

## **Background on Solar Projects**

In 2017, the Board of Education initiated this project by selecting Sage Consulting / NV5 through a competitive Request for Qualifications process. Their role was to conduct a feasibility study to assess the potential for installing solar PV systems at various District sites.

Following this initial phase, in October 2022, SRCS adhered to the California Environmental Quality Act process and filed Notice of Exemptions with the County Clerk for all potential solar PV locations. A community meeting was held in December 2022 to share information and gather feedback from our Venetia Valley TK-8 School, San Rafael High School, and Terra Linda High School neighbors.

A crucial factor driving this project forward is the PG&E Net Energy Metering 2 (NEM 2) policy. SRCS is currently grandfathered under NEM 2, which offers favorable pricing for solar energy. However, this benefit will expire if the solar PV systems are not constructed before April 2026. Without NEM 2 pricing, the financial advantages of the solar PV portfolio for the District would be significantly reduced.

In February 2023, SRCS issued a competitive Request for Proposals for the District-Wide Solar PV Project. After a thorough evaluation process, including interviews held in April 2023, REC Solar was selected as our partner. REC Solar brings over 20 years of experience in the solar industry, including a strong track record of installing more than 100 systems for TK-12 school districts.

In April 2023, following negotiations and the development of conceptual designs, the Board approved a resolution to enter into Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) with REC Solar Commercial Corporation (REC Solar).

In this arrangement for a PPA, REC Solar takes responsibility for the design, permitting, financing and installation of the solar PV systems on District property. In turn, SRCS purchases the electricity generated by these systems from REC Solar at rates lower than those offered by PG&E, resulting in cost savings for the District. REC Solar benefits from the income generated through the sale of electricity, as well as any applicable tax credits and other incentives associated with the solar systems. Importantly, REC Solar remains responsible for the operation and maintenance of the solar PV systems throughout the 25-year term of the agreement.

We are excited about the significant financial benefits this project will bring to our schools. Over the 25-year lifespan of the solar PV portfolio, the estimated savings for the District is \$5,965,000. We are committed to keeping you informed as this project progresses and appreciate your understanding and support.