



# OPALCO

Co-op Run. Community Powered.

## Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2026 Virtual  
Meeting via Zoom

Members may participate in the regular board meetings via Zoom. The first part of the meeting is reserved for member questions and comments. For security purposes, staff will be checking Zoom identities so please use your first and last name or you may not be let into the meeting. Please follow the protocols listed below:

- Mute yourself unless talking,
- Use your first and last name in your Zoom identity,
- Chat if you have a question/comment and the monitor will put you in the queue,
- OPALCO's Policy 17 - Member Participation at OPALCO Meetings decorum must be followed.

The Zoom link will be updated monthly. Members can get the link to the meeting, submit any comments and questions in writing no less than 24 hours in advance of each meeting to: [communications@opalco.com](mailto:communications@opalco.com)

### Sequence of Events

- OPALCO Board Meeting
- Executive Session



Board of Directors  
Regular Board Meeting  
April 16, 2026, 8:30 A.M.\* Virtual  
Meeting via Zoom

*\*Time is approximate; if all Board members are present, the meeting may begin earlier or later than advertised. The Board President has the authority to modify the sequence of the agenda.*

**WELCOME GUESTS/MEMBERS**

*Members attending the board meeting acknowledge that they may be recorded, and the recording posted to OPALCO's website. Members are expected to conduct themselves with civility and decorum, consistent with Member Service Policy 17. If you would like answers to specific questions, please email [communications@opalco.com](mailto:communications@opalco.com) for post-meeting follow-up.*

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Legal, Personnel, Competitive, Other

ADJOURNMENT

# ACTION ITEMS

## Consent Agenda

All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Board with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed as an Action Item at the request of a Board member.

The Consent Agenda includes:

- **Minutes** of the previous meeting and special meeting – attached.
- **Approval of New Members** – attached {as required by Bylaws Article I Section 2 (d)}

### NEW MEMBERS – March 2026

#### **District 1** (San Juan, Pearl, Henry, Brown, Spieden)

ALVARADO, SHANNON  
FRANCIS, TERESA & HOERR, JEFFREY  
HART, LARA  
JAMESON, AURALEE  
KLINEFELTER, RICHARD  
KNOWLES, ANNESA  
MOHAMMED MUNGAL, WENDY & RIVERA, MANDY  
RADCLIFFE, TOM  
RHSS LLC  
SAWMILL CREEK LLC  
SILVERMAN, SARAH & SILVERMAN, EDDY  
STRINGER, ROBERTA  
SULANTAY, ANA  
TREVILLIAN, BRIDGET & TREVILLIAN, TIMOTHY  
VONFELDT, HEIDI  
WHITE, ROBIN & WHITE, SHAWN  
WICKEY, MELISSA  
WOLD, LUCAS & WOLD, CHARLES  
WYSOCKI, LAURA

#### **District 2** (Orcas, Armitage, Blakely, Obstruction, Double, Alegria, Fawn)

BOYKIN-LOPEZ, KAYANNA & LOPEZ, RAFAEL  
CICHY, STEPHANIE  
HARVEY, CHRISTOPHER & HARVEY, ELIZABETH  
HOAG, JACQUELYN

HODGES, NICKOLAS  
HOPE, SUSAN  
HUTH, RICHARD  
JACKSON, BRANDON  
KLEIN, BRIAN  
LAPORTE, VERNON  
LEDGERWOOD, E  
LEONHARDI, LINDSEY & STICK, JAKE  
MCNEAL, KYLE  
NELSON, JASON & CHELSE, ANA  
NORTH BEACH ROAD, LP  
OSBURN, STEVE & OSBURN, JULIE  
PERRINE, HEATHER  
RICHTER, ANGELA  
RODRIGUEZ CERON, GIONINA  
ROSS, SARAH  
SCHMITT, MANUEL & SCHMITT, JENNIFER  
SEA VIEW THEATRE, AND FILM CENT  
THOMPSON, QUINN  
TYREL FINMOR DMD, PLLC  
UTTER, JENNIFER  
WEISS, MELISSA & D'AGOSTINO, ALEXANDER  
WOLF, KRISTA & WOLF, ANDREW

#### **District 3** (Lopez, Center, Decatur, Charles) YACKLEY, ALYSSA & KUZEMCHAK, ANTHONY

#### **District 4** (Shaw, Crane, Canoe, Bell)

None



**RUS Form 219**

Inventory of Work Orders of projects completed from the Construction Work Plan. These forms are submitted to RUS for approval of loan funds.

Inventory	Amount	Description
202602	\$58,283.08	Construction Work Orders
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$58,283.08</b>	

Orcas Power & Light Cooperative

Rev: 202303050744

04/09/2026 7:58:25 am

**RUS Form 219 Inventory Of Work Orders**  
 Period: FEB 2026 System Designation: WA O9

Page: 1

Inventory: 202602

Project	Loan		Work Order		Bdgt (3)	Gross Funds Required		Deductions		Contrib In Aid Of Constr and Previous Advances (8)	Loan Funds Subject To Advance By RUS (9)
	Year		Construction (1)	Retirement (2)		Cost Of Construction: New Constr Or Replacements (4)	Cost Of Removal: New Constr Or Replacements (5)	Salvage Relating To New Construction Or Replacements (6)	Retirements Without Replacements (7)		
606	2023	3602			1	9,694.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,476.04
606	2023	4039	4039		1	44,884.77	6,019.88	0.00	AFUDC: 1,218.00 0.00	0.00	49,807.04
						54,578.81	6,019.88	0.00	AFUDC: 1,097.61 0.00	0.00	58,283.08
<b>Grand Totals:</b>						\$ 54,578.81	\$ 6,019.88	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 58,283.08

55009

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tneal

**Capital Credits**

Staff request payment of capital credits to the estates of the following deceased members and/or to organizations no longer in business by way of approval of the consent agenda:



April	
Customer #	Amount
61758	480.91
72256	2,837.41
81042	413.90
62687	768.29
60319	485.30
81248	25,370.61
36100	449.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 30,805.69</b>

Staff requests a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.



## Minutes

Staff request approval of the minutes from the prior meeting upon review.

### **Orcas Power & Light Cooperative Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, March 19, 2026**

Streaming through Zoom attendees were Board members Vince Dauciunas, Mark Madsen, Tom Osterman, Jerry Whitfield, Chuks Onwuneme, Brian Silverstein and Wendy Hiester. Staff present were General Manager Foster Hildreth; Manager of Engineering and Operations Russell Guerry; Manager of Finance Travis Neal; Communications Manager Krista Bouchey; Communications Specialist Johanna Lange; Manager of Member Services Joey Wyckoff; staff members Katherine Santos Santana and Taylor Smith, and Special Projects Office Coordinator Beth Stanford (serving as recording secretary). Also present were Legal Counsel Joel Paisner, and consultant Jay Kimball.

Members in attendance: Barbara Pesola, Rich Goodhart, Annette Richardson, Conor Anderson, Laura Stern, Rick Fant, and Norris Palmer

Meeting commenced at 8:34 AM

Member Comment Period: Rick Fant commented on the excellent candidate turnout for this election cycle.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** was made by Madsen to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Silverstein and passed unanimously by voice vote.

##### **Member Service Policy 3 – Technical Provisions**

**MOTION** was made by Whitfield to approve Member Service Policy 3 – Technical Provisions, seconded by Silverstein and passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **Pacific Northwest Electrical Grid**

Board President, Vince Dauciunas, gave an update on the Pacific Northwest Electrical Grid. Discussion ensued.

##### **Decatur Solar Expansion – Project Update**

Staff shared information about the Decatur Solar Project. The matter remains pending before the hearing examiner. More information will be shared at the April 2026 Board Meeting.

##### **2026 – 2031 Construction**

The General Manager shared 2025 highlights and successes for both OPALCO and Rock Island. Discussion ensued.

##### **2025 Year-End Unaudited Financials**

Staff reviewed notable economics of the year-end financial report including revenue, expense and energy charge adjustment metrics.

#### **REPORTS**

Staff reviewed reports, dashboards, grant and budget tracking, ongoing cooperative-wide safety measures and training, and projects.

Regular Session ended: 10:56 AM

Executive Session: 11:05 AM to 12:02 PM

Meeting Closed: 12:02 PM

Special Closed Meeting: 12:02 PM to 1:07 PM

# DISCUSSION ITEMS

## Decatur Island Solar Project

### Sequence of Events

1. This meeting will focus exclusively on the Decatur Island Solar Project Expansion Overview.
2. The Board discusses the project with the OPALCO Project team.
3. Members are invited and encouraged to share comments on the Decatur Island Solar expansion project.
4. The member comment period closes at the end of this meeting (April 16).
5. A special OPALCO Board Meeting will be held via Zoom on April 21 at 10:00 A.M. This meeting is open to the public, however it is reserved for Board Members to discuss and vote on the project. There will be no member comment period at this meeting.

The Decatur Island Solar Expansion is awaiting the Conditional Use Permit. Staff and consultants are presenting the various options along with details of the project so the Board can deliberate on the version of the project they want staff to move forward on.

The OPALCO Board will hold a special meeting on April 21st from 10-11am, with the purpose of discussing and voting on the Decatur solar expansion project. Subsequent to a project update and overview at the regular scheduled April Board meeting, staff will open up to public comment. Following public comments, staff will respond to any board member questions or comments. There will be a deliberation period until the vote at the special board meeting on April 21 from 10-11 am.

The energy world is changing dramatically due to climate impacts, carbon reduction legislation, and the transition toward renewable power. The goal of our state and nation is to transition away from fossil fuels and heat our homes and fuel our cars, trucks and ferries using clean electricity. This lofty goal is proving to be highly challenging.

The hydropower systems that have historically supplied most of the Pacific Northwest's electricity are at capacity, coal plants in the region are being shut down and natural gas generation comes with a carbon-based financial penalty. Our dilemma is figuring out how to satisfy increased demand for electricity while our supply of carbon-free firm power is shrinking. As more coal plants shut down and are replaced with intermittent resources (solar and wind), energy shortfalls are increasingly predicted. Given our remote location, our best bet for clean and affordable firm power is to build renewable generation projects locally.

The two submarine cables serving San Juan Islands are reaching their useful lives and are at capacity. While OPALCO can cover the current electrical demand, any load growth is going to be difficult to serve. Local generation will be essential to keep a safe and reliable grid.

OPALCO is looking at expanding its Community Solar on Decatur Island. In March 2025, OPALCO acquired 19-acres adjacent to its current property on Decatur Island. The project will expand the solar site with additional Community Solar shares that members can purchase and benefit from the solar energy. OPALCO will be able to utilize Department of Commerce grants funds to install solar that will directly benefit low-income community members throughout San Juan County. OPALCO held



community meetings with Decatur residents throughout 2025 to include a virtual meeting in February, in person meeting in May and October.

OPALCO is a non-profit cooperative, and we rely on the members to ensure we can fulfill our mission to provide reliable power to everyone in San Juan County. We abide by the 7 cooperative principles and remain committed to serving all of the membership.

### **Conditional Use Hearing**

The Conditional Use Hearing commenced on February 25 with follow up on March 6 and closing written comments on March 13. The hearing examiner will review all the materials, project information, and determine the conditions for the permit. The team expects a decision for the Conditional Use Permit any time. The Hearing Examiner reviewed detailed criteria and rationale for the project plan. Issues brought forward include concerns such as stormwater management, wetland protections, fire mitigation, cultural resources and other details. Staff encourages the Board to review the hearing materials:

- CUP Hearing and SEPA Appeal Opening Remarks:  
<https://sanjuancowa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3775/media>
- Continued SEPA Appeal Hearing Part 1:  
<https://sanjuancowa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/4130/media>
- Continued SEPA Appeal Hearing Part 2:  
<https://sanjuancowa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/4161/media>

### **Decatur Load Growth Rationale**

The Decatur Solar project will help address the approximately 30% projected load growth on Decatur Island, reducing reliance on mainland power imports. Developing local renewable generation improves energy resilience, reduces dependence on transmission from the mainland, and positions OPALCO to better manage future load growth across the island system.

As regional energy supply challenges continue to grow, projects like Decatur Solar represent an important step toward responsibly developing local energy resources while maintaining the cooperative's commitment to thoughtful planning and community engagement.

### **Project Evolution**

As the Decatur Solar project has moved forward, OPALCO has worked closely with San Juan County and the Decatur community to reduce impacts and incorporate local feedback. The project has evolved significantly from the original concept as outlined below.

### **Project Footprint**

The original concept considered maximized the ~23 acres (plus 3 acres on San Juan County parcel) for solar development to account for environmental constraints. The current proposal has been significantly scaled back to approximately 8.5 acres, with the County parcel removed from the project entirely. This redesign represents a meaningful effort to respond to community concerns while maintaining the project's core purpose of providing local renewable energy.

### **Environmental Protections**

The project has undergone comprehensive environmental review through the San Juan County Conditional Use Permit process, as well as SEPA and NEPA environmental review. Studies and plans include a Critical Areas and Wetland Delineation Report, a Stormwater Management Plan addressing site



drainage and runoff, a Cultural Resources Assessment, a Landscaping Plan to buffer the project and improve visual integration and fire mitigation planning in coordination with local fire response needs. These studies ensure the project is designed to meet applicable environmental protections and regulatory requirements.

### **Community Benefits for Decatur Island**

OPALCO is dedicated to protecting the local environment, responding to community concerns, and coverage of future load growth. OPALCO held several community meetings with the Decatur Island community and incorporated feedback into the project planning. In response to feedback from the Decatur community, OPALCO has incorporated several improvements that directly benefit the island. Including:

- ✓ Proving why utility-scale solar is needed in San Juan County. See the following documents:
  - [Reliable Energy in San Juan County](#)
  - [Why Local Renewable Energy](#)
  - [Local Energy Forecast](#)
- ✓ New power generation required to meet expected Decatur Island load growth (depending on final project size)
- ✓ Abandon plans for developing the San Juan County Public Works Parcel
- ✓ Opt-out of future battery storage
- ✓ Alternate Site Feasibility Study
- ✓ Let the community use the available water for fire mitigation
- ✓ Avoiding wetlands and wetland buffers
- ✓ Decommissioning Plan will be made public as available
- ✓ Stormwater Management Plan that meets County Code
- ✓ Archeological and Cultural Resources Report
- ✓ Removal of derelict vehicles
- ✓ Fire Mitigation Plan
- ✓ Construction sequencing plan
- ✓ Landscape buffers
- ✓ Dedicated area for this information on the OPALCO website

**Project Options**

Within OPALCO’s 23.47 acres parcel, the following existing site areas exist:

- Wetland and wetland buffers: 1.48 acres
- Storage Buildings: 0.13 acres
- Substation and existing solar: 2.12 acres
- Solar development: ~8.5 acres

Decatur Options		# of Panels	DC Size (kW)	AC Size (kW)	Annual Production (kWh)
1	As Designed (Area A&B)	4,450	2,581	1,936	2,883,091
2	Area A&B with Existing NGA Restrictions	4,140	2,401	1,801	2,682,049
3	Area A Only Proposed	3,100	1,798	1,349	2,008,931
4	Area B Only Proposed*	1,350	783	587	874,160
5	Area B Only with Existing NGA Restrictions*	1,040	603	452	673,118

\*WA Commerce Grant requires the array to exceed 1.1 MW.

**Area A – As Proposed**

Panels: 3,100  
 Peak Output: 1.35 MW (AC)/1.8 MW (DC)  
 Est. Annual Production: 2,009 MWh  
 Total Project Area: 5.56 Acres  
 Previously Cleared Area: 0.38 Acres

**Area B – As Proposed**

Panels: 1,350  
 Peak Output: 0.59 MW (AC)/0.78 MW (DC)  
 Est. Annual Production: 777 MWh  
 Total Project Area: 2.23 Acres  
 Previously Cleared Area: 0.62 Acres



## Restrictions

### Area A: Open Space

Staff had a pre-application meeting with County Staff for submittal of a Short Plat to manage this restriction and keep a clean legal record of the parcel. This application will be submitted as soon as the surveyors complete the draft Plat. This mechanism will allow for the proposed Area A while maintaining the a 30% "Open Space" as defined in San Juan County code.

### Area B: Native Growth Area (NGA)

Around 2010, San Juan County Planning allowed landowners to utilize "Native Growth Area Covenants" so they did not have to construct any stormwater mitigation. There are varies other instances of this mechanism used in San Juan County; each with the same language.

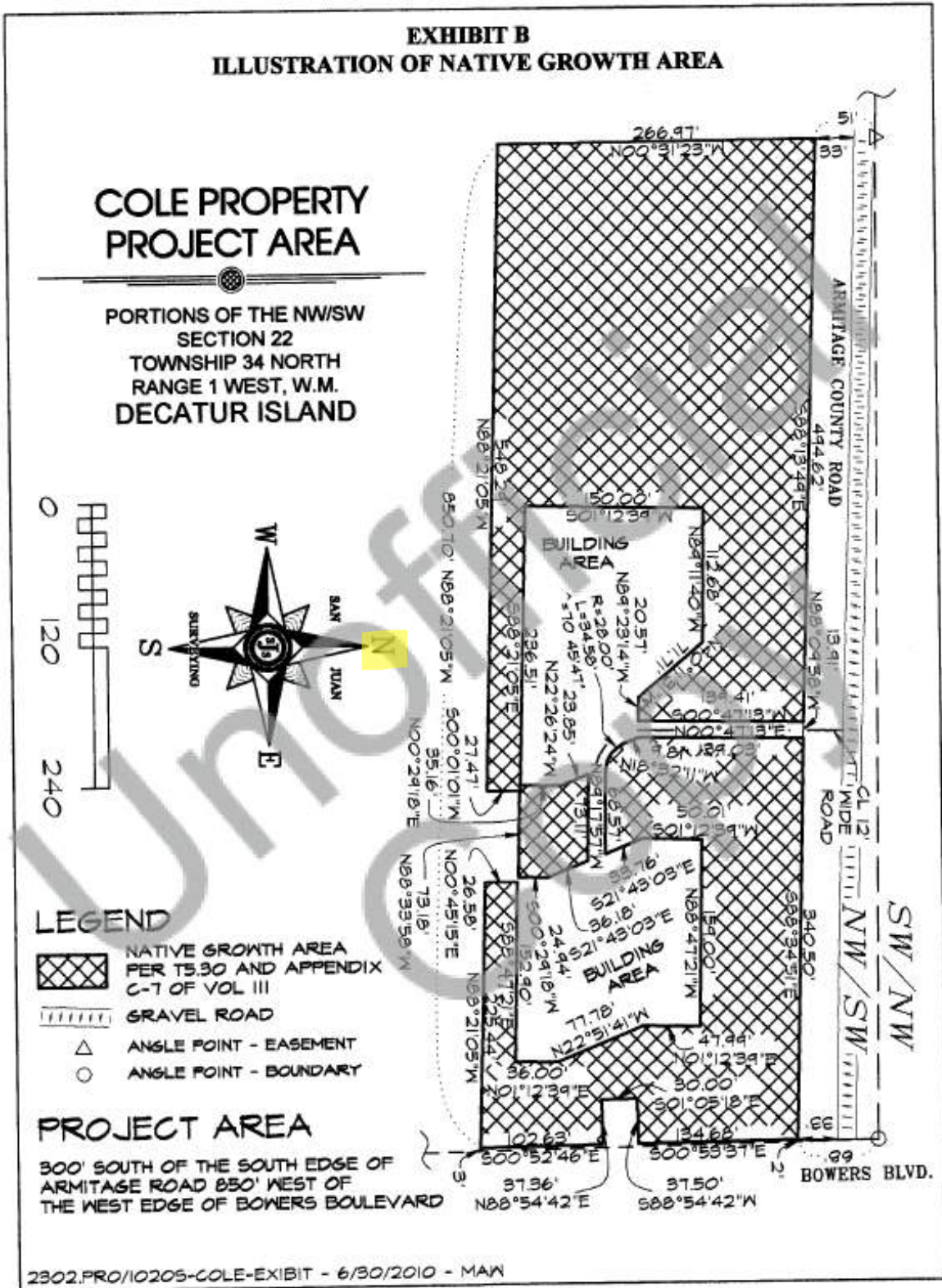
For this parcel, the native growth area was instituted at 3.82 acres based on the percentage needed (13.52% of parcel size in 2010) to meet the requirements of the 2005 Stormwater Management Manual (Appendix C, page C-7, section 7.2.2 of Volume 3). As seen below, the Covenant allows for the owner to revise or eliminate the NGA. OPALCO staff is working the County Staff to do so.

### **Section 3. Servitude on Land; Term.**

**This instrument creates a servitude on the Cole Property that runs with the land and binds all successors and assigns. In the event the instrument is deemed unenforceable as a servitude, it shall be deemed an easement in gross (both negative and affirmative) for the purpose of enforcement.**

**This Covenant shall be of unlimited duration, provided, however, that if the laws and regulations upon which it is based are ever lessened or revised such that a 13.52% Native Growth Area covenant containing the terms and conditions hereof would no longer be required as a condition of obtaining a building permit for a commercial building on the Cole Property, the then-owners of the Cole Property may apply to San Juan County to revise or eliminate this Covenant, and San Juan County shall grant or deny such application based upon the then-state of applicable law and regulation. San Juan County's decision on such application shall be subject to an open-record administrative appeal or, if no such appeal procedure is provided for by the laws of San Juan County, then it shall be subject to appeal to San Juan County Superior Court.**

Illustration from original Covenant. Note that North is the right side of the image.



Existing NGA: 3.82 Acres



Proposed NGA: 4.07 Acres



Increase area to the west to the prior property line. Removed the area that overlapped Project Area B. Revised the access road area.

**Financials**

	<b>Decatur Options</b>	<b>AC Size (kW)</b>	<b>Net Cost</b>	<b>Net \$/W</b>	<b># of Units</b>	<b>Straight Line Payback</b>
1	As Designed (Area A&B)	1,936	\$5,534,000	\$2.14	16,367	23.1
2	Area A&B with Existing NGA Restrictions	1,801	\$5,166,000	\$2.15	15,125	23.1
3	Area A Only Proposed	1,349	\$3,750,000	\$2.09	10,967	24.6
4	Area B Only Proposed	587	\$1,678,000	\$2.14	3,967	23.8
5	Area B Only with Existing NGA Restrictions	452	\$1,311,000	\$2.17	2,725	24.6

Assumptions:

- ITC: 40% (equipment purchased to date is compliant)
- Unit Cost: \$300
- Watt/Unit: \$145
- LMI Units: 1433 (except for Option 4 and 5 since total DC rating is below 1.1MW)
- Rate for is equivalent to Commercial/Residential Distributed Resource Credit

Staff intends to apply for USDA and other available grants, e.g.USDA REAP for up to \$1M.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Board elect Option 1, contingent the revision of the alteration of the NGA. If this restriction is not revised, staff recommends Option 2.

Staff recommends that the Board deliberate on the options presented and take a virtual vote on April 21<sup>st</sup> on the path forward. The decision will be announced following the vote and based on the Conditional Use Permit.

**Decatur Community Comment**

Designated public comment period for the Decatur Community Solar expansion project.

# REPORTS

## General Manager

### Dashboards

Please review the dashboards at <https://www.opalco.com/dashboards>. Note that all the dashboards are within board approved strategic parameters.

#### Finance

- Budget Variance
- TIER/Margin
- Expense
- Cash
- Power Cost
- Purchased Power
- Annual Power Metrics
- Capital
- Debt/Equity
- WIP
- Income Statement Trends

#### Member Services

- Disconnects
- Uncollectable Revenue
- Members per District
- PAL
- EAP
- Members per District
- Service Additions
- Annual Service Additions
- Revenue Dist. By Rate

#### Outage

- Historical SAIDI - Graph
- Historical SAIDI - Figures
- Outage Stats – Rolling 12 Mo
- Outage Stats – Monthly
- SAIDI by Category
- Outage Summary

#### Member Generation

[\(https://www.opalco.com/save/solar-interconnect/\)](https://www.opalco.com/save/solar-interconnect/)

- Member Generation (to Grid) by Month
- Member Generation Map

### Quick facts

Please review the Quick Facts at <https://www.opalco.com/newsroom/quick-facts/>.

- OPALCO's Plan for our Energy Future
- Decarbonization – 4 Part Series
- Switch It Up!
- WA 2021 Energy Strategy
- Simpson Proposal and the Northwest Energy Evolution
- Will there be enough power?
- OPALCO Rates
- Energy Independence? Not entirely
- Rock Island Communications
- OPALCO election process
- Wireless Services
- Cost of Service
- Staff Compensation
- NRECA
- OPALCO Debt and Capital Projects
- Ocean Health
- NW Resource Adequacy in a Rapidly Decarbonizing World
- Land for Renewable Energy Projects
- Understanding the Change in Solar Rates
- Decatur Island Battery Storage Project
- Why Hydropower is Important to our Power Supply
- Where does OPALCO stand on regional issues and the dams?
- Future Power Purchase Strategy
- Industry Association Memberships and Co-op Benefits
- Climate Change News Review - September 2022
- OPALCO Tidal Energy Pilot Project
- Solar Rate for Residential Members
- Right-of-Way Program
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Benefits
- Wildfire Mitigation
- Surge Protection
- OPALCO Needs a New Submarine Cable
- OPALCO's Rate for Members who have Rooftop Solar
- Why Local Renewable Projects? Mainland Power Demand Will Soon Exceed Supply



**Engineering, Operations and Information Technologies**

**WIP**

As of April 6, 2026, there are 301 work orders open totaling \$14.4M. Operations has completed construction on 113 work orders, totaling \$3.8M.

**Safety**

Northwest Safety Service conducted Hazard communication/fire extinguisher training in March. The total current hours worked without a loss time accident is 124,405 hours.

**Finance**

**2026 Budget Tracking**

Energy (kWh) purchases and sales were lower than budgeted levels in February 2026, resulting in lower revenues and power costs than budgeted as well. The table presents the full year 2026 projection with actuals for prior months where available.

Income Statement Summary (in thousands)	2026 Projection (actuals for prior months)		
	Budget	Projected	Variance
Operating Revenue	\$ 43,176	\$ 42,686	\$ (490)
ECA Surcharge / (Credit)	-	-	\$ -
Revenue	\$ 43,176	\$ 42,686	\$ (490)
Expenses:			
Cost of Purchased Power	10,848	10,622	\$ (226)
Transmission & Distribution Expense	9,308	9,161	(147)
General & Administrative Expense	7,390	7,398	8
Depreciation, Tax, Interest & Other	10,971	10,921	(50)
Total Expenses	\$ 38,517	\$ 38,102	(415)
Operating Margin	4,659	4,584	(75)
Non-op margin**	1,060	1,023	(37)
Net Margin*	\$ 5,719	\$ 5,607	(112)
OTIER	2.68	2.64	(0.04)
TIER	3.02	3.01	(0.01)
Equity %	38.2%	38.2%	0.0%
HDD	1,081	1,137	56
kWh Purchases	230,000	228,325	(1,675)
kWh Sales	218,500	218,977	477

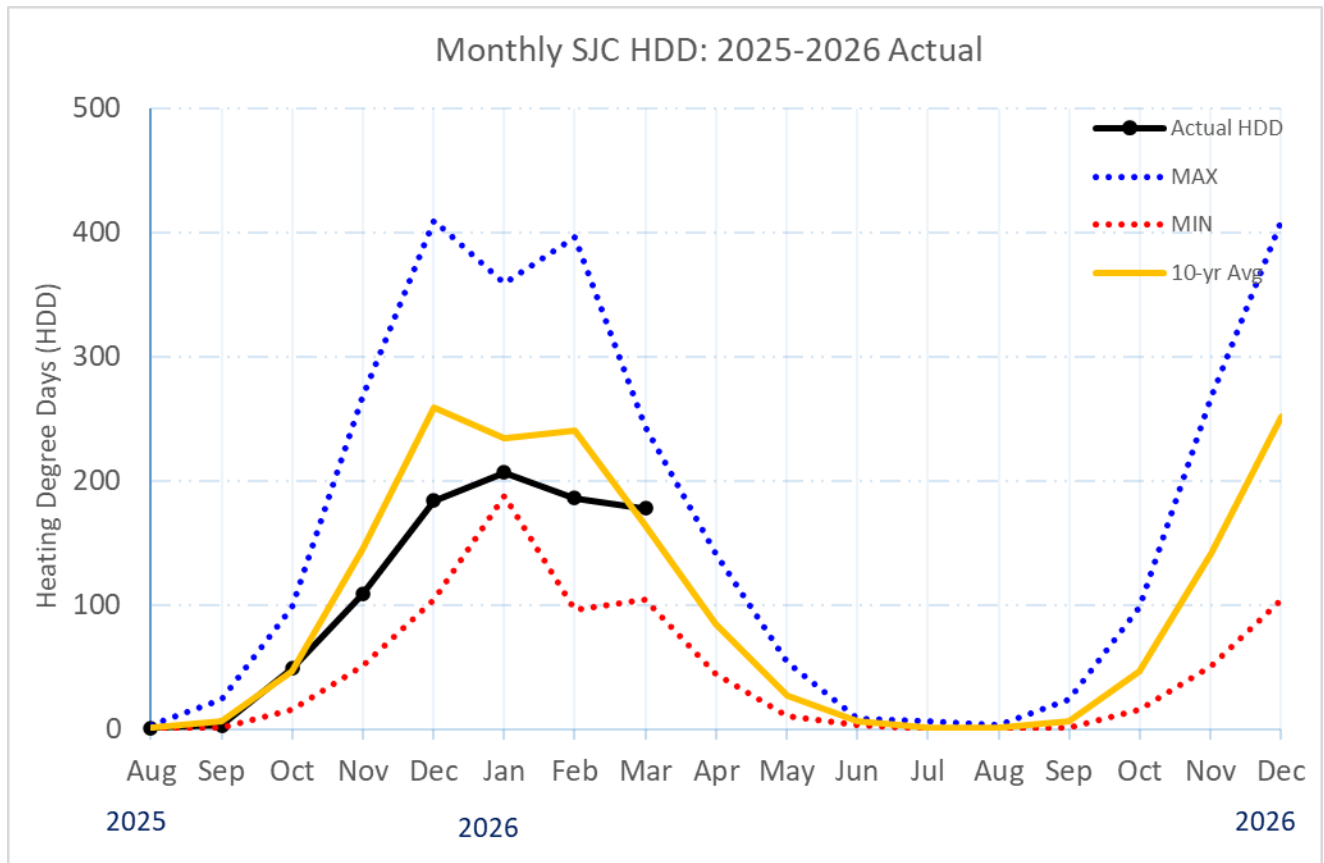


**Monthly Energy Charge Adjustment (ECA)**

With the shift to a revised ECA calculation tied to operating margin, the ECA will be implemented starting in April (using March figures). This will help OPALCO achieve our year-end budget operating margin. The April billing period ECA will be a billing charge of (\$.00050) per kWh or \$.50 per 1,000 kWh. The exact amount of the ECA is an estimation based on known actuals for current and past months coupled with projected future months.

**Heating Degree Days (HDD)**

This year followed average HDD trends, and we expect the first quarter 2026 to be trending slightly warmer based on National Weather Service forecasts below. We continue to monitor weather trends monthly.

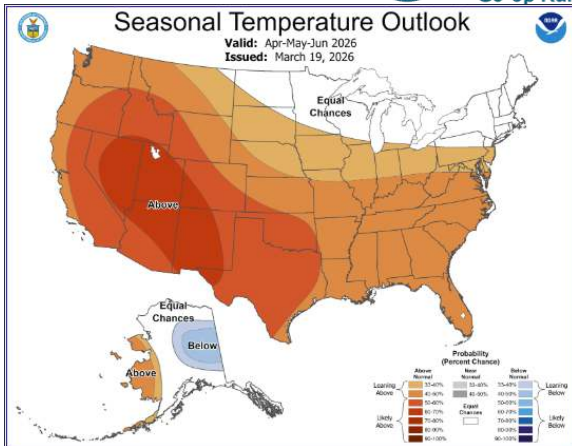


\*max, min, avg is based on 10 year average

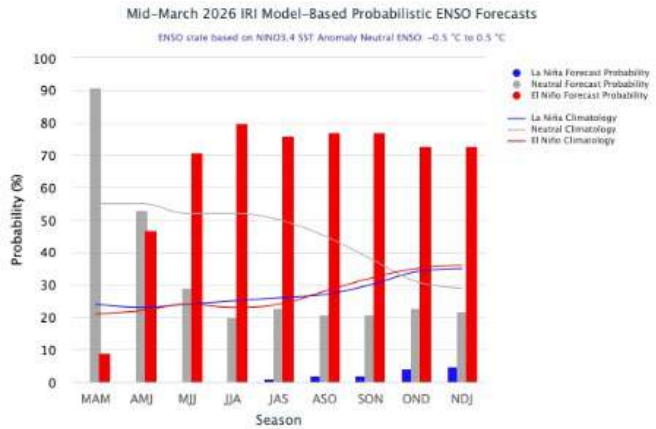
**Weather Forecast**

As presented in February, warming weather conditions are starting to appear. Looking ahead to the NOAA ‘three-month outlook temperature probability’ for Apr-May-Jun ‘26, the outlook is currently showing a the highest probability of a neutral temperature condition in our region moving through the remainder of the winter season and into spring. The models in the International Research Institutes’ (IRI) ENSO (weather) prediction also forecasts a neutral to slight El Nino condition into the summer months. We continue to monitor these predictors monthly.

**2026 Apr-May-Jun Outlook**



Source: NOAA National Weather Service



## Member Services

### Annual History of Energy Assistance Funding

All values are as of first of the month reported.

		2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
Energy Assist Credit	# of Accounts	519	524	528	780
	Total Assistance	141,748	164,175	171,442	477,366
PAL	# of Accounts	268	264	157	511
	Total Assistance	80,500	74,750	39,289	194,539
Grand Total	# of Accounts	584	566	558	856
	Total Assistance	222,248	238,925	210,731	671,904

*Note: EAP funds are collected, primarily, from a program OPALCO created by including a line item on all OPALCO member bills. Additional funds are directed to the EAP from the Decatur Solar Project (10% of all production credits). In 2020/2021, additional funds (not included in this chart) were paid out to members who were impacted by COVID. When the Bailer Hill Microgrid Projects comes online, up to 45% of its production will be directed to EAP. The "# of Accounts" are the distinct accounts assistance was provided to over the year or as a total. The "Total Assistance" varies based on single account adjustments.*

### Project PAL

During March 2026, 24 members received ~\$7.2k in Project PAL Awards, compared to 41 members who received ~\$10.38k in Project PAL awards in March 2025.

### Energy Assistance Program (EAP)

During March 2026, 504 members received ~ \$26.9k from the low-income Energy Assist program, compared to 416 members who received ~ \$19.0K in assistance in March 2025.

### LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

During March 2026 there was activity for LIHEAP pledges and payments to members.

### Energy Savings

During March there was 1 rebate paid out to members totaling \$500. This was for an EV charging station.

### Member Benefits from Energy Efficiency and Fuel Switching Programs

OPALCO is committed to helping members prepare for an efficient and sustainable energy future with programs, incentives, and rebates. All values are as of first of the month reported.



		2023	2024	2025	2026	Totals
EE Rebates*	# of Accounts	261	210	137	30	638
	Total Awards	\$313,945	\$259,445	\$191,931	\$34,390	799,711
	Total Energy Savings (annual kWh)	440,382	253,675	258,738	30,236	983,031

\*BPA includes the cost of the Conservation (Rebate) program in the power bills that OPALCO pays. When members utilize the rebates and OPALCO documents it, the Co-op then gets credited back that amount. In essence, we are overbilled for the rebate program and only get credited if members utilize the rebates. OPALCO is unique in the pool of BPA utilities for consistently using all or most of the available conservation dollars in this program. We have often used conservation funds allocated to other Co-ops that they were unable to use through their member rebate programs.

### Interconnects

There were 5 new interconnect applications submitted in March, with 6 members interconnected with solar for a total of 1,020. (<https://energysavings.opalco.com/member-generated-power/>). There are an additional 19 pending connections.

### Energy Audits

Since the relaunch of OPALCO's Home Energy Audit program, 79 audits have been conducted for residential and commercial members. There were 8 audits completed in March.

### Switch It Up

OPALCO can utilize \$46.8M in Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) funds to provide on-bill financing for co-op members for energy efficiency measures. OPALCO is reimbursed for the funds once member measures are installed. There are now 1,156 projects completed and billing for a total of \$24.1M net outstanding (total projects less member pay-offs). There are another 100+ projects in various stages of the process. Current project details are as follows:

Measure	Project Origination Year								Grand Total	Project Count
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		
Appliance					36,112	54,463	43,939	10,081	\$ 144,595	19
Energy Storage				39,510	27,159	47,766	120,071	-	\$ 234,506	12
Ductless Heat Pump	729,431	610,352	646,476	1,581,317	1,830,308	2,433,936	2,041,067	873,581	\$ 10,746,468	668
EV Charger						34,031	2,948	-	\$ 36,979	7
Fiber		30,725	48,681	29,301	41,929	85,080	18,883	-	\$ 254,598	29
Ducted Heat Pump	7,874	30,000	15,000	18,127	956,659	520,872	412,433	82,621	\$ 2,043,586	74
Heat Pump Water Heater	9,315	12,752		5,012	67,612	13,700	428,727	-	\$ 537,117	17
Insulation			-	256,935	58,228	244,969	704,402	18,529	\$ 1,283,062	42
Other		24,996		92,649	188,075	31,981		-	\$ 337,701	8
Solar + Storage				480,057	474,806	766,179	1,487,014	98,064	\$ 3,306,119	62
Solar				1,930,830	3,253,980	2,719,795	1,946,727	48,044	\$ 9,899,376	265
Windows				563,557	459,573	551,874	1,313,914	49,297	\$ 2,938,214	69
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 746,620</b>	<b>\$ 708,825</b>	<b>\$ 710,157</b>	<b>\$ 4,997,295</b>	<b>\$ 7,394,440</b>	<b>\$ 7,504,644</b>	<b>\$ 8,520,123</b>	<b>\$ 1,180,217</b>	<b>\$ 31,762,321</b>	<b>1,272</b>

The following table shows the utilization of the RUS Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) loan funds, used to fund the Switch It Up program. The amount of funds listed below will be prioritized for projects that will be built and completed within the year of 2026. We are unable to committ funds to projects for future years.



	Total	Project	Remaining
	(in millions)	Committed	Available
RESP 1.0	5.80		-
RESP 2.0	15.00		-
RESP 3.0	26.00	3.50	11.54
	<u>\$ 46.80</u>	<u>\$ 3.50</u>	<u>\$ 11.54</u>

**Member Communications**

**Youth Rally**

The Youth Rally interviews have been conducted and the 2026 scholars have been selected. The team is preparing to take 7 San Juan County Students to the ICUA Youth Leadership Rally in July. Stay tuned for more information.

**Ruralite Articles**

This month’s Ruralite magazine features five pieces of original content for members to enjoy. The magazine articles this month are:

- Recipe for an Empowered Community
- Annual Meeting
- EV Charging tips from OPALCO
- Rock Island: A decade of progress



View the digital edition here: <https://issuu.com/utilitypioneers/stacks/e83d7c1432cb4d9ab31defc5ee09973d>

**Lineworker Appreciation Month:**

This month, we celebrate and recognize the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice of all the OPALCO lineworkers in

honor of Lineworker Appreciation Month. The team is so grateful to the OPALCO crews for all the work they do to keep the San Juan Islands powered up, regardless of weather.



Join us in recognizing and thanking them, this month and every month. Visit our Thank A Lineworker page on our website to leave a message of thanks for our crews here: <https://www.opalco.com/about-community/thank-lineworker/>.

Or join us at our Annual Member Festival on Lopez Island and thank the lineworkers in person!

**OPALCO Board Election:**

OPALCO has the official slate of candidates for District 1 & District 2.

Due to the large number of applicants, there were two Candidate Forums scheduled – one for each district. Both meetings were held virtually on March 18 & 19 at 5 pm. District 2 had 49 members in attendance and District 1 had 40 members in attendance. Find the details on the candidates or watch the forum at [www.opalco.com/election-hub](http://www.opalco.com/election-hub).

Event	Date
Legal Notice for Election (RUS requires minimum 30 days prior to nominating process)	1/2/26
Director Applications due to EGC	02/02/26
Nominations posted - (80 days prior to meeting)	02/16/26
Nominations by petition due to office	03/02/26



Nominations by petition posted - (55 days prior to meeting)	03/13/26
Candidate Forum (virtual)	03/18/26 & 3/19/26
Notice to members/Ballots mailed - (21-50 days prior to meeting)	03/18/26-05/04/26
Election closes - (3 days prior to meeting)	05/04/26
Annual Meeting	05/07/26

It should be noted we have two board positions from two different districts as outlined below:

Election Year	District 1 San Juan	District 2 Orcas	District 3 Lopez/Decatur	District 4 Shaw
2026	1A - Daucionas	2B - Onwuneme		
2027		2A - Hiester	3B - Osterman	
2028	1B-Madsen		3A-Silverstein	4-Whitfield

\* All terms are 3-year term

**Save the Date: Annual Meeting & Annual Member Festival**

The 2026 OPALCO Annual Meeting and Annual Member Festival are coming up soon! Mark your calendars and save the date. The Annual Meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, May 7 at 8:30 am on Zoom. Then, join the OPALCO team on Lopez Island for the Annual Member Festival on Friday, May 8 from 3-6 pm at the Lopez Center for Community and the Arts.

This event is for all members and will have information booths, give aways, an electric vehicle showcase, kids activities, a BBQ, bucket trucks, and safety demonstrations. We hope to see you there!



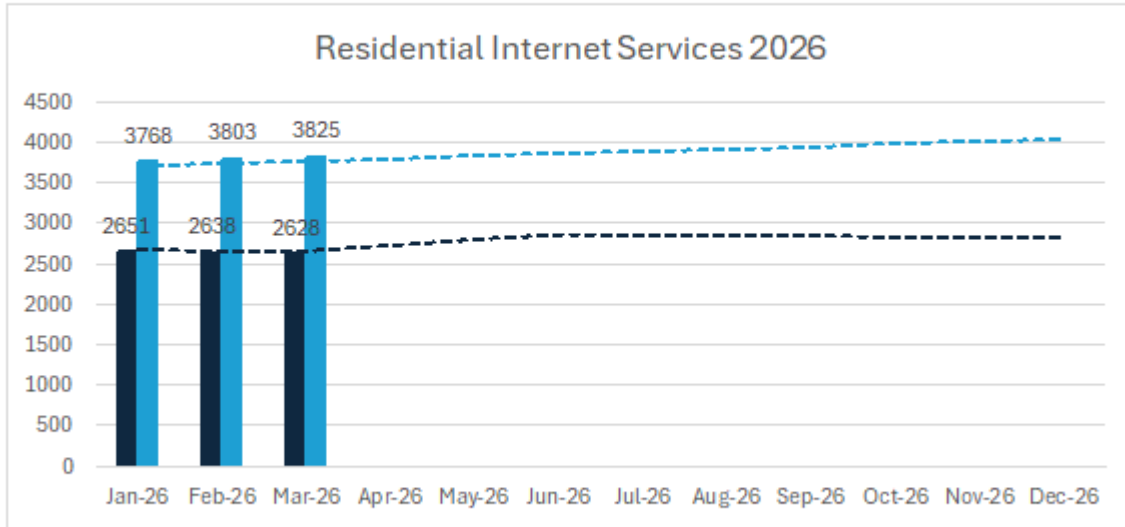
**SAVE THE DATE: OPALCO ANNUAL MEMBER FESTIVAL!**

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026  
 LOPEZ CENTER FOR  
 COMMUNITY AND THE ARTS

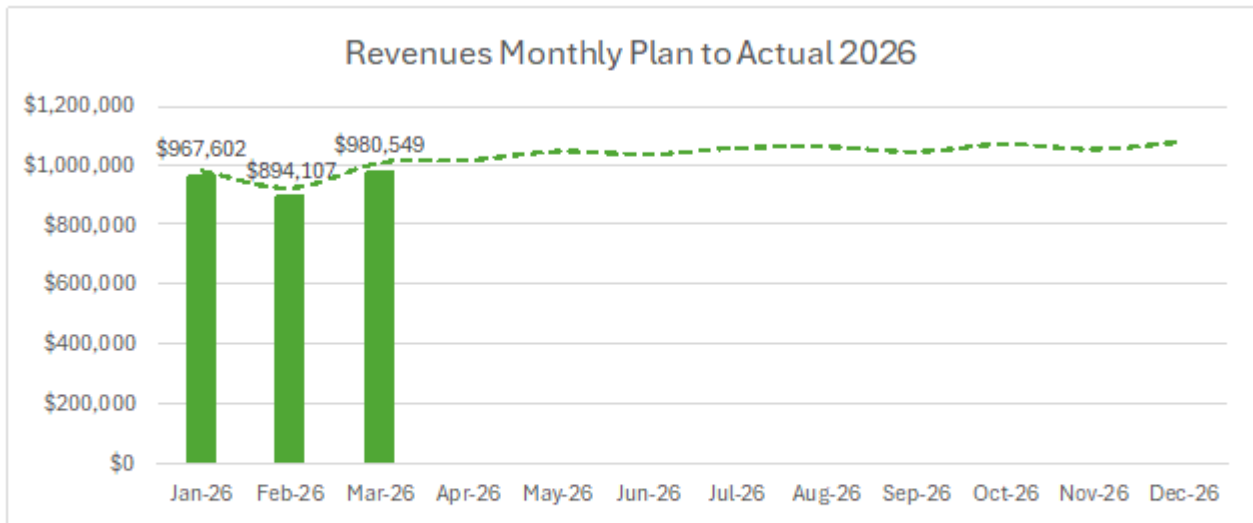
## Rock Island Communications

### 6,988 Residential Internet Services

#### Net Subscribers



#### Revenues



\*Previous months' revenues, not closed out, are subject to change.

# APPENDIX

## Decatur Island Solar Project – Overview

[Find out about the Decatur Island Solar Project here.](#)

## Decatur Island Solar Project – Site Plans

[Visual Site Plan](#)

[Detailed Site Design](#)

[Alternate Sites Reviewed](#)

## Decatur Island Solar Project – Permit Plans & Reports

[Critical Areas and Wetland Delineation Report](#)

[NEPA \(National Environmental Policy Act\) Compliance Documentation for Area A](#)

[NEPA \(National Environmental Policy Act\) Compliance Documentation for Area B](#)

[SEPA \(State Environmental Policy Act\) Checklist](#)

[SEPA Determination](#)

[Site Plan](#)

[Clearing and Grading Checklist](#)

[Stormwater Plan for Area A](#)

[Stormwater Plan for Area B](#)

[Landscaping Plan](#)

[Arborist Report](#)

[Land Use Checklist](#)

## Decatur Island Solar Project – Project Timeline

[Review the project timeline here.](#)

## Decatur Island Solar Project – Public Engagement

[February 2025 Zoom Meeting Introducing the Project Idea](#)



[May 2025 Town Hall Meeting on Decatur Island](#)

[Comment Log](#)

[Presentation Materials May 10](#)

[Press Release May 2025](#)

[October 2025 Community Meeting on Decatur Island](#)

[Questions and Answers with Table of Contents](#)

[Information Boards from October Meeting](#)

[Conditional Use Permit Legal Notice](#)

## **Decatur Island Solar Project – Community Commitments**

[Review community commitments here.](#)

## **Decatur Island Solar Project – Informational Slides**

The following slides provide a high-level overview of the Decatur Island Solar Project. They are intended as supplementary reference material for the content linked above.



# Overview

## Proposed Project Overview

Orcas Power & Light Cooperative (OPALCO) is exploring local power generation solutions to strengthen energy resilience and reliability for San Juan County.

The project is a proposed expansion of an existing utility-scale solar site.

The new solar panels would be installed on OPALCO-owned land next to the current solar site, allowing for a direct connection to the existing infrastructure—such as the substation and transformer.

Based on community feedback, OPALCO is no longer proposing any work on the adjacent County-owned parcel.


## Where We Are in the Process

Different parts of the proposed project are at different stages. Initial site studies—including geotechnical, wetlands and cultural resource surveys—are complete. We use the findings from these studies to inform the engineering design, which is currently in development. This helps ensure the design reflects the realities and constraints of the site.

The site plans and design details you hear about today are not final. They will be refined and improved based on feedback from agencies, technical specialists, partners, and the public.

Once design is complete and permits are approved, OPALCO will be required to follow the approved plans.

## Fast Facts

<b>Area A</b>	solar array ~1.5 MW	~6 acres	annual solar production <b>2,275 MWh</b>	(580-watt panels) ~3,000 panels	 <b>\$1M</b> of the project is funded through Department of Commerce to support low-income energy assistance programs
<b>Area B</b>	.55 MW solar array	2.5 acres	840 MWh annual solar production	~1,100 panels (580-watt panels)	

Design	Status	Environmental	Status
Geotechnical Study	☑	Wetland Delineation and Critical Areas Report	☑
Site Plan with Avoidance of all Wetlands	📅	Archaeological/Cultural Resources Assessment and Report	☑
Clearing and Grading Plan	📅	Consultation with Tribal Nations	☑
Stormwater Plan	📅	Inadvertent Archaeological Discovery Plan	☑
Landscaping Plan	📅	NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Compliance Documentation	🔄
Community Benefits Assessment	📅	SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) Compliance Documentation	🔄
Land Use & Building Permit Application	🔄	Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Practices Permit Application	📅
Decommissioning Plan	🎯	NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Construction Stormwater General Permit Application (Section 402)	🔄

☑ Complete   📅 In Preparation   🎯 Not Yet Started   🔄 In Progress





## Landscape

### Existing Site Conditions

The proposed project site is mostly second-growth forest, meaning it has naturally regrown after past logging activity. The area is about 85% forested and contains a mix of common island tree species, including Douglas fir, grand fir, western hemlock, western redcedar, and red alder.

Under the tree canopy, the native understory includes plants like salal, oceanspray, Nootka rose, and ferns. These species are typical of forested areas in the San Juan Islands. There are no documented rare plant species present.

### Forest Health & Management Summary

The forest on the site has been logged several times, and many trees are still young or moderate in size. There is also a mix of fallen trees from wind damage (blowdowns) and signs of tree root disease in some areas. The tree density is high, and the underbrush is thick, which provides habitat function but also increases the risk of wildfire. This is a common forest type for the islands.

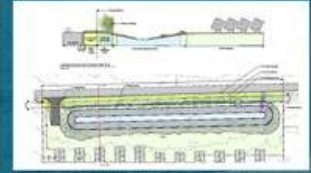
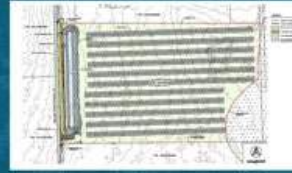
#### Key Takeaways

- The forest here is not old-growth and has been disturbed by past logging and storms.
- There are no rare plant species in the area.
- The site is typical of many logged areas in the islands, with dense brush and high fuel loads.

### Landscape Restoration Plan Highlights

Our plan includes:

- **Landscape Buffer:** A minimum 10-foot-wide landscape buffer will be planted on the southwest side of the project along Armitage Road to reduce visual impact.
- **Native Seed Mix:** After construction, a specially selected native seed mix will be applied under and between the solar panels to help restore ground cover and support habitat.
- **Screening Techniques:** A 6-foot-tall fence (with 1 foot of barbed wire for security) will surround the solar array.
- **Habitat Restoration:** Temporarily disturbed areas will be revegetated, and sensitive features like wetlands and their regulatory buffers will be completely avoided and protected.
- **Color & Material Choices:** Materials will be selected to be low-reflective and muted, helping the project blend in visually with the natural setting.



Preliminary designs for Area A

### Site Map



### Review & Approvals

This project is going through the proper agency review and permitting process with local and state agencies to ensure it meets environmental and land use standards.

#### State-level Review

We are applying for a Forest Practices Permit from the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to allow tree removal where needed. The DNR does not require tree mitigation for this project due to the type and condition of the forest.

#### County-level Review

Before any work begins, the Landscape Plan submitted to San Juan County as part of the project application will be reviewed and approved by the County. The Plan must meet the standards in San Juan County Code 18.60.160. Once approved, OPALCO is required to follow the Landscape Plan for the duration of the project.



# Environmental and Archaeological Resources

## Wetland and Critical Areas

Wetland biologists from Environmental Science Associates (ESA) visited the Project Area in February and March 2025. Over five days on-site, they mapped a total of nine wetlands.

Using local, state, and federal guidelines—along with two wetland delineation manuals adopted by the Washington Administrative Code and San Juan County Code—the biologists assessed vegetation, soil, and hydrologic characteristics. Based on their observations, they marked wetland boundaries, categorizing them according to regulations with buffer zones of either 150 feet or 300 feet.

Before visiting the site, the biologists conducted a desktop study, compiling and analyzing eleven datasets related to the site's environmental conditions. These datasets included the latest national and local maps of wetlands, soils, species and habitats, critical habitats, threatened and endangered species, fish species, forest practices, rare plant species, and historic imagery.

The site development plans were intentionally designed to ensure all Project activities avoid wetlands and their designated buffers.



Wetland Biologist In the Process of Delineating Wetland

## Wildlife

All of Decatur Island is mapped as potential habitat for the Townsend's big-eared bat. These are nocturnal mammals and are typically hidden during the day. Although no bats were observed, potential suitable habitat occurs in the Project Area and the wetlands habitat buffers were increased to account for this. No other priority habitats or species were identified.

The species is mapped at the Township level, which means all of Decatur Island is mapped as potential habitat.

## Archaeological and Tribal Resources

Archaeologists from ESA conducted an archaeological investigation and observed the excavation of geotechnical test pits in March and April 2025. Before visiting the site, archaeologists conducted extensive research and consulted with the Tribal Nations.

No archaeological or Tribal resources were identified. Most of the archaeological evidence of Indigenous occupation of the San Juan Islands is found around the shoreline in shell midden deposits dating within the last 3,500 years, containing physical evidence of economies heavily dependent on marine resources. While archaeological sites can be found in upland environments in the San Juan Islands, the presence of glacial deposits at shallower depths combined with the extensive ground disturbance from logging in the 1930s indicates limited potential for sites to be present.



### Key Takeaways

- Wetlands and Wetland Buffers will be Avoided.
- No Archaeological or Tribal Resources have been Identified.
- OPALCO has worked with the Tribal Nations and DAHP on the study and on an IDP.



Archaeological Monitoring of Geotechnical Test Pits



A copy of the report was provided to the Tribal Nations and the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) who concurred with the findings.

OPALCO has an Inadvertent Discovery Plan with procedures and commitments to follow if archaeological or Tribal Resources are identified during construction. This process was developed with DAHP and the Tribal Nations and allows for artifacts, if discovered, to be offered to the Tribal Nations or local museums.

## Our Commitments

OPALCO is committed to responsible land stewardship and long-term care of the site. Here's what we're promising:

- **Protect Wetlands**  
Wetlands will be avoided and protected throughout construction and long-term use, with the required regulatory buffers in place.
- **Follow the Inadvertent Discovery Plan**  
If archaeological or Tribal resources are encountered, OPALCO will follow the IDP and will offer the return of artifacts to the Tribal Nations.



## Project Design

### Expansion of the Existing Utility-Scale Solar Site

The proposed expansion would occur in proximity to the existing utility-scale solar on site. The new solar panels would be installed on the southwest and northeastern corners of the OPALCO-owned property (San Juan County tax assessor parcel 152232002000), allowing for a direct connection to the existing infrastructure.

Based on community feedback, OPALCO is no longer proposing any work on the adjacent County-owned parcel. All project activities would occur on private property owned by OPALCO, so no county, state, or federal lands would be impacted.

There are no plans for additional battery storage for this project.

### Clearing and Installation of Solar Panels

To complete project activities in Area A, approximately 5.8 acres of the southwest corner would be cleared of existing trees and shrubs. No clearing would occur in wetlands or wetland buffers.

The new approximately 3,100 panel solar array project would then be installed within the approximately 6.4 acres of the project site and be connected to the existing microgrid on the northwest corner of the parcel through a transmission cable. The resulting expansion in this area would create a community solar array of at least 1.2 megawatts (MW).

Area B site design is in progress, so exact figures are still being determined. Some of this area is already cleared but likely there will be additional clearing on this 2.5-acre portion of the site. An additional 0.55 megawatt of solar panels (~1,100 panels) will be added in this area.



### Stormwater Treatment

Stormwater Treatment is in design and development. A stormwater detention pond would be installed along the west edge of the project area to treat stormwater on the project site. The minimum bottom area of the pond would be at least 2,400 square feet. Treated stormwater from the pond would outflow into an existing roadside ditch with outfall protection.

### Security and Landscape Screening

A 7-foot-tall fence would be installed around the perimeter of the solar array, and a minimum 10-foot-wide landscape buffer (per San Juan County Code (SJCC) 18.60.160) would be installed on the southwest side of the project parcel along Armitage Road.

Disturbed ground would be reseeded (using a native meadow seed mix) or revegetated following construction activities.

Area B screening, fencing, and landscaping requirements are in progress.

The Design drawings provided here are in development and are draft only.



Proposed Site Map (Area A)





# Construction Best Management Practices

Construction and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be developed and implemented prior to construction. Typical BMPs for projects of this type and scale are being shared today and we welcome questions and feedback.

San Juan County is responsible for maintaining the roadways on Decatur Island and we will be in communication with them regarding BMPs.

## Mobilization/De-Mobilization

OPALCO anticipates using San Juan County boat/barge ramp on Decatur Island to transport construction equipment to and from the island. We anticipate a similar level of equipment use as was required during construction of the existing solar array. Barge operators will work with the contractor and the contractor will adapt to the conditions and requirements of the barge operators.

## Roadways

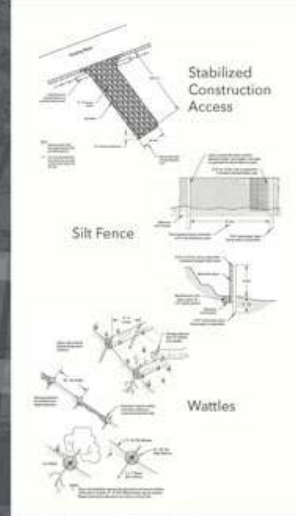
To help prevent road damage and minimize sediment tracking from truck haul routes during construction, the following best management practices (BMPs) may be implemented:

- Adhere to speed limits to reduce wear and tear on haul routes.
- Install and maintain a Stabilized Construction Entrance (BMP C105) as defined in the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (SMMWW) to retain sediment onsite and prevent tracking onto roadways.

## Dust

Our understanding is that San Juan County regularly treats the roadways to minimize dust. We anticipate working with San Juan County to coordinate timing for this. BMPs could include:

1. Reduced speeds will help to minimize dust.
2. Anticipate using dust control measures found in BMP C140: Dust Control per Ecology's SMMWW, as soon as final grade is achieved for site.



## Noise

Construction noise will comply with San Juan County Code (SJCC) 9.06 Noise Ordinance.

Noise BMPs could include:

- Comply with working hours (7am-10pm) outlined in the county code SJCC 9.06.040A.
- Contractor shall ensure proper maintenance and lubrication of equipment to prevent unnecessary noise.

## Onsite BMPs

On-site BMPs could include:

- Excavated soils will be spread on site eliminating offsite impacts. Dry season work will minimize rutting. Sandy loam nature of soils will minimize dust and minimize stormwater runoff.
- Solar panel supports will be with pin piles which will minimize soil disturbance required for construction.
- Mark clearing limits during construction by using protection measures installed (hi-visibility construction fencing likely) to create avoidance areas, to protect wetlands and buffers during construction (BMP C103: High Visibility Fence).
- BMP C233: Silt Fence could be used along Armitage Road or BMP C235 Straw Wattles could be live staked with willows to begin vegetative screening process.
- Pre-seed and/or mulch to minimize erosion during construction of the array (BMP C120: Temporary and Permanent Seeding).
- Create and implement a Construction Stormwater Prevention and Pollution Plan (SWPPP).
- Proper disposal and recycling of construction waste.
- Placement of spill kit on site per BMP C153: Material Delivery, Storage, and Containment.

## Our Commitments

OPALCO is committed to responsible land stewardship and long-term care of the site. Here's what we're promising:

- **Avoid or Minimize Community Impacts**  
Implement best management practices (BMPs) during construction to minimize effects from construction.
- **Share BMPs once Developed**  
Proposed BMPs will be developed following completion of the site design and once a contractor has been brought on board, and shared with the community via the project website.

## Key Takeaways

- Temporary BMPs will be used to avoid or minimize construction impacts.
- Project Specific BMPs will be developed after construction plans are finalized and a contractor is on board.
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan is a requirement and will be prepared once design plans are complete (based on Department of Ecology and San Juan County requirements).



## Community Commitments

OPALCO is committed to serving OPALCO members with reliable power while maintaining high environmental standards throughout the life of this project. Per discussions with San Juan County, the proposed project is required to undergo a Conditional Use Permit process. This entails an administrative review of application of San Juan County Code and State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) review. Additionally, the project will undergo a National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) review. We have outlined the extensive environmental reports OPALCO will provide during this process on the Decatur Solar website ([//www.opalco.com/decatur](http://www.opalco.com/decatur)). The Decatur community has made several requests in how this project can benefit Decatur Island. Based on that feedback OPALCO is committing to:

- Site evaluations of alternate areas on Decatur Island
- Landscaping around the Decatur Substation and proposed construction areas on the road front
- Removal of Derelict Vehicles - 16 vehicles total include 3 boats and further site cleanup
- Water access for fire suppression and miscellaneous site purposes and continued use by the Decatur Fire Brigade of the structures on property.
- Removal of County Parcel Proposed Solar from Plans
- Provide environmental, permit and mitigation plans:
  - Site design
  - Critical Area and Wetland Delineation Report
  - NEPA Compliance Documentation
  - SEPA Checklist
  - Clearing and Grading Plan
  - Landscaping Plan
  - Forest Health Report
  - Stormwater Plan
  - Construction plan & timeline
  - Fire Mitigation Plan
- Cover the 30% Load Growth for Decatur Island





## Aesthetics

### Design Intent / What the Site May Look Like

The goal of the landscape plan is to minimize visual impacts of the proposed solar site expansion by creating a natural buffer that blends into the surrounding environment. Using locally appropriate, native plant species, the design aims to reflect the existing landscape character while providing screening from the adjacent roads. Over time, the restored vegetation will grow to form a resilient and low-maintenance buffer that supports both visual quality and some habitat function.



*Visual simulations of what the site is expected to look like after the plant establishment period.*



Before



After

### Our Commitments

As part of this project, OPALCO is committed to responsible land stewardship and long-term care of the site. Here's what we're promising:

- Protect Wetlands**  
 Wetlands will be avoided and protected throughout construction and long-term use, with the required regulatory buffers in place.
- Maintain and Beautify Landscapes**  
 We will plant native vegetation to blend with the surrounding environment and maintain the site to reduce visual impacts and support habitat.
- Remove Abandoned Vehicles to Clean Up the Site**  
 Old vehicles and debris will be removed to restore and improve the condition of the property.
- Follow a Decommissioning Plan**  
 At the end of the project's life, we will remove infrastructure and restore the site according to a formal, approved decommissioning plan.



Before



After

