

# Staff Report: Riverside Community Solar Update

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## Riverside Community Solar Supports:



- Our Climate Future Big Move 12: 100% Renewable Electricity



- City Council Priority 6: Reduce climate pollution & air pollution through best practice, emphasizing electrification

## What is Community Solar?

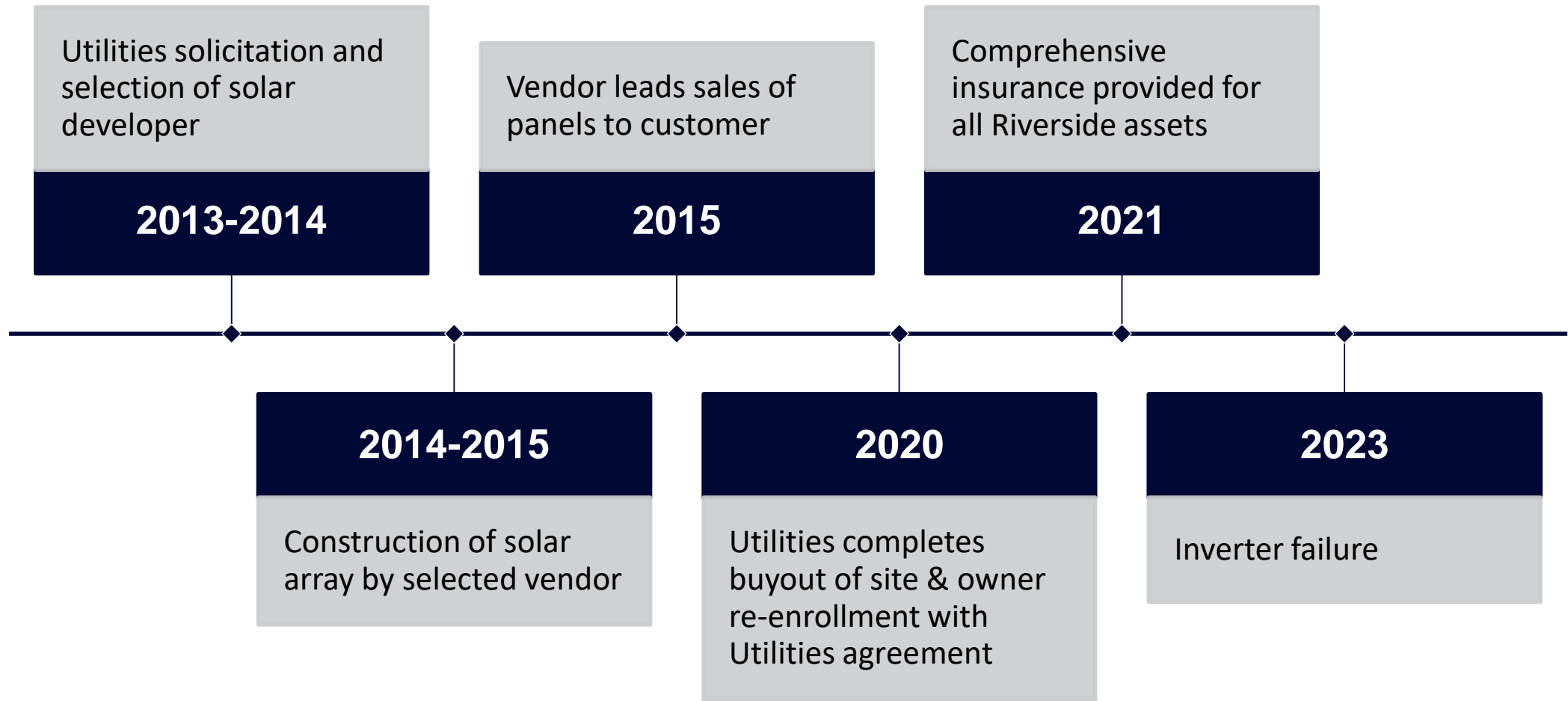
- A programmatic solution to make solar accessible to customers who cannot or do not want to put panels on their own structure

## Riverside Community Solar Project

- Built in 2015
- 500 kW (AC)
- 207 Owners
- Developed by 3rd party



# Background: Timeline of Events



## Panel Owner Role

- Upfront investment during construction.
  - Average investment was \$4,350 (after federal tax credit and local incentives).
- Gain monthly credit benefit.
  - Average annual credit for 2022 was \$278.

## Utilities Role

- Operation and maintenance of the array.
- Distribution of bill credits.
- Customer service.
  - Account management, changes, support customers when selling or buying.





# What happened at Riverside Community Solar?



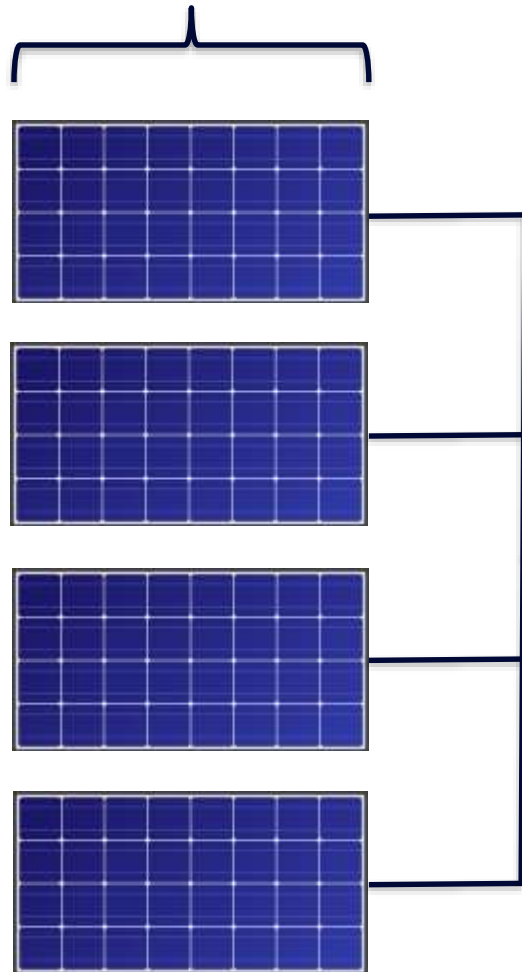
On August 20, 2023, inverter equipment failed.

Inverter: Electrical equipment that is critical for converting solar energy into usable electricity.

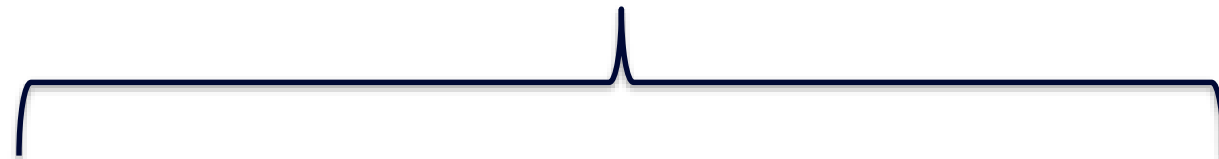
Upon failure, array is no longer producing energy and bill credits are no longer provided to owners

# Conceptual diagram of existing Riverside equipment

Riverside Owner equipment



City-owned equipment

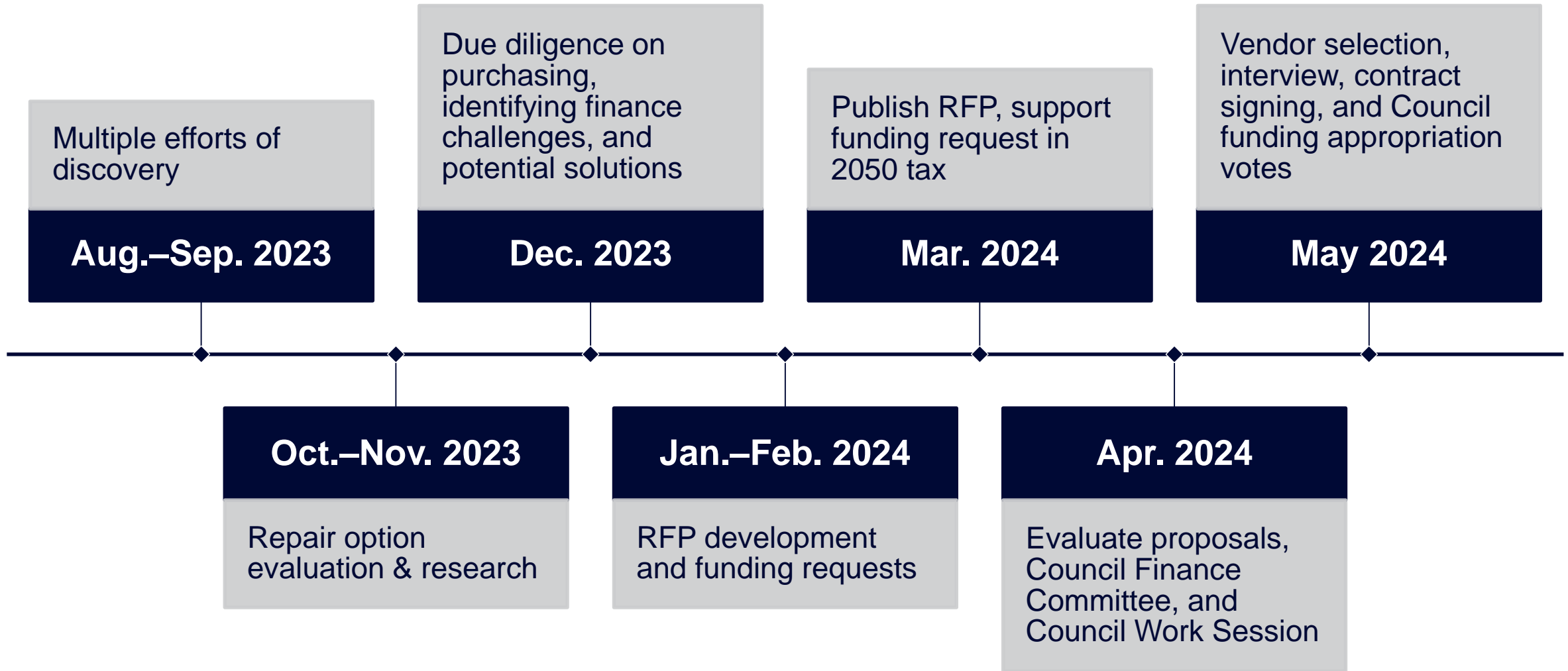


To distribution grid



Failed equipment

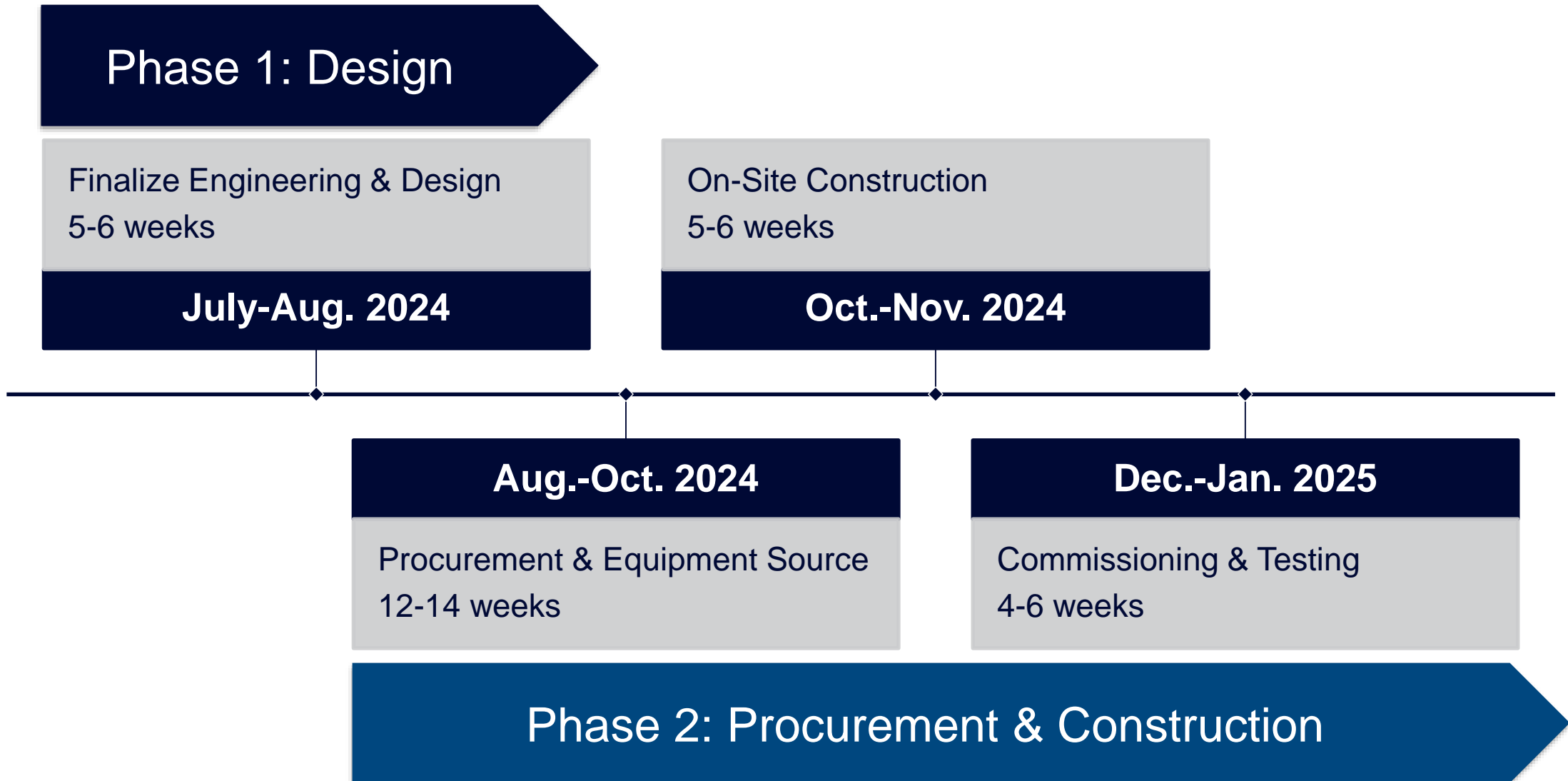
# Timeline to Resolution: Why Has it Taken So Long to Fix?





# Key Utilities Criteria for Evaluating Solutions

- ✓ Accelerate timeline for repair to resume owner bill credits.
- ✓ Minimize likelihood of future failure.
- ✓ Minimize financial impact for owners associated with repair.
- ✓ Maximize lifetime of remaining existing equipment.
- ✓ Maximize remaining O&M fund for potential future needs.





- Total budgetary estimate: \$300,000
  - o \$250,000 from 2050 Tax appropriation
  - o \$50,000 from operations and maintenance fund



- Total estimated timeline for re-energizing is 7-8 months from contract execution



## Transparency & Accuracy Has Been the Focus for C&E.



8 Status updates posted to panel owner website



8 email updates to 200+ panel owners



2 in-person meetings with > 100 total attendees



Custom FAQ section



Recorded presentation



Development of Advisory Committee

Continue to focus on redesign and repair with preferred contractor

Further development Advisory Committee and owner engagement

Develop strategic funding plan for remaining site lifetime



# Questions?

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# Backup Slides



# Personal Ownership Financials: Example 10 Panel Share

<b>For Illustrative Purposes Only</b>	
Net system purchase price after Utilities incentive	\$6,227
Federal tax incentive at 30%	<u>-\$1,868</u>
<i>Net cost after Federal incentive</i>	<b>\$4,359</b>
Bill credits received to-date	<u>-\$2,311</u>
<i>Remaining expense</i>	<b>\$2,048</b>
Divide by annual value generated*	<u>÷ \$278/year</u>
<b>Additional time to complete simple payback</b>	<b>7-8 years</b>

\*Caveats:

- Utility Net Metering Credit rates and rate structures are subject to change
- O&M withholding percentage is subject to change
- Riverside annual production post-repair is not yet known
- Assumed annual credits of \$278 as witnessed in 2022