

# **BUTTE CHOICE ENERGY**



INVITES YOUR INTEREST FOR THE POSITION OF:

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## Butte County

Butte County, the "Land of Natural Wealth and Beauty" was one of the original California counties, founded on February 18, 1850. Butte County is located in California's fertile Sacramento Valley and is home to over 229,000 residents. The urban area of Chico, which is the site of California State University's Chico campus, has a population of over 93,000. Other incorporated cities within the County include Oroville, Gridley, Biggs, and Paradise. Butte County offers a mix of rural and suburban lifestyles as well as affordable housing, quality education, boundless recreation options and a quality of life that is unsurpassed.



## Butte Choice Energy

Butte Choice Energy (BCE) is a newly created public agency located within Butte County, formed for the purpose of implementing a community choice aggregation (CCA) program. The Member Agencies of BCE include the City of Chico, as well as the unincorporated areas of the County itself, which have elected to allow BCE to provide electric generation service within their respective jurisdictions.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is a statewide program that allows cities, counties and other qualifying governmental entities to purchase and/or generate electricity for their residents and businesses. Once BCE begins service operations, it will purchase and/or generate electricity for its customers. PG&E will continue to deliver the electrical power and provide meter reading, billing, and line maintenance services for CCA customers. Customers will not notice any change other than a line item on their utility bill that replaces the PG&E electric generation charges. The planned start date for this program is April 1, 2021. For more information on BCE and its plans, please visit [www.buttechoiceenergy.org](http://www.buttechoiceenergy.org).

BCE's Board is comprised of four members, two elected representatives from each member jurisdiction (two Butte County Supervisors, and two City of Chico Council Members). The Board may choose to expand should additional communities within or outside of Butte County decide to join BCE in the future. The Board is publicly accountable

to BCE ratepayers and hosts monthly Board meetings to oversee program start-up, establish policy, determine power options, set and approve rates, and maintain fiscal oversight. As a public joint powers agency, BCE is designed to be fully transparent with all meetings and information open to the public.

### The Position of CEO

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will report to the Board of Directors of BCE. The new CEO will be a strategic leader that provides decisive and effective leadership for all aspects of the operation. The CEO will coordinate the launch and initial operations for the agency and is ultimately tasked with



building BCE into an innovative and effective local energy enterprise that will benefit the residents and businesses of Butte County. This includes identifying and securing existing and alternative sources of power, establishing a formal rate structure, marketing BCE to potential customers, and creating an administrative infrastructure to “jumpstart” and operationalize the entity including hiring and managing key positions within the organization.

The CEO will direct and oversee the functions of administration, finance, marketing and public affairs, power planning and procurement, local energy programs, and regulatory and legislative affairs. A key aspect of this assignment is to foster and maintain strong relationships with the Board, city and state governments, customers, employees, the California Utilities Commission (CPUC, and other key stakeholders. This exciting opportunity will offer a dynamic and entrepreneurial executive an opportunity to help shape and build a start-up agency that will positively transform energy utility service in the region.

### **The Ideal Candidate**

The ideal candidate will be a dynamic leader, capable of developing and managing a creative, innovative organization. He/ she will have an impressive background in energy and electric power supply as well as knowledge of local government and a high level of political acumen. The successful candidate must also be a seasoned executive with impressive management instincts and the gravitas to shape guide BCE's strategic growth. The CEO will have a strong understanding of both the administrative and operational aspects of the job and have the necessary judgment and technical ability to recommend and implement policies and programs for Butte Choice Energy.

The new CEO will be a highly accomplished executive with a proven track record of managing complex organizations, a strong leadership record as well as an ability to recruit and mentor talent. The individual must also be highly entrepreneurial and have clear vision for the agency, building a multidisciplinary team of staff and contactors that can effectively meet the challenges facing the organization. In building for the future, the ideal candidate must be aware of current trends in the industry and effective responses. The CEO must have sound policy and political judgment in order to ensure the agency is launched effectively and on a sound course in the years to come. This will require knowledge of CA energy markets as well as a keen awareness of the current and changing regulatory climate at the State level.



Another core component of this role will be working effectively with the BCE Board of Directors, its member cities and customers to ensure high quality programs and excellent customer service. The new CEO must be able to effectively market the agency and instill its long-term value to the community. Additionally, the CEO must be an engaging relationship builder with the Board and staff, and must have a proactive communications style through which to clearly explain complex policy concepts and recommendations. Core to positioning the agency to deal with the current trends, will also be building legislative relationships in Sacramento and with the CA Public Utilities Commission.

A successful candidate will have impressive executive-level experience in California energy markets, large-scale power procurement, public or investor-owned utilities, other municipal utilities, renewable power development, and/or municipal executives with relevant experience. A Bachelor's degree in a related field and a significant level of executive level leadership in a related private or public setting is required. A Master's degree is highly desirable.

## Compensation and Benefits

Butte Choice Energy will offer a comprehensive salary and benefits package. The base salary range for this position is open and negotiable DOQ. The benefits program is currently under development and will be finalized after the new CEO is hired. The expectation is to provide a full array of competitive employee benefits, including a defined contribution plan.



## The Process

To be considered for this exceptional career opportunity, please visit the Avery Associates Career Portal on our website at [www.averyassoc.net/current-searches/](http://www.averyassoc.net/current-searches/) to upload your letter of interest, resume, and contact information, including email addresses for five professional references (who will not be contacted until after an interview takes place).

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The final filing date for this recruitment is: May 8, 2020. The goal is to have the CEO hired by early summer 2020 pending alignment with BCE start-up logistics.

If you have any questions or wish to further explore this opportunity, please contact Paul Kimura at [paulk@averyassoc.net](mailto:paulk@averyassoc.net) or 408 399-4424 or Sam Avery at [samuels@averyassoc.net](mailto:samuels@averyassoc.net) or 408 399-4424.