

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE**

**Staff Report – Item 10**

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TO: Valley Clean Energy Alliance Board of Directors

FROM: Mitch Sears, Interim General Manager

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Community Advisory Committee Reports – January 24, 2019 and February 28, 2019 meetings

DATE: March 14, 2019

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This report transmits the Community Advisory Committee's Reports regarding its January 24, 2019 and February 28, 2019 meetings.

**Attachment**

1. January 24, 2019 CAC Meeting Summary Report
2. February 28, 2019 CAC Meeting Summary Report

**Valley Clean Energy Alliance**  
**Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Report to the Board**  
**Summary of January 24<sup>th</sup> CAC Meeting**

- Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) offer of Support
  - C. Linvill discussed his background working as a utility commissioner in Nevada and now with the non-profit RAP (Regulatory Assistance Project: [www.raponline.org](http://www.raponline.org)). He is also on the planning committee of the Climate Conference to be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> in Davis and sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance for Climate Justice. He is interested in the work of VCE and would like to support VCE staff within the scope of work RAP is being funded to do by the Solar Foundation. Mr. Linvill will meet with Staff to determine where there is alignment between his funded work scope and on-going or new VCE staff efforts. Mr. Linvill also requested a VCE speaker for agenda of the climate conference. M. Sears will respond.
  
- Review of Task Group structure
  - Discussed the continued need for task groups that focus on:
    - i. Legislative/Regulatory Issues, and
    - ii. Outreach/Marketing
  - Discussed additional areas where task group(s) could provide value:
    - i. Working with Staff on a possible dividend offering, researching options for bringing NEM customers to VCE sooner, looking into increasing opt-ups.
    - ii. Looking at long range planning, decarbonization, and local projects.
  - Motion: to form the 3 task groups below for 2019. Motion passed: 8-0-0.
    - i. Legislative/Regulatory: Y. Hunter, L. Kristov.
    - ii. Outreach/Marketing: M. Aulman, M. Baird, C. Casey, Y. Hunter.
    - iii. “Rate-related”(Name tbd): M. Baird, G. Braun, C. Shewmaker, D. Springer.
  - The three task groups will elect a chair for 2019 and prepare their scope of work for review at the next CAC meeting. A long-range planning task group may be added in the future.
  
- Other CAC Organizational Issues
  - Discussed coordinating meetings/discussions with the advisory committees of other CCAs. C. Shewmaker provided a spreadsheet of which CCAs have advisory committees. M. Sears will bring the idea up at the next CalCCA meeting to determine other CCA’s receptivity.
  - Discussed and updated Long Range Calendar.

**Valley Clean Energy Alliance**  
**Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Report to the Board**  
**Summary of February 28<sup>th</sup> CAC Meeting**

- Updated Strategic Marketing and Communications Plan
  - Members of the CAC had the opportunity to review the Plan prior to the meeting. C. Shewmaker commented that the Plan does not adequately emphasize CAC’s desire to “encourage and inform public discourse regarding the need and urgency to address climate concerns.”
  - Motion: to have Green Ideals, Staff, and the Outreach Task Group include verbiage throughout the Plan about educating on the urgency to address climate change and recommend that the VCE Board of Directors approve the updated Strategic Marketing & Communications Plan with the additional language. Motion passed: 6-0-0.
  
- Customer Enrollment Update
  - Discussed prior request to include numbers on NEM customers not yet enrolled in VCE in the enrollment summary as they will become customers in the future.
  - Motion: to add NEM information to the updates that are provided. Motion passed: 6-0-0.
  
- UltraGreen Update
  - J. Parks provided an update on marketing plans for encouraging customers to opt up to UltraGreen. He also provided information on the financial impact for VCE and cost estimates for member jurisdictions to opt up.
  - Motion: to recommend to the Board to consider asking their individual Agencies (local governments) to consider opting up and request that staff provide relevant cost and benefits to them at the next board meeting. Motion passed: 6-0-0.
  
- Solar Home and Business (NEM) Enrollment Update
  - M. Baird provided an update that the Rates and Services Task Group is meeting with Staff to review the VCE financials and look at alternative scenarios for enrolling NEM customers as soon as possible.
  
- Possible Dividend Program
  - L. Limcaco presented information regarding the background and considerations for a potential future Dividend program in lieu of discounted pricing. The Rates and Services Task Group has been meeting with Staff and is providing input on the program. C. Shewmaker commented that determining the enrollment of NEM customers is a consideration when reviewing the dividend program. G. Braun added that Monterey Bay has options for customers to apply their dividend to local programs which VCE should also consider. D. Springer has agreed to do a presentation on local program options for VCE at the next CAC meeting.
  
- CAC Task Group Charges
  - M. Aulman highlighted charge for Outreach, L. Kristov provided Reg/Leg charge overview, and M. Baird reviewed the proposed Rates and Services charge. Charges are attached.
  - Motion: to approve the charges of the 3 task groups for 2019. Motion passed: 6-0-0.
    - i. Legislative/Regulatory: Y. Hunter, L. Kristov.
    - ii. Outreach/Marketing: M. Aulman, M. Baird, C. Casey, Y. Hunter.
    - iii. Rates and Services: M. Baird, G. Braun, C. Shewmaker.
  
- Interactions with other CCA Advisory Groups
  - M. Sears brought this up at last CalCCA meeting -- that VCE’s CAC would like to interact with other advisory groups -- and asked other CCAs’ opinion. M. Sears will follow up at next CalCCA meeting to make sure there are no objections to this by the CCAs.

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2019 LEG/REG TASK GROUP CHARGE**

**Members:** Yvonne Hunter (chair); Lorenzo Kristov

### **Background**

The charge to the VCEA Community Advisory Committee (CAC) from the VCEA Board is that the CAC should, among other things, “Collaborate with VCEA staff with monitoring legislative and regulatory activities related to Community Choice Energy issues.” At a high level, the charge to the CAC Leg/Reg Task Group is to support this element of the CAC’s responsibilities. To this end, the January 2018 “Role of Chair and Committee Operational Guidelines CAC Leg/Reg Task Group” stated that the task group “will review and analyze legislation and proposed regulations that are followed by CalCCA.”

With the recent addition of a contract lobbying firm to represent VCE in the Legislature, and the staff additions at CalCCA enabling them to enhance their presence in regulatory matters before the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Energy Commission, as well as at the Legislature, the ability of the Task Group to receive timely information from CalCCA about priority legislative and regulatory issues should improve. Thus, while the role of the Task Group stated above will generally remain the same, the procedures used by the Task Group in 2019 should be updated. (It should be noted that the PG&E bankruptcy filing will likely dominate both the legislative and regulatory environment related to community choice aggregation.)

### **Proposed 2019 Charge**

1. Work with staff (and VCE’s lobbyists as needed) to develop an effective process to identify bills and regulations that VCE should follow, especially those that help or hurt the ability of VCE to function effectively. This will emphasize, but not be limited to, issues being followed by CalCCA.
2. Work with VCE staff and VCE’s lobbyist to provide feedback and strategic advice to VCE staff, lobbyists and CalCCA on key legislative issues followed by CalCCA (or that CalCCA is sponsoring) that have the potential to significantly impact VCE’s ability to function effectively.
3. Where feasible, engage in CalCCA’s regulatory work where the Leg/Reg Task Group and/or the CAC can contribute and be effective.
4. Regularly brief and seek the input of the CAC on legislative and regulatory issues that CalCCA and VCE are following as the issues evolve. Recommend to CAC positions on legislation and regulations that VCE should take. (The CAC-adopted recommendation would be forwarded to the VCE board.)

5. Contribute, as requested, to VCE's engagement with legislators and other stakeholders.
6. Work with the CAC Outreach Task Group and VCE staff on providing a framework for legislative and regulatory updates on the new VCE website, if feasible.

## **CAC Outreach Task Group**

Mark Aulman – Chair

Marsha Baird

Chris Casey

Yvonne Hunter

## **Charge**

Collaborate with VCEA staff and consultants on community outreach to, and liaison with, member communities.

Assist in the development of public information strategies, planning, and materials related to VCEA policies and programs.

## **Specific Tasks**

1. Consult with staff and Green Ideals on short-term and long-term outreach strategies
2. Help define audience segments within VCE's service area and consult on appropriate messages and communications approaches
3. Provide a sounding board to assist in message development and copy testing
4. Solicit input from individual Community Advisory Committee members on audience segments, messages, and other issues relating to public information and outreach that may impact VCE
5. Review development procedures for marketing communications and public relations projects
6. Conduct review of marketing materials at the draft (pre-release) stage
7. Prepare concise monthly summaries for the CAC on marketing materials currently in the development pipeline

***VCE Community Advisory Committee  
Rates and Services Task Group***

**Task Group Members:** Marsha Baird (chair), Gerry Braun, Christine Shewmaker, David Springer

**CAC Charge:** The charge to the VCEA Community Advisory Committee (CAC) from the VCEA Board states as one of its duties that the CAC should “Advise the VCEA Board of Directors on VCEA’s general policy and operational objectives, including portfolio mix and objectives, technical, market, program and policy areas, strategic objectives and strategies to reduce carbon emissions, accelerate development of local resources and promote energy resilience.”

**Tasks/Scope of work for the Rates and Services Task Group for 2019:**

- Review costs, benefits and rate options for enrolling solar customers.
- Review reserve policies and targets with Staff. Review resource adequacy experience and discuss future expected resource adequacy costs with Staff.
- Review and recommend rate setting principles consistent with VCE vision statement.
- Collaborate with Staff and SMUD consultants on dividend program option. Provide recommendation to CAC and Board.
- Collaborate with Staff and SMUD consultants on plans for NEM customer enrollment. Provide recommendation to CAC and Board.
- Review additional rate, service and program projects that arise and collaborate with Staff. Provide recommendations to the CAC and Board.
- Review services and programs offered by other CCAs and by PG&E. Make any relevant recommendations of options for VCE to Staff, CAC and Board.
- Prepare concise monthly summaries and updates for the CAC on issues being reviewed by the task group.