



Title: WENEXUS: Clean Energy Solutions at the Water-Energy Nexus Team name: WTG ClimateTech

Short description: WTG ClimateTech, in partnership with the California Association of Mutual Water Companies (CalMutuals), California Advocacy, LLC, Dr. Victor Medina of TRC Companies, and Dr. Wei Liao of Michigan State University, proposes to deliver clean energy projects that reside in the water-energy nexus for small, small-disadvantaged, and rural communities. Many of these target areas need next-generation water infrastructure that targets emerging contaminants and a backup supply of water and energy to enable climate resilience. Our team's mission includes utilizing our expertise in cleantech, regulatory affairs, compliance, and connectivity with decision-makers in California to create a successful case study for upgrading the water-energy infrastructure of small rural communities. The case study generated during this DOE HeroX Prize can be duplicated with site customization throughout rural, small, disadvantaged, and other types of communities throughout California. Our central goal for the DOE HeroX prize is to provide a backup power supply for small and rural mutual water companies that are out of compliance with the California Senate Bill 552 and upgrade the current water infrastructure with clean energy technologies that remove vulnerabilities, lower GHG and enable climate resiliency. Bill 552 mandates that water systems with less than 3000 connections provide adequate backup electrical supply no later than January 1, 2024, as a drought resilience measure. Our vision for this proposal, however, goes beyond the mandates of this bill. In the areas where we propose to work, we find that the community water infrastructure is "at risk" and there is an opportunity to bring a clean energy project that alleviates many different types of water/energy concerns and reduces GHG. We will develop a holistic approach to the water-energy concerns for the community to improve their quality of life. Our suite of validated technologies, described later in this proposal, will serve as the template for implementing clean energy technology in rural California. Additionally, our partner California Advocacy LLC is highly experienced at advocating for funding from the California legislature for rural California. Long-term our proposal will create a successful case study for creating partnerships, advocacy, and clean energy solutions that can be duplicated throughout California and elsewhere.



Link to video pitch: <https://youtu.be/7raR7CM7090>

Key project members:

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