Program Fact Sheet for EV DC Fast Charging

PG&E's Flex Connect Program accelerates customer load service applications in situations where the PG&E distribution grid cannot immediately support the full capacity requested by offerings a bridge solution by allowing customers to connect and utilize available capacity right away (while the necessary capacity upgrades are made).

Flex Connect leverages PG&E's Distributed Energy Resource Management System (DERMS) to enable dynamic capacity management for participating customers. DERMS communicates with the customer's local energy management system, sending a forecasted capacity schedule with hourly capacity limits 24 hours in advance (up to 3.5 days in advance). These limits are based on the forecasted loading for the following day. This day ahead forecast allows customers to plan their operations while ensuring grid reliability and safety.

This fact sheet explains what it takes to participate in the program and is intended to help you make effective decisions by selecting the integration pathway suited to your timeline and budget.

How to Participate

Step 1: Capacity Assessment

After a customer applies for a new business project, PG&E conducts a pre-assessment. If a capacity constraint exists, PG&E issues a load limit letter[1] detailing the available power capacity and the estimated timeline for necessary grid upgrades.

Step 2: Flex Connect Load Analysis

Within 4-6 weeks after receiving a Load Limit Letter, customers will receive a Load Analysis Report from the Flex Connect team estimating additional capacity to unlock via program participation. Customers can also contact FlexConnect@pge.com with inquiries.

Step 3: Program Enrollment

To participate in the Flex Connect program, customers are required to execute the Participation Agreement. Enrollment is administered on a first-come, first-served basis, and typically is restricted to a single site per feeder.

[1] Load Limit Letter is a PDF sent by PG&E Service Planning team directly to the customer via email.

Step 4: Select Integration Pathway

Customer must select an integration pathway based on their budget, timeline, and site needs (details below).

Step 5: Finalize Site Design

The customer submits a Description of Operation to PG&E, outlining an agreed integration plan to align on scope, design, and site-specific requirements.

Step 6: Site Commissioning

After charger installation, the site will get tested and pass PG&E interoperability requirements.

Timeline

Steps	Estimated Duration	Owner
Capacity Assessment	4 weeks	PG&E
Flex Connect Load Analysis	4-6 weeks	PG&E
Program Enrollment	4 weeks	Customer
Select Integration Pathway	4 weeks	Customer and Vendor
Finalize Site Design	4-8 weeks	Customer and Vendor
Site Commissioning	2-3 weeks	PG&E, Customer, and Vendor(s)

Technical Requirements

PG&E utilizes the Common Smart Inverter Profile (CSIP) of the IEEE 2030.5 communication protocol for bi-directional communication with participating sites. Here's how it works:

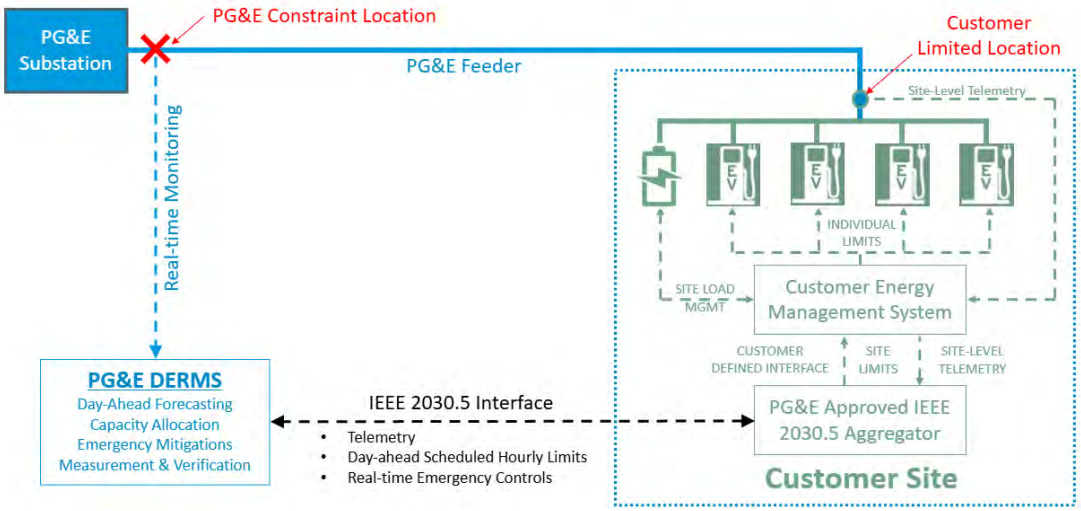
- Two-Way Communication: To participate, your site needs to be able to both send telemetry data and receive control schedules using the IEEE 2030.5 communication protocol.
- Controls:
    - Daily Forecasts: PG&E sends a daily day-ahead forecast of the charging limit for each hour. The daily forecast will be sent by 8am in the morning the day prior to it going into effect. The charging limits are defined by PG&E's Day-ahead forecast of distribution grid loading.
    - PG&E's DERMS platform (IEEE 2030.5 server) sends control schedules to the site. Depending on the site's setup, the customer can select different integration pathways (as listed below). The IEEE 2030.5 client receives the

control schedule and relays the charging envelope to the EV chargers (EVSEs) to manage charge limits.

- In the rare event of an emergency grid condition or significant communication loss (> 15 minutes), the day-ahead schedule may be cancelled temporarily. In such instances, site limits revert to those specified planned limits in the Load Limit Letter. This letter may define static year-round values, seasonal limits, or hourly limits, depending on customer requests or the site's available capacity.

- Telemetry:
  - PG&E requires your site to send back telemetry data in real-time, with latency no greater than 30 seconds from customer-owned devices
  - Telemetry must be aggregated at the site level, not the individual charger level.

This setup helps ensure your site remains within energy limits while supporting overall grid reliability. Below is a conceptual overview of the communication architecture: The DERMS server sends a control schedule via IEEE 2030.5 to a 2030.5 client through an aggregator service. The 2030.5 client may be implemented either in a cloud environment or as embedded software on a local device. Once the client receives the control schedule, it can use any appropriate downstream communication protocol to disaggregate the limits to individual EVSEs (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment).



Hardware and Control Diagram for Flex Connect Integration

Integration Pathways

1. Join via approved CSIP Certified Vendor[2]
   Customers can choose from a list of vendors approved by the Flex Connect Program to integrate with your existing management system to participate.
2. Bring Your Own Vendor
   If your charging management platform supports the CSIP IEEE 2030.5 communication protocol, your provider can complete the required testing process to meet PG&E's interoperability requirements for participation.
3. Plug and Play[3]:
   If you've selected the charger or Charging Management Platform that natively supports IEEE 2030.5 and passed PG&E interoperability testing, you can participate directly.

Key factors to consider:

1. How much time do I have before opening the site to the public?
2. Can my local device(s) (e.g., local site controller or EVSE equipment) store the default charging limit schedule in the event of a communication loss?
3. Will my charging management software be able to implement IEEE 2030.5?

If your site will energize within 6–12 months and you're unfamiliar with the CSIP certification process, it's recommended to use a third-party CSIP-certified vendor for the first 1–2 sites. The tradeoff is a potentially higher cost for integration. Please refer to the pricing brochure in the resource section below.

If you have over 12 months and your software vendor is interested in CSIP certification, you can consider the "Bring Your Own Vendor" pathway to reduce integration costs.

Program Resources

- Approved CSIP certified Solution Provider List
- Flex Connect 288 Preliminary Load Analysis Report Overview
- Technical Requirements for Telemetry and Control

Last updated January 2026

[2] Approved CSIP Certified Vendor is the vendor who received the CSIP specification and passed PG&E interoperability testing.

[3] As of Dec 2025, the program doesn't have any charging management vendor to offer this solution.