

The Water Behind the Watts

Managing Water Through Every Phase of
Renewable Development



Veena Beglinger
Cox Castle, Partner



Erec Devost
Terra-gen,
VP, Development



Shannon Eddy
LSA, Executive
Director



Christine Liberto
Avantus, Associate General
Counsel, Real Estate



Veena Beglinger

Cox Castle, Partner

Areas : Water, Real Estate,
Renewable Energy/Energy

Veena Beglinger is a Partner at Cox Castle who advises on complex real estate development with a focus on water and energy infrastructure. She represents clients across all phases of projects, including renewable energy developments such as solar, wind, and geothermal, as well as the water rights and infrastructure that support them. Veena navigates land use, water, and energy challenges across California and beyond.





Erec DeVost

Terra-gen, VP, Development

Erec DeVost is Vice President of Development at Terra -Gen, where he leads the advancement of renewable energy and transmission projects across the western United States. He specializes in environmental compliance and permitting under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), overseeing environmental review, due diligence, and discretionary approvals. Erec works closely with local, state, and federal agencies to navigate complex regulatory requirements, including wildlife, wetlands, and water quality permitting, bringing projects from early development through approval with a collaborative, solutions-driven approach.





Shannon Eddy

Large-Scale Solar Association (LSA),
Executive Director

Shannon Eddy is the president of Conscious Ventures Group, Inc., a company providing climate-smart policy development and advancement, political consulting, and project development services in support of furthering state, regional and national clean energy goals. She is a 25-year veteran in environmental and clean energy politics. She started lobbying the CA legislature in 2000 on behalf of renewable energy and conservation groups – with passage of AB 1493 (2002) Pavley GHG bill as a first big win. She was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to serve as his advisor on energy efficiency and renewables, and she was an originating member of his Climate Action Team. Shannon was appointed by Governor Brown to the CA Workforce Investment Board.





Christine Liberto

Avantus, Associate General
Counsel, Real Estate

Christine Liberto is Associate General Counsel, Real Estate, with deep experience advising on complex real estate matters across the energy and utilities sectors. At Avantus, she provides strategic guidance on real estate issues supporting solar project development. Previously, she served as Senior Counsel at American Electric Power, where she advanced renewable generator interconnection and managed a portfolio of electricity generation, transmission, and distribution company projects.



Solar – Water Synergies

Ambitious Solar Expansion

- California must install 68,000 MWs of utility-scale solar by 2045, with 36,000 needed by 2031 to maintain grid reliability.

Fallowed Farmland Opportunity

- Over 1 million acres of fallowed land will result from the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in Central Valley.

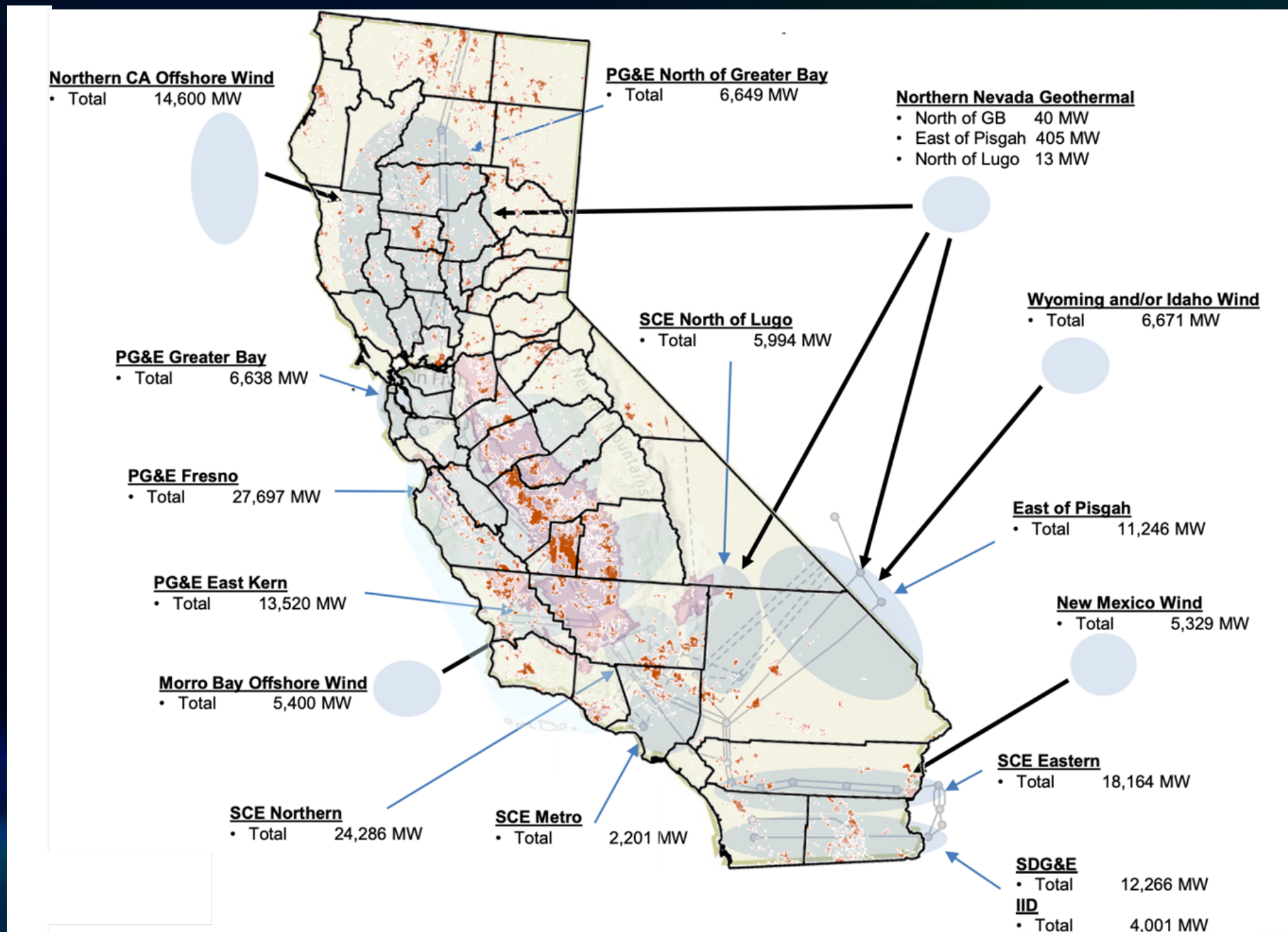
Synergy In Land Use

- Repurposing fallowed agricultural land for utility-scale solar supports energy targets and sustainable water management, while restoring economic revenues and uplift to local communities.

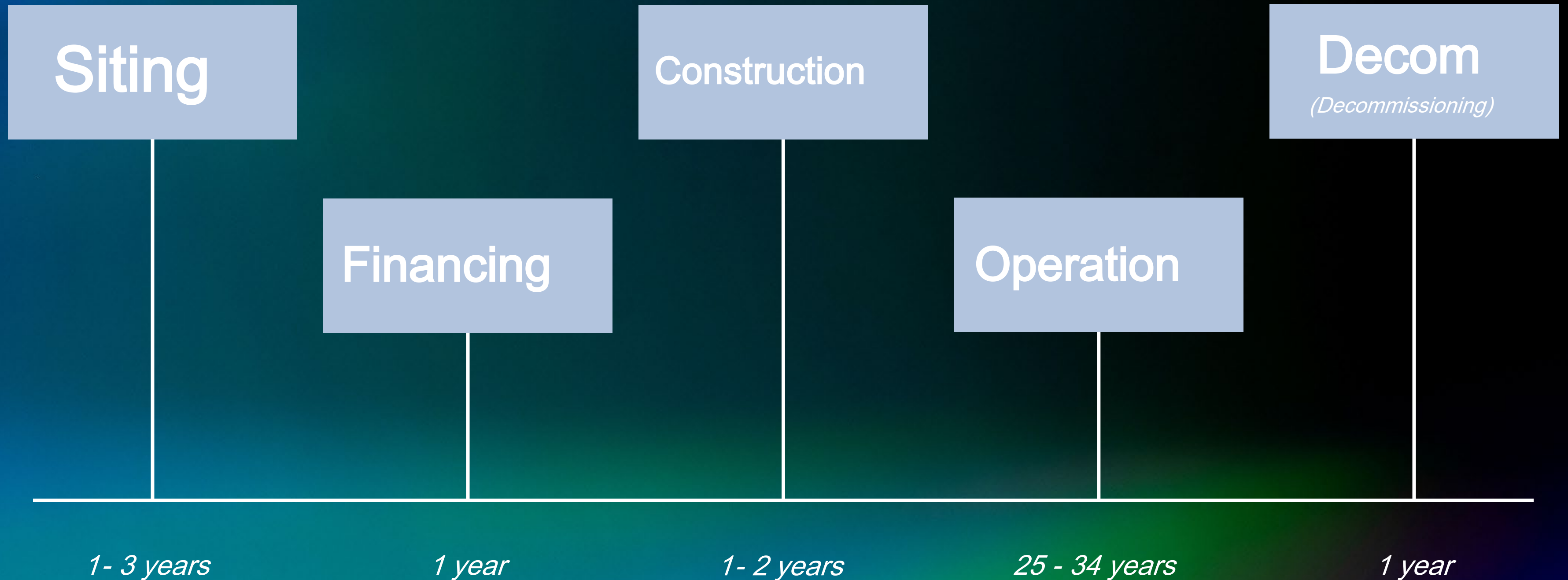
Transmission Buildout & Solar Potential

CAISO 20-Year Transmission Outlook
Zones +
CEC Solar Photovoltaic Resource
Potential Land Use Screens +
DWR Critically Overdrafted Water Basins

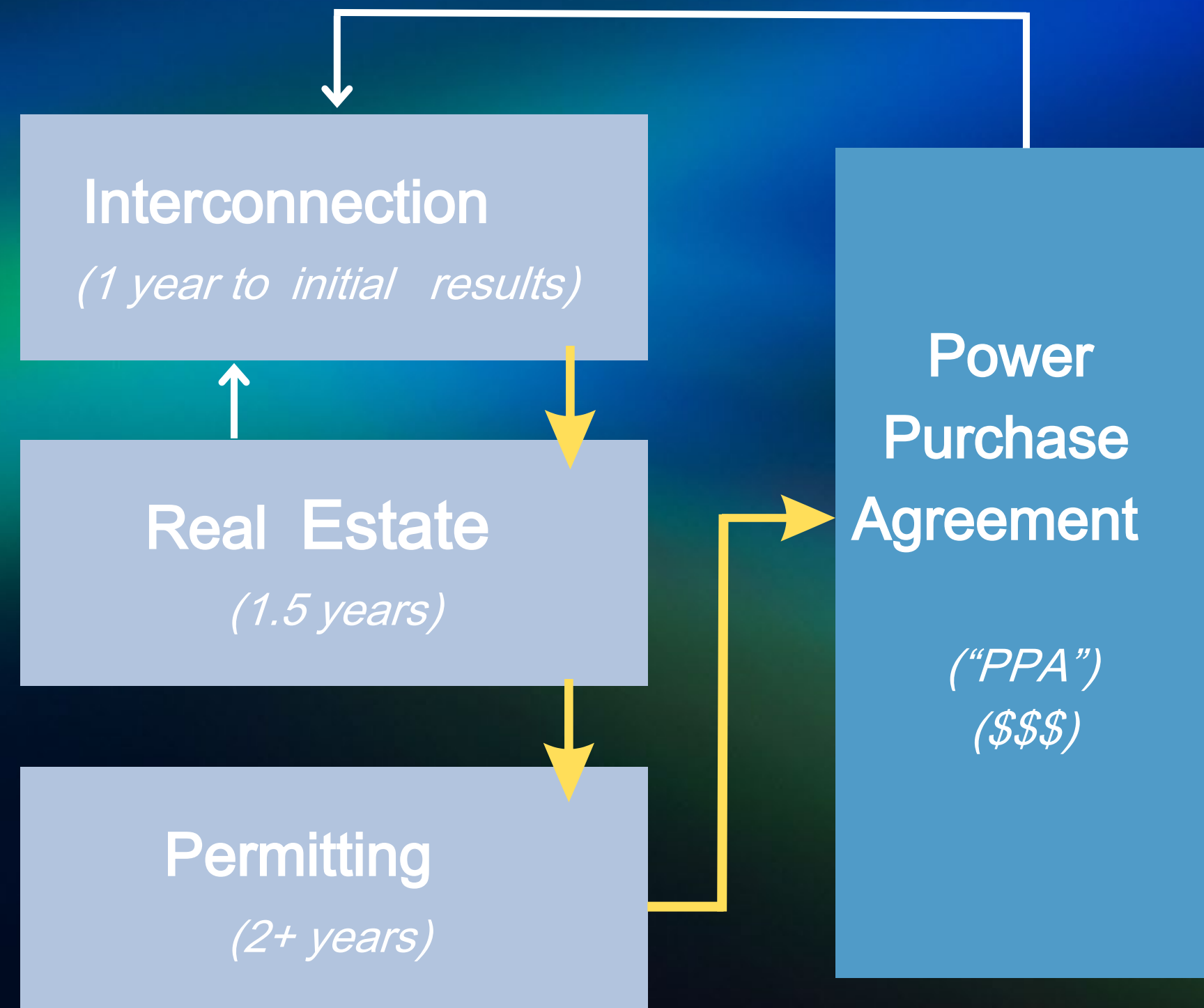
-  Solar PV Resource Potential
Core Screen: 5.4M Acres
-  Critically Overdrafted
Water Basins



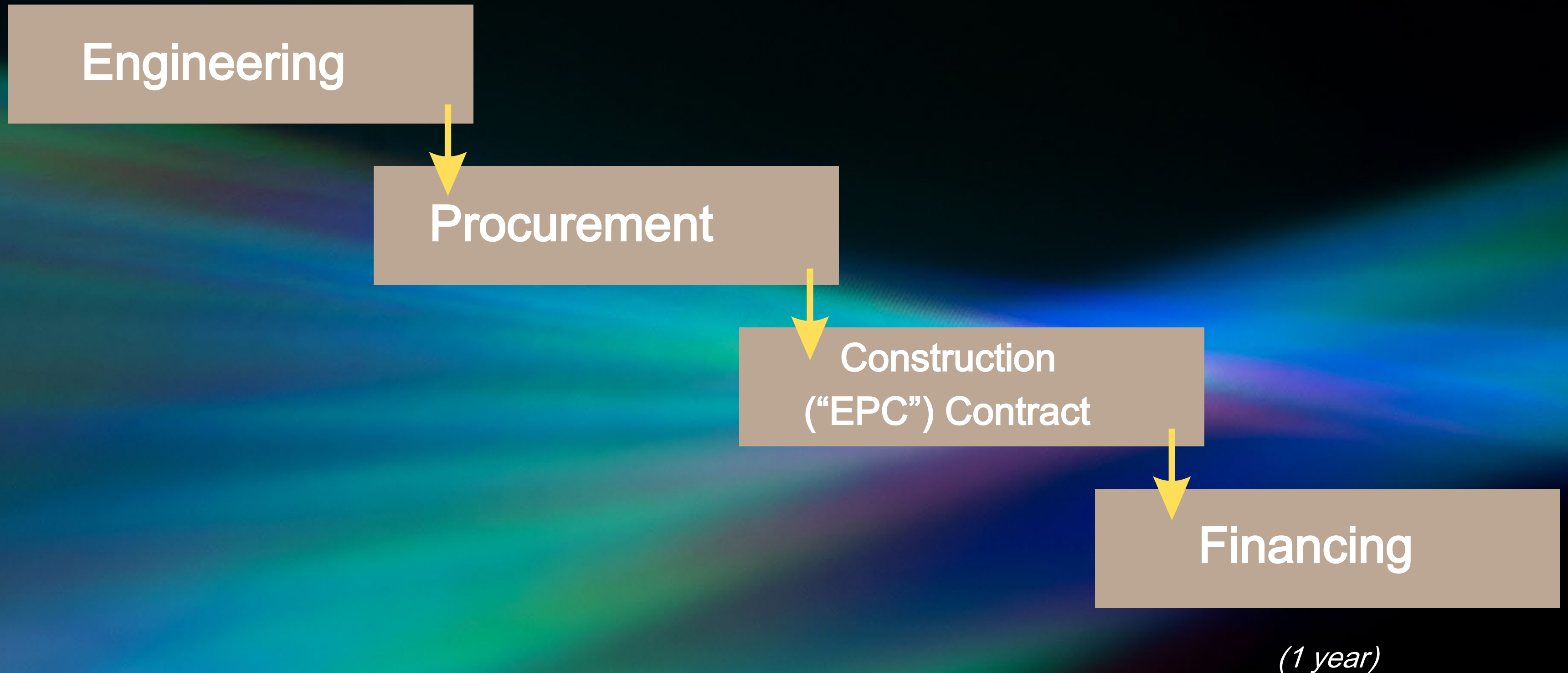
Project Timeline



Siting/Project Prep



Financing



Financing Stages & Options

Developer Funding for Siting and Project Prep

Construction Financing

- For project level construction

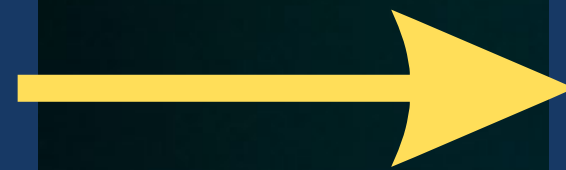
Refinancing and Take Out

- Once operational

Equity (equity investment, preferred equity, institutional funds)

Construction

**Final Notice
to Proceed**
("FNTP")



**Commercial
Operation Date**
("COD")

Construction
(2 years)

Project Operation

Operation



Maintenance

Decommissioning

Decommissioned
for Leased

or

(6 months - 1 year)

Decommissioned
or Repurposed for
Purchased Land

Roundtable Discussion

Agency/Developer Goals

- Water availability and reliability
- Energy affordability
- Water and energy sustainability
- Land repurposing

Discussion Points

- Policies for when agencies want to permanently fallow ag land (soil/drainage/water issues) versus policies for returning the use to turn back to ag in 30 years.
- When land is seriously water challenged land (no groundwater, no surface water), but the goal is to repurpose the land, providing water to construct and operate for solar/BESS (exemptions from groundwater mining or district set asides for solar).

Continue the Conversation

Feel free to email us
your questions any
time!



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