

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

Staff Report – Item 10

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk / Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: Community Advisory Committee July 22, 2021 and August 26, 2021 Meetings Summaries

DATE: September 9, 2021

This report summarizes the Community Advisory Committee's meetings held via Zoom webinar on Thursday, July 22, 2021 and August 26, 2021.

Thursday, July 22, 2021 Meeting:

- A. Quarterly Power Procurement / Renewable Portfolio Standard update.** The CAC received an update on 2021 power content targets and a year to date comparison to 2021 targets. Notably the hydropower contribution will be less than originally planned. This is due mainly to less large hydro from the PGE allocation – a result of the ongoing drought. Also, less power will come from Indian Valley as well. Slides taken by Rebecca Boyles at the Aquamarine Solar site in Kings County show good progress. VCE's portion of this project is scheduled to come on-line in Q3 2021.
- B. Rates Task Group Report.** VCE's consultant Don Dame was asked to join the Task Group's discussion on rates to assist the group in having more robust conversations about rates. The group have been looking at policy rate options and policies, which they hope to bring to the CAC for discussion in the near future. Concerns were expressed about rate elasticity among the different customers, rate option outreach plans, cost of local resources, and VCE's role in the net energy metering (NEM) installation movement.
- C. Strategic Plan update.** Staff provided an update and cadence overview of the Strategic Plan goals. Topics discussed were: opting up to UltraGreen; how VCE can support building electrification, battery storage and NEM customers; the need to continue to support decarbonization and grid innovation through regulatory and legislative activities; and, the role of interns assisting staff with the Strategic Plan goals.
- D. Update on VCE's applications to the Yolo County American Rescue Plan (ARP).** Mitch Sears provided a brief overview of the four proposals submitted by VCE. Once staff knows if any of the projects are chosen for further analysis, CAC input may be sought. This could take the form of the programs task group looking at the proposals or selected individuals giving specific help.

Thursday, August 26, 2021 Meeting:

- E. Carbon Neutral Task Group update.** Staff, Task Group CAC members, and Ezra Beeman of Energeia USA provided an overview of the group's activities, specifically plans and progress of the agreement with Energeia USA to study and present options for VCE to achieve a 100% carbon neutral resource portfolio by 2030. The update included a review by CAC task group members of the Carbon Neutral Task Group's charge and tasks; an overview of the timeline of the study; and definition of terms (Renewable Electricity, Carbon Free Electricity, Hour by Hour // 24/7, and carbon neutral. Staff then reviewed our load profile over the year as contrasted to planned PPAs. The consultants then reviewed project scope, schedule and status; and, reviewed key future zero carbon generation, renewable energy, and storage technologies. A good discussion about technologies, needs, information and analysis that will be performed by Energeia occurred in addition to feedback provided by CAC members. Additionally public comment was received from Mr. Charles Ehrlich.
- F. Discussion on possible restructuring of the Community Advisory Committee.** Due to the difficulty for VCE to fully fill CAC vacancies, this item came to the CAC for staff to receive input on possibly restructuring the Committee. Staff presented three options for review and discussion – 1: staying as is, 2: at large members, 3: use of alternates. General consensus of the CAC was the importance of having some applicants from all jurisdictions and qualified applicants appointed to the CAC. The CAC noted that recruitment efforts have been difficult as several individual Members have reached out to their community to solicit applicants; however, those that have been contacted are already serving on other Committees and do not have the bandwidth to be appointed to another committee. The CAC agreed that the cities of Davis and Winters seats should be filled now and active solicitation should continue to fill the city of Woodland and unincorporated Yolo County seats. The CAC asked staff to discuss recruitment efforts by the respective individual Board members and discuss with the entire Board the possibility of restructuring the CAC to include some at large members. The CAC thought that at-large could be chosen based on a variety of approaches, including limiting to one additional from another jurisdiction, knowledge or interest areas such as rural, etc. Long term, the CAC feels that VCE is best served with a CAC that has a full complement of 12 members.