



City of Colusa California

STAFF REPORT

DATE: November 4, 2025
TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Jesse Cain, City Manager

AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution of the City of Colusa requesting membership in pioneer community energy and approving the amended and restated joint exercise of powers agreement and creating an Ordinance authorizing the implementation of a community choice aggregation program in the City of Colusa.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City of Colusa City Council:

- 1) Accept the findings of the Impact Assessment Study;
- 2) Introduce and approve the first reading of the Pioneer Community Energy Ordinance authorizing the implementation of a Community Choice Aggregation Program in the City of Colusa under Public Utilities Code section 366.2; and
- 3) Adopt the Resolution requesting membership in Pioneer Community Energy and approving the Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement

BACKGROUND ANALYSIS:

Pioneer Community Energy (Pioneer) is a Joint Powers Authority formed between the Counties of Placer and El Dorado, the Town of Loomis, and the Cities of Auburn, Colfax, Grass Valley, Lincoln, Nevada City, Placerville, and Rocklin.

Pioneer is a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program authorized under Assembly Bill 117 (2002). The CCA provides local control over the electricity supply with a primary objective of providing competitive rates for the residents and businesses within its member jurisdictions. CCA Programs allow local governments to procure electricity generation on behalf of residents and businesses at wholesale market rates while still utilizing the existing transmission and distribution infrastructure of utilities like PG&E.

Pioneer purchases the electricity supply (generation), and PG&E transmits and delivers the power through PG&E's infrastructure (poles and wires). PG&E continues to own, operate, and

maintain its distribution infrastructure, as well as to provide meter reading and billing services for Pioneer's customers.

Pioneer is governed by its Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, including Amendments Nos. 1 through 7.

ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION

In July 2025, Pioneer staff made a presentation to the City of Colusa City Manager about the benefits of joining a CCA in general and Pioneer specifically. An Impact Assessment Study ("IAS") was authorized.

The purpose of an IAS is to determine projected financial outcomes related to the expansion of Pioneer's service territory. The study provides information regarding energy products pricing, customer energy usage, and forecasting. The results of the IAS are a key decision point in the expansion process. The study examined 24 consecutive months of data for residents and businesses, for consumption patterns and electricity load requirements to forecast future consumption and costs.

The Impact Assessment Study found:

- Expansion into the City of Colusa is positive. The Pioneer Board also approved adding Colusa County and City of Williams to the Impact Assessment Study.
- When comparing current rates to projected power supply costs at time of launch, the study supports expansion in October 2027.

Study findings were presented to the Pioneer Governing Board at its October 14 meeting. The Pioneer Board reviewed findings of the Impact Assessment Study and agreed that the optimal time for a service launch into expansion territories is October 2027. The Board has already received CPUC approval for an expansion into the following jurisdictions in October 2027: Counties of Butte, Nevada, Sutter, and Tuolumne; the Cities of Chico, Oroville, Live Oak, Sonora, and Yuba City; and the Town of Paradise. The Board approved the process of amending the JPA to allow the Counties of Colusa and Madera, along with Cities of Chowchilla, Colusa and Williams to join the October 2027 expansion effort.

Significant benefits to joining Pioneer include:

- **Stable and Competitive Rates** – From 2018 through 2024, Pioneer customers have saved \$108 million, with an additional \$37 million in anticipated savings in 2025.
- **Local Control** – As a member of the JPA, each County/City will have one seat on the Pioneer Board of Directors. This person is appointed by the Board/Council from the elected officials. All meetings are open to the public and every representative's voice will be heard.
- **Legislative & Regulatory Influence & Advocacy** – Pioneer is an advocate for the member agency residents and businesses by working with the California State Legislature, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the California Energy Commission, and PG&E on behalf of customer interests and concerns.

- Local Jobs and Power Supply Resources – Pioneer supports local business and prioritizes local power contracts, goods and services. The projected savings for Pioneer customers will result in additional spending by residents and businesses, further stimulating the local economy.
- Programs – The new members will have an impact on energy efficiency programs that are developed and the ability to customize programs to meet their specific needs.

If approved by the City of Colusa, Pioneer plans to submit an Implementation Plan detailing Pioneer's expansion and planned service launch to the CPUC in December 2025. Based on results of the Impact Assessment Study, the optimal time for a service launch into expansion territories is October 2027, which allows Pioneer's procurement team the time needed to secure power resources while remaining in compliance and avoids the costly summer months. Pioneer will work with the City on a comprehensive education and outreach campaign to ensure a strong public understanding of expansion into each area.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

The adoption of the Resolution does not constitute a project and is therefore exempt from the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines. Further, the action is exempt from CEQA, as there is no possibility that the resolution or its implementation would have a significant effect on the environment. (14 Cal. Code Reg. § 15061(b)(3)).

BUDGET IMPACT: The fiscal impact was a cap of \$15,000, split between Colusa County and the City of Williams to fund half of the cost of the Impact Assessment Study, with Pioneer funding the other half. There is no risk to the General Fund as the cost to serve the new members is funded through Pioneer rates

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution 25-

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution of the City Council of the City of Colusa Requesting Membership in Pioneer Community Energy and Approving the Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement as Amended

An Ordinance of the Colusa City Council Authorizing the Implementation of a Community Choice Aggregation Program in the City of Colusa

Exhibit A Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers agreement