

APRIL 9, 2021

# EBCE Technology and Analytics Update

*Special Board Retreat*

*Taj Ait-Laoussine, VP Technology & Analytics*



# Agenda

- **Team Mission and Overview**
- **The EBCE Integrated Platform**
- **Enabling a Data-Driven Organization: Use Cases**
- **Ecosystem of Partners**
- **Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System**
- **CCDMS RFP**
- **Tentative Roadmap**
- **Collaboration with Other CCAs**

# Team Mission / Meet the Team

*“Develop an in-house integrated data platform and analytical capabilities to conduct ongoing load research and analysis.”*

- Key Recommendation, EBCE Local Development Business Plan

**Team Mission:** the Technology and Analytics team manages data, processes and systems to ensure that EBCE decisions and operations are grounded in data and driven by analytical insights.



Diego Ponce de Leon Barido  
Director of Analytics



Doug Allen  
Modeler-in-Chief



Kevin Li  
Data Scientist



Sanjay Subramanian  
Data Engineer



Taj Ait-Laoussine  
Vice President, Technology and Data Analytics

# The EBCE Integrated Data Platform

- EBCE built its data platform using the Google Cloud Platform (GCP) as a foundation
- The platform centralizes and processes all data relevant to EBCE Operations
- With GCP, EBCE staff have access to modern data science and big-data technologies
- The EBCE platform is unique among CCAs and has contributed to significant innovation



Google Cloud Platform

## Why Use Cloud Technology?

Fast

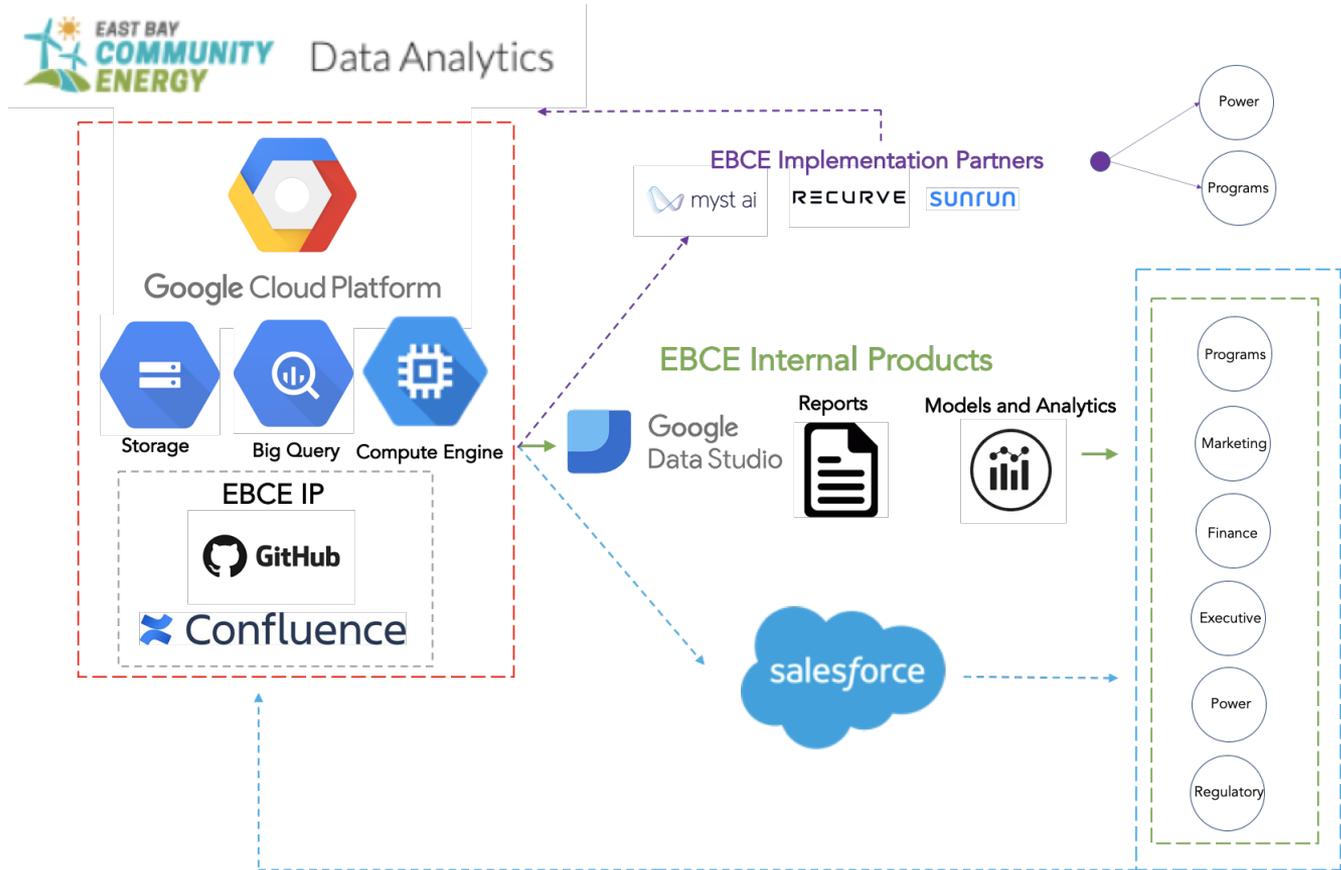
Cost-Effective

Highly Scalable

Secure

Modern

# EBCE Manages a Complex Data Environment



# Integrated Data Sources

## Energy Usage Information

- Hourly/ 15 Minute Usage
- Bills / Billing Determinants
- Monthly Electric Usage
- Gas Usage

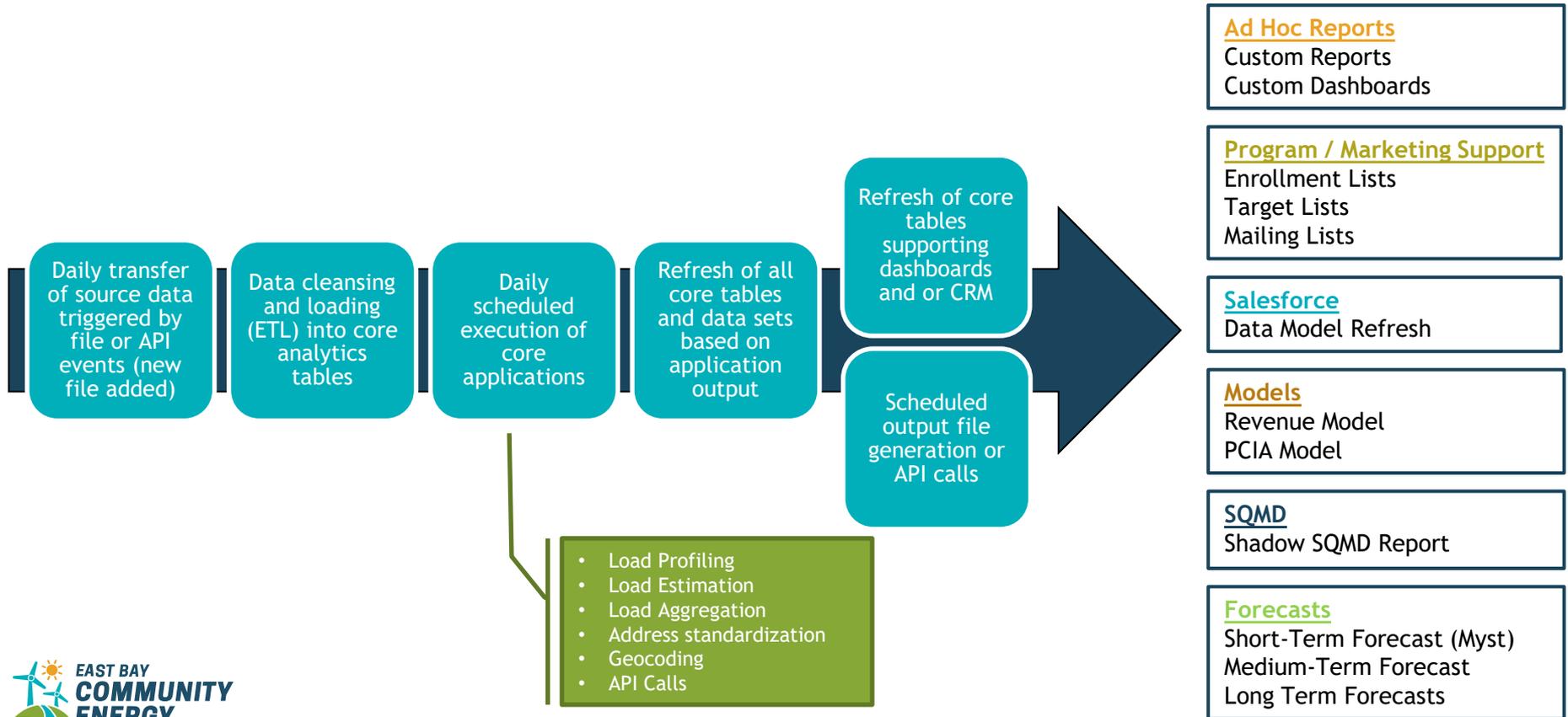
## Customer Information

- PG&E Customer Details
- Customer Enrollment
- Product Choices
  
- Tax Assessor Records
- Census Information
- CalEnviroScreen
- PG&E Arrears
- PG&E Disconnections
- PSPS Events
- DMV Records

## Other Data Sources

- CAISO Price Data
- SC DA Schedules
- Load Forecasts
- Power Procurement TxS
- Google Sunroof
- Weather

# Automated Data Integration



# Self Service Dashboards and Reports

## EBCE at A Glance 2019-2020

2019  
*(actual)*

MWh  
5,852,675

Max MW  
1,135

Year End Count  
559,714

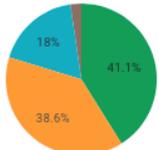
2020  
*(actual)*

MWh  
5,898,142

Max MW  
1,140

Year End Count  
560,920

2019 Load by Sector



2019 Load by Product

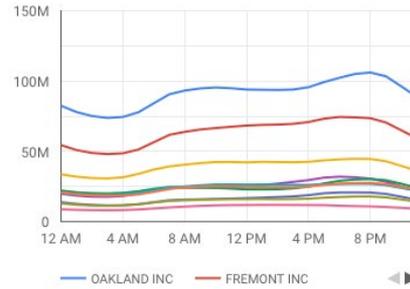


● Commer... ● Residential ● Industrial ● Municipal ● Bright Choice ● Brilliant 100 ● Renewable 100

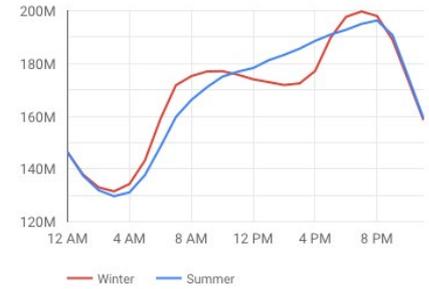
2019 Load & Count by Jurisdiction

	Jurisdiction	Count	MWh
1.	OAKLAND INC	179,849	1,620,745
2.	FREMONT INC	83,635	1,134,322
3.	HAYWARD INC	54,743	711,419

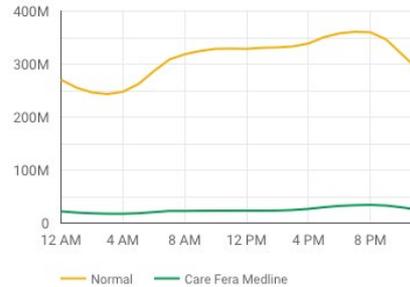
Shape by Jurisdiction



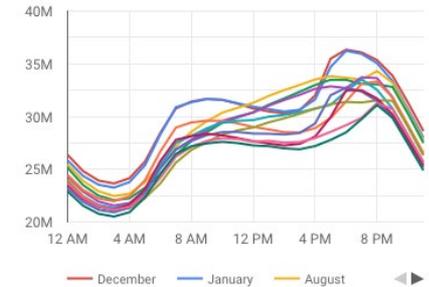
Shape by Season



Shape by CFM Flag



Shape by Month



# Enabling a Data-Driven Organization

- **Team manages auxiliary systems to facilitate a data-driven organization:**
  - **Confluence**, an interactive wiki-like knowledge repository of all relevant information and documentation;
  - **Jira**, a ticketing system to request ad-hoc analysis or features (100s / year).
- **Recently, 6+ EBCE staff graduated from an internal SQL class to facilitate data querying.**
- **We also support additional self-help tools such as QGIS to let staff do their own analysis and modeling.**

# Use Case: Identifying TOU Transition Outcomes

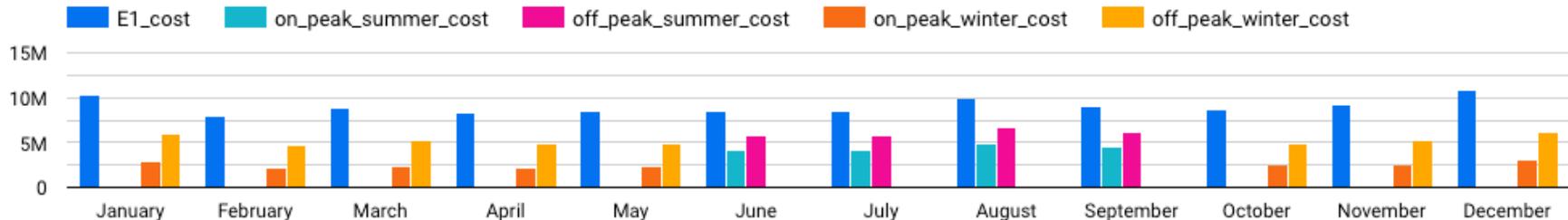
## Context:

- Residential customers will soon start defaulting to a new TOU Rate.
- Knowing which customers are winners and which are losers helps EBCE understand the impact of the transition on revenues, and how to market to those customers.
- So, who are the winners, and who are the losers?



## Analysis:

- Identify eligible customers and use a year of hourly usage data for all customers.
- Calculate billing charges under two scenarios: normal rate, TOU rate.
- Calculate the cost difference between two scenarios and identify TOU winners and TOU losers.
- Calculate Bill Protection Amount @ Risk.



# Use Case: Enriching Resilient Home Leads

## Context:

- Customers can submit a form on the EBCE website to see if they qualify for the Resilient Home Program.
- Leads need to be qualified and prioritized based on customer profiles and characteristics.
- Implementation partner needs usage and customer details to further qualify customers



## Process:

- Forms collected on web site are sent to EBCE Analytics team for enrichment
- Leads are automatically enriched with data from EBCE integrated platform
- Enriched leads are seamlessly passed on to implementation partner via GCP.

## Key Data Elements Added to Leads

Care / Fera / Medical Baseline

Fire Hazard Zone

PSPS Event Count

Google Sunroof Potential

Parcel Age

Disadvantaged Community Flag

Low Income Flag

Hourly Electricity Usage

# Use Case: Preventing Customer Disconnections

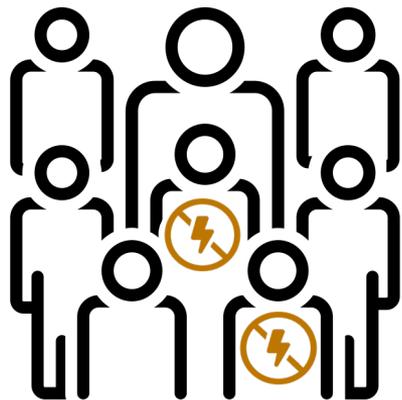
## Context:

- EBCE seeks to proactively help customers that are at risk of frequent disconnections.
- EBCE want to pre-emptively reach out to such customers and focus its resources where most needed, to prevent disconnections.
- So how can EBCE predict customers at risk of disconnection?



## Analysis:

- Develop a machine-learning model specific to at-risk census tracts.
- Data used: interval kWh, monthly arrearages, monthly gas data, DMV/KBB car values.
- EBCE data infrastructure provides platform to ingest data, perform computations, and export candidates into program campaigns.



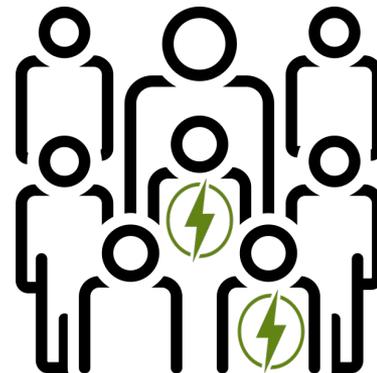
With Model

40%

2.5X 

Without Model

16%



# Use Case: Using Data to Respond Effectively

## Context:

- COVID and difficult social circumstances led to a significant increase in customers with arrears in our service territory.
- Data from PG&E and partners was difficult to use, interpret and act upon.
- Analysis was required to better understand EBCE's overall arrears picture.



## Analysis:

- Clean, monitor, analyze and visualize arrears data to be used by the Finance and Programs Teams.
- Data feeds flow into GCP and Salesforce for organizational decision making.
- Data allows for data-driven design of programs to help with arrears and debt management.

## Aging Report

[click for documentation](#)

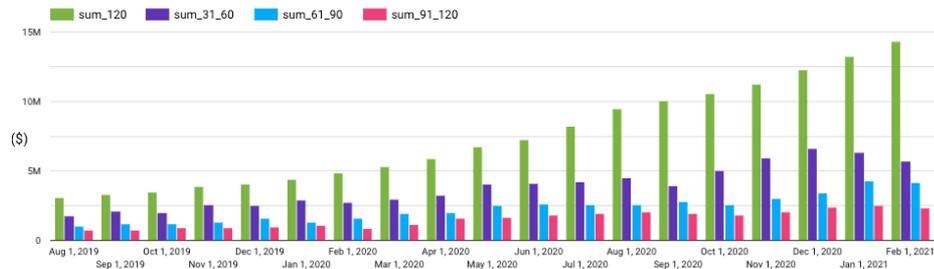
Note: Includes all customers included in the SMUD Aging Report (e.g., Opt-In, Terminated, etc).



Choose Accounting Buckets  Select date range



Selected Accounting Buckets



# Use Case: Calculating Revenue “Headroom”

## Context:

- As a CCA whose rates are tied to PG&E’s, the amount we can spend on energy (“headroom”) is determined by the interplay between PG&E rates, PCIA rates, and the composition of our load
- Year-to-year changes in PCIA can be significant, but can also be obscured by stable PG&E generation rates



## Analysis:

- Use hourly forecast usage data for all customers
- Calculate EBCE rates (PG&E + discount / premium)
- Net out PCIA payments to PG&E
- Can also calculate headroom by rate class, city, etc., to help target load reductions to specific customer segments

In January 2021, average rates paid by customers (including PCIA) dropped by 3.4%...



... but average rates received by EBCE (\*net of PCIA\*) dropped by 14.8%.



# Expanding the Ecosystem: Data Partners

Myst is an EBCE partner that generates highly accurate short term load forecasts for EBCE via seamless data exchanges through GCP.

## EBCE Wholesale Performance Report

### Page 1 - Hourly Load & Prices

Apr 1, 2020 - Jul 31, 2020



Performance of Actual DA Schedule

MAPE DA  
4.17%

Performance of Myst Schedule

MAPE Myst  
2.59%

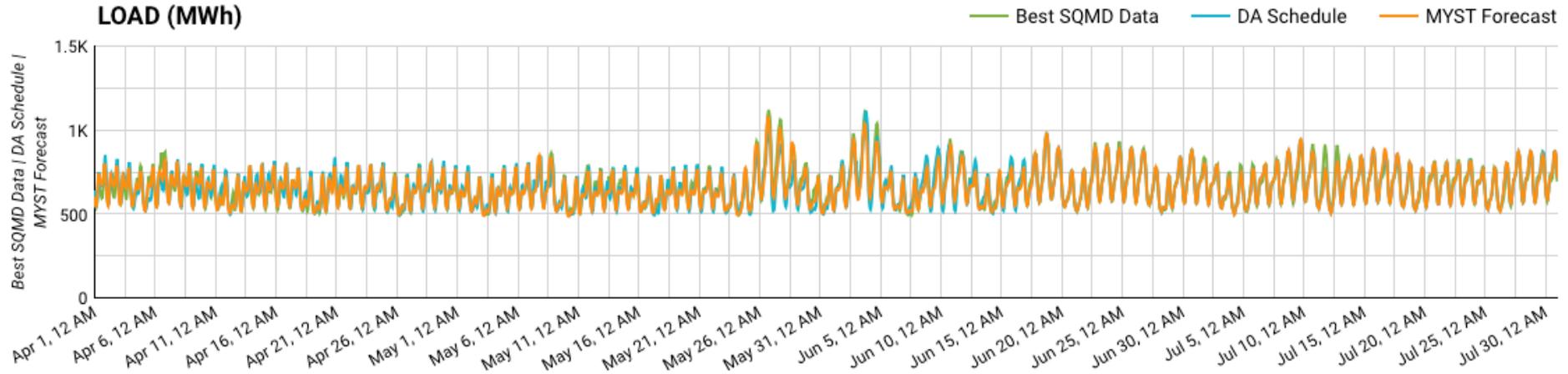
Performance of Theoretical Internal EBCE Schedule

MAPE FCAST  
6.64%

Total WS MWh  
1,936,237

Max WS MW  
1,120

LOAD (MWh)



# Pushing the CRM Envelope

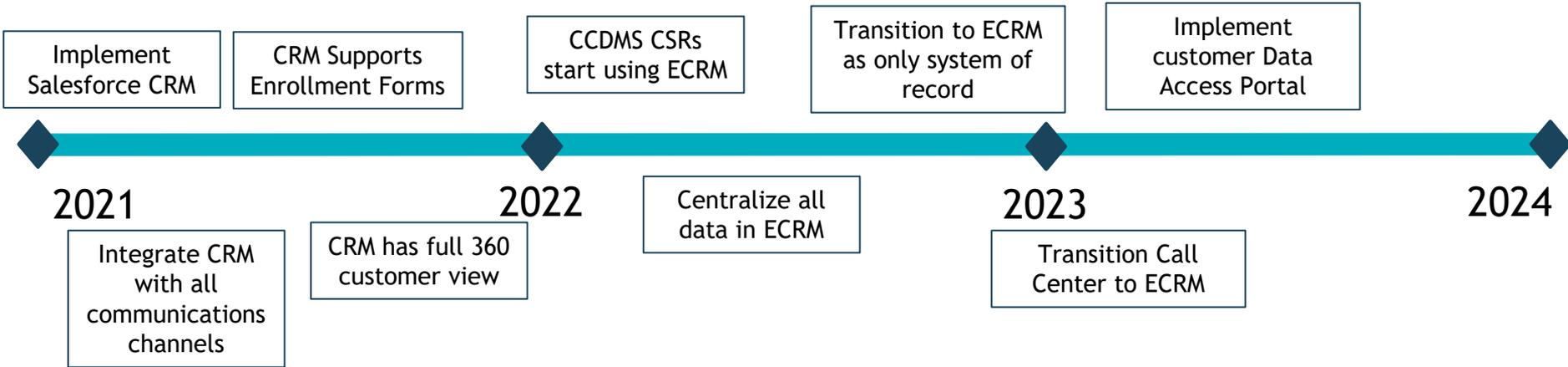
- EBCE has directly licensed its own Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system from Salesforce.
- The CRM is built on the EBCE Platform, centralizes all customer information in one place, and supports targeting, communication and enrollment of customer for marketing and local development;
- The EBCE CRM is the foundation to bringing future functions “in-house”, particularly the call center.

Enrollment Details				
Enrolled Start Date	6/16/2020		EBCE Status	Enrolled
Enrolled End Date	1/1/2100		SMUD Status	Terminated
EBCE Product	Renewable 100			
Additional Program Options				
CARE Flag	false		Care Date	
FERA Flag	false		Fera Date	
Medical Baseline Flag	false		Medical Baseline Date	
Payment Plan Flag	false		Payment Plan Start Date	
			Payment Plan End Date	
Usage & Billing Information				
SA Billed kWh Previous Year	1,419.96		SA Billed Amount Previous Year	\$119.23
SA Max-Month Billed kWh Previous Year	198.75			
SA Billed kWh Current Year	614.05		SA Billed Amount Current Year	\$57.07
SA Item16 kWh Year			SA Arrearages Previous Year	\$10.88
SA Max Summer Demand Previous Year			SA Arrearages Current Year	\$0.75

# Call Center and Data Management Services RFP

- The Analytics team works closely with the EBCE Call Center and Data Management Services Provider (currently SMUD).
- EBCE has issued an RFP to renew these services, due 4/9/2021.
- RFP seeks pricing and options for call center integration into the service territory.
- RFP also calls for tighter integration with EBCE CRM and the EBCE Roadmap.
- RFP was reviewed in detail during the Executive Committee Meeting 3/26/2021.

# Tentative Road Map - CRM Activities



# Collaboration with Other CCAs

- Over the last few years, more and more CCAs have embarked on the development of their own internal integrated platform.
- EBCE has provided thought leadership in this arena, and has offered to help other CCAs develop a platform like that at EBCE.
- EBCE continues to explore ways to partner with other CCAs as it presents the following advantages:
  - Potential economies of scale
  - Unified front when dealing with PG&E
  - Shared Intellectual Property through Open Source
- Progress! Most other CCAs are adopting the GCP Platform as the basis for their own internal systems.

# APPENDIX

# EBCE Modeling Layer

## Sits on top of the Data Warehouse

- Direct pulls from latest data ensures currency of results
- But also means that any assumptions / errors made anywhere in the data warehouse flow through (and sometimes accumulate) in modeling efforts

## Primarily self-contained “apps”

- Shared functions are kept separate in a central “tools” package
- Models are self-contained analyses
- Focus on flexibility in development phase pays off later when new questions arise

## Integration with GCP / GCS allows for automatic updates

- Ability to archive input files / parameters for documentation purposes
- Increased visibility of results helps to catch errors