

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Staff Report - Item 5

TO: Community Advisory Committee
FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst
SUBJECT: CAC September 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes
DATE: October 28, 2021

Recommendation

Receive, review and approve the attached September 23, 2021 meeting minutes.



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021
VIA ZOOM VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE**

Chair Christine Shewmaker opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, September 23, 2021 beginning at 5:02 p.m. via video/teleconference pursuant to the provisions of the Governor’s Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, which suspends certain provisions of the Brown Act and the Orders of the Public Health Officers with jurisdiction over Yolo County, to shelter in place and to provide for physical distancing.

Welcome and Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Christine Shewmaker (Chair), Cynthia Rodriguez (Vice Chair, departed at 7:03 p.m.), Marsha Baird, Gerry Braun, Mark Aulman, Lorenzo Kristov, David Springer, Jennifer Rindahl

Committee Members Absent: Yvonne Hunter

Welcome and Approval of Agenda Gerry Braun made a motion to approve the September 23, 2021 meeting Agenda, seconded by David Springer. Motion passed with Yvonne Hunter absent.

Public Comment / Introductions Chair Shewmaker opened the floor for general public comments and on consent items. There were no written or verbal public comments on items not on the agenda and on the consent agenda items.

Brief task Group and VCE staff Reports **Task Group Reports:** CAC Vice Chair Cynthia Rodriguez reminded those present that the CAC’s year-end review process includes year end task group reports. Draft task group reports will be due for CAC review at the October meeting, with a final draft report presented to the CAC at the November meeting, then to the Board for their information at their December meeting. The Board Clerk will send out a reminder as to when draft reports are due for the October meeting.

Carbon Neutral Task Group: Ms. Rodriguez report that at the group’s last meeting they discussed with Energeia, who is performing the carbon neutral study, what they were working on and their progress. The task group will keep the CAC informed as the study moves along.



Leg/Reg Task Group: Yvonne Hunter informed those present that Item 9 - Legislative end of session report, will be provided during the regular portion of tonight's meeting. Lorenzo Kristov had nothing to report at this time on regulatory items.

Outreach Task Group: Chair Shewmaker informed those present that an update will be provided during the regular agenda as Item 12.

Programs Task Group: Marsha Baird reported that the task group has met a couple of times and met with Clean Vehicle Assistance program, which provides electric vehicle (EV) rebates. The task group and staff will provide more information on the proposed EV rebate program at the CAC's next meeting. The group has also been working with other CACs to see how they have implemented such a program.

Rates Task Group: Lorenzo Kristov reported that the group has had a few meetings, but more information will be provided during the regular portion of the agenda.

9/9/2021 Board Meeting Summary: Interim General Manager Mitch Sears informed those present that the Board at their 9/9/21 meeting received an operating budget update; discussed rate structure; an update on the carbon neutrality study; extended the Green Ideals (marketing consultant) contract; and received the bi-annual Enterprise Risk Management report.

Staff Report: Mr. Sears provided information on the following: 1) status of the CC Power long duration storage RFP that was issued; VCE is continuing to see candidates for the vacant Program Analyst position; and, staff are continuing to provide information on the pumping load pilot program (Polaris) with the CPUC to act upon this in mid-November. VCE Staff Gordon Samuel reported that the Aquamarine solar project is in operation and that CC Power are contemplating issuing another RFO in a couple of months. VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles informed those present that the Level 2 chargers have been installed at the community center in the City of Winters. Ms. Boyles reminded those present that the OhmConnect thermostat promotion will end September 30, 2021 and approximately 177 customers were connected with smart thermostats. This is a higher amount than expected.



Consent Items

Mark Aulman made a motion to approve the September 23, 2021 Consent Agenda items, seconded by Jennifer Rindahl. Motion passed with Yvonne Hunter absent. The following items were:

5. approved August 26, 2021 meeting Minutes as amended;
6. received customer enrollment update as of September 15, 2021;
7. received Board's report of attestation of VCE's 2020 Power Content Label for the Standard Green and UltraGreen products; and,
8. received a Customer Dividend and Programs Allocation report.

**Item 9: Legislative
End of Session
update.
(Informational)**

Mark Fenstermaker of Pacific Policy Group, VCE's lobbyist consultant, provided an update on the end of the legislative session, including major impacts on the legislative session: COVID – Capitol mostly closed, bill limit limitations; impacts of the Governor's recall; excess budget negotiations and late policy budget amendments; and, numerous clean energy proposals submitted. An update on the status of several legislative bills including AB 843, SB 612, SB 99 and AB1395 was provided.

Mr. Sears also report the passage of AB 361, which allows for the continuation of remote meetings until the State of Emergency is rescinded by the Governor. He will have more information for the CAC and Board on this item later.

There were no written or verbal public comments.

**Item 10: Receive
Operating Budget
update.
(Informational)**

Chair Shewmaker announced that regular agenda items 10 and 11 are related. This update on the FY 2020/21 and FY 2021/22 was provided to the Board at their September 9th meeting. VCE Staff Edward Burnham provided an overview of key factors, such as COVID-19 impacts, regulatory decisions related to PCIA and RA, power prices, load impacts (including impacts of heat storms and drought impact on pumping), fiscal year and budget adoption timing, and current VCE rate policy, which have all influenced VCE Operating budget results.

The CAC discussed several aspects of the budget, including load forecast versus actual costs, impacts of weather on all customers, lessons learned on load forecast and what can be done moving forward, rate setting, underwater ground pumping levels, factors (RA and PCIA costs, long term PPAs, anticipated market costs) that get incorporated into load forecasting. Moving forward, staff will be monitoring operating budget, financial ash reserves, refining multi-year forecast updates and fiscal mitigation impacts.



There were no written or verbal public comments.

Item 11: Receive report and provide feedback on expanded and cost-recovery based customer rate structure and other potential cost-recovery concepts. (Information/Discussion)

Chair Shewmaker informed those present that the Board at their September 9th meeting were provided a report outlining additional detail on an expanded and cost-recovery based customer rate structure policy option. This report was referenced in Staff's report to the CAC on this item. Staff seek the CAC's feedback on a rate structure policy option and to solicit other potential options.

Mr. Sears provided summary of the staff report and linked rate structure, the operating budget, and forecasting. The CAC discussed several items: increased costs of power charge indifference adjustment (PCIA); results of rate implementation by other Community Choice Aggregates (CCAs); outreach message and timing of message to customers; power content label and renewables; least cost option "portfolio"; CARE/FERA customers; and, how much the default rate would increase and over what period of time should rates increase.

(Cynthia Rodriguez departed at 7:03 p.m.)

There were no written or verbal public comments.

After a thorough discussion, the CAC asked that Staff:

1. Provide more information/thoughts about impacts to the load forecast, including agriculture and climate change and how load impacts could be addressed/estimated in the future;
2. More information needs to be provided on the costs of the different rate options; and,
3. How the power content label and RPS of our power will be impacted.

It was also agreed that the Rates Task Group remain engaged on this topic. Staff will be seeking a recommendation from the CAC at their October meeting, for the Board's consideration at their November 10th special meeting.



Item 12: Outreach Task Group report. (Informational)

CAC Member and Outreach Task Group Chair Mark Aulman provided a verbal report on what the Task Group's activities, including successes, lessons learned, and work that still needs to be accomplished. Several items were discussed, such as: social media, themes and concerns expressed by customers, and jurisdictional concerns about resiliency.

There were no written or verbal public comments.

Item 13: Provide input to Staff on defining "at-large" member categories for restructuring the CAC. (Discussion)

Chair Shewmaker informed those present that at the Board's September 9th meeting, a revised CAC structure was adopted with the CAC consisting of eight (8) members (2 each per jurisdiction) , and three (3) additional seats for At-Large members. Staff are seeking the CAC's feedback and assistance on defining the categories of expertise for At-Large members. After a thorough discussion, the CAC suggested adding descriptors of energy sector, financial, and local energy services (small businesses).

There were no written or verbal public comments.

Item 14: 2021 Long Range Calendar. (Informational)

Chair Shewmaker thanked the members announcing that to date, every task group has given an update on their activities. The CAC asked that CC Power long duration storage be added to the calendar and asked about the status of the CalCCA annual meeting.

There were no written or verbal public comments.

Advisory Committee Member and Announcements

CAC Member Gerry Braun announced that he is scheduled to give a webinar on using available local assets to achieve energy resilience. He will provide the webinar information to staff for distribution to the CAC.

Adjournment to Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next regular CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 5 p.m.

Alisa M. Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst