Set Goals and An Explanation Why Goals Are Not Met

Section 9.1.7: A Description of Efforts Made to Recruit WMDLGBTBE Suppliers in Underutilized and Highly Technical Categories

Section 9.1.11 Fuel Procurement

Section 10.1.1: WMDLGBTBE Annual Short-, Mid, And Long-Term Goals by Product and Service Category

Section 10.1.3: Plans For Recruiting WMDLGBTBE Suppliers in Underutilized Categories

Section 10.1.4: Plans For Recruiting WMDLGBTBE Suppliers in Currently Unavailable Areas

Section 10.1.5: Plans For Encouraging Prime Contractors to Subcontract with WMDLGBTBE Suppliers

Section 10.1.6: Plans For Complying with The WMDLGBTBE Program Guidelines Established By The Commission As Required By Public Utilities Code §8283(C)

Appendix A – OCPA Voluntary Supplier Diversity Survey



2023 Supplier Diversity Survey - Orange County Power Authority

The survey will take approximately 7 minutes to complete.

Note that not all questions may apply to your business.

For the questions that do not apply, please skip them or answer "not applicable."

OCPA will not use any information received from this survey in any way as part of a current or future decision-making or selection process. Rather, OCPA will use such information solely for compliance with its reporting obligations to the California Public Utilities Commission and evaluation of OCPA's outreach and other activities consistent with applicable law. Pursuant to Article I, Section 31 of the California Constitution (adopted by Proposition 209), OCPA does not discriminate against or give preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin.

*Pursuant to Proposition 209, OCPA does not give preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. Providing information in these categories is optional and will not impact the selection process. Responses are collected for informational and reporting purposes only pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 255.

* Required

1. Please enter your email address: *

2. Business Name: *

3. Where is your business located/headquartered? *

4. Is your business certified under General Order 156 (GO 156)?

General Order 156 (GO 156) is a California Public Utilities Commission ruling that requires utility entities to report annually on their contracts with majority women-owned, minority-owned, disabled veteran- owned and LGBT-owned business enterprises (WMDVLGBTBEs) in all categories.

Qualified businesses become GO 156 Certified through the CPUC and are then added to the GO 156 Clearinghouse database at <https://sch.thesupplierclearinghouse.com/> *

Yes

No

Qualified as a WMDVLGBTBE but not GO 156 Certified

5. If certified, when does your certification expire? *



6. If you answered "yes" or "qualified but not certified", under which categories? Please choose all that apply.

*Pursuant to Proposition 209, OCPA does not give preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. Providing information in these categories is optional and will not impact any current or future selection process. *

Minority owned

Woman owned

LGBT owned

Disabled Veteran owned

Other 8(a) (found to be disadvantaged by the US Small Business Administration)

7. If a minority-owned business enterprise, certified or qualified as which of the following?

*Pursuant to Proposition 209, OCPA does not give preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. Providing information in these categories is optional and will not impact any current or future selection process.

*

African American

Asian American

Hispanic American

Native American

8. Please list the Standardized Industrial Code (SIC) of the products and services contracted for.

Reference sheet, here: www.osha.gov/data/sic-manual *

9. If certified, please list your business's annual revenue as reported to the Supplier Clearinghouse.

Refer to: <https://sch.thesupplierclearinghouse.com/> *

10. If your business is qualified but not GO 156 certified, please explain why your business has not gone through the certification process. *

11. If your business will use GO 156 certified subcontractors for your OCPA contract, please include a list of your subcontractor business names, if their subcontract is for products or services, and the anticipated subcontract amount.

Example: Electrical Design Technology, Inc; products (batteries); \$100,000.

If OCPA is audited, we'll ask you for demonstration that subcontractor payments have occurred, such as a canceled check, bank statement, etc. *

12. If applicable, please describe any hiring targets your business has for minority- owned, women-owned, LGBTQ-owned, or disabled veteran-owned subcontractors. *

13. Does your business have a history of using apprenticeship programs, local-hires, union labor, or multi-trade project labor agreements?

Local hires can be defined as labor sourced from within OCPA's service area which includes the cities and towns of Buena Park, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, and Irvine. *

- Yes, apprenticeship programs in this recent contract with OCPA
- Yes, local labor in this recent contract with OCPA
- Yes, union labor in this recent contract with OCPA
- Yes, multi-trade PLA in this recent contract with OCPA
- Yes, apprenticeship programs but not in this contract with OCPA
- Yes, history of local hire but not in this contract with OCPA
- Yes, history of union labor but not in this contract with OCPA
- Yes, history of multi-trade PLA but not in this contract with OCPA
- Uses California-based labor, but not local to OCPA service area
- None of the above

14. If you answered yes, please describe your history with labor agreements, union labor, multi-trade labor, apprenticeship labor, or how many local workers/businesses you employ for your contract with OCPA. *

15. Does your business pay workers prevailing wage rates or the equivalent?

Prevailing wage in California is required by state law for all workers employed on public works projects and determined by the California Department of Industrial Relations according to the type of work and location of the project. To see the latest prevailing wage rates, go to www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/Prevailing-Wage.html *

- Yes, including for this contract with OCPA
- Yes, but not for this contract with OCPA
- No
- Not Applicable

16. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

If you'd like for us to promote your survey participation on our social media, please include your handles here.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Microsoft. The data you submit will be sent to the form owner.