

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

Staff Report - Item 5

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: CAC A) November 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes and B) December 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: January 20, 2022

Recommendation

Receive, review and approve the attached A) November 18, 2021 meeting minutes and B) December 18, 2021 meeting minutes.



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Chair Christine Shewmaker opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, November 18, 2021 beginning at 5:01 p.m. via videoconference pursuant to the Brown Act and Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361). At the October 14, 2021 meeting, the Board of Directors found that the local health official recommended measures to promote social distancing and authorized the continuation of remote meetings for the foreseeable future.

Welcome and Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Christine Shewmaker (Chair), Cynthia Rodriguez (Vice Chair), Yvonne Hunter, Marsha Baird, Gerry Braun, Mark Aulman, Lorenzo Kristov, David Springer, Jennifer Rindahl

Committee Members Absent:

Welcome and Approval of Agenda

Lorenzo Kristov made a motion to approve the October 28, 2021 meeting Agenda with Item 12 coming up first on the regular agenda, seconded by Gerry Braun. This motion was discussed briefly.

Christine Shewmaker made a substitute motion of the following regular agenda order: Items 9, 10, 12, 8, 11, seconded by Marsha Baird. A vote was taken on the substitute motion. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Shewmaker, Rodriguez, Baird, Aulman, Springer, Rindahl

NOES: Kristov, Braun, Hunter

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Public Comment / Introductions

The Consent Agenda below is in the order identified in the passed motion above. Christine 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 Consent Agenda items.

Brief task Group and VCE staff Reports

Task Group Reports

Leg/Reg Task Group: No updates to report.

Outreach Task Group: No updates to report.

Programs Task Group: Marsha Baird reported that there are new PG&E rebates coming out in early December and these rebates will be highlighted on VCE's website.



PG&E's rebates (heat pump hot water heaters, heat pump HVAC) line up with VCE's energy efficiency work. The EV Rebate program is moving forward and VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles is working on the Ag Pilot program, with the expectation that there will be a final decision in early December. The goal is to launch this pilot program in May 2022.

Rates Task Group: Chair Shewmaker announced that the Task Group will provide their input later on the cost-recover based policy and customer rate structure item on the regular agenda.

Carbon Neutral Task Group: Cynthia Rodriguez informed those present that the group met with Energeia, who are performing a carbon neutral resource portfolio study, and received information on the status of the study. Energeia provided some preliminary information foreshadowing their results.

11/10/21 special Board Meeting Summaries: Interim General Manager Mitch Sears informed those present that the Board at their November 10, 2021 special meeting approved changing VCE's fiscal budget year to a calendar year, adopted rate cost, budget, and received/accepted VCE's annual audit performed by James Marta & Company. Staff introduced Sierra Huffman, VCE's Program & Community Engagement Specialist. VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles providing Huffman's background and a brief summary of those items that she will be performing and working on.

Staff Report: Mr. Sears informed those present that at the CC Power Board meeting they discussed environmental justice policies and long duration storage (8-hour battery storage). It is anticipated that the CAC will consider long duration storage at their December meeting thereafter, to the VCE Board in January 2022.

Consent Items

Chair Shewmaker informed those present that the October 28, 2021 meeting minutes had a typo and a correction on who reported for the Leg/Reg Task Group. Mark Aulman made a motion to approve the November 18, 2021 Consent Agenda items with the October 28, 2021 meeting minutes amended, seconded by Yvonne Hunter. There were no written or verbal comments as identified above. Motion passed unanimously. The following items were:

5. approved October 28, 2021 meeting Minutes as amended;
6. received customer enrollment update as of November 10, 2021; and,
7. received update on SACOG Grant – Electrify Yolo.

Item 9: Update on Quarterly Power Content. (Informational)

VCE Staff Gordon Samuel provided an update on VCE's power content for 2021, including load summary, target versus current estimations, and status of renewable energy contracts (Aquamarine, Putah Creek Energy Farm, and Tierra Buena). It was noted by Staff that the estimated power to be received from the PG&E large hydro allocation is significantly less than originally expected due to the drought. Also, due to



increased ag pumping and heat storms this summer, additional short term RECs were purchased to meet the RPS requirement.

There were no written or verbal public comments.

**Item 10: GHG Free
2022 Attributes
(Large Hydro and/or
Nuclear)
(Informational)**

Chair Shewmaker introduced this item. Mr. Samuel presented background information and solicited feedback from the CAC regarding VCE accepting 2022 and beyond allocation of GHG-free attributes (large hydro and/or nuclear) from PG&E. Mr. Samuel explained that PG&E has been offering GHG-free attributes on a yearly basis; when attributes are accepted a one year agreement is entered into; and, moving forward, if attributes are offered in 2023 and beyond and there are no significant changes in VCE's position, Staff would provide the offering to the CAC and Board as a consent agenda item.

The CAC discussed the timeline of an agreement with PG&E for these attributes and the possible outcomes of accepting both large hydro and nuclear. A member expressed their opinion that they favor accepting both attributes and has consistently voted to reflect their opinion.

Cynthia Rodriguez left at 5:45 p.m.

Yvonne Hunter made a motion to support Staff's recommendation to recommend to the Board that they accept 2022 allocation of large hydro carbon free attributes; reject 2022 allocation of nuclear power carbon free attributes; and, in the event the future attributes (2023 and beyond) are made available to VCE and there are no major changes in VCE's position, bring back to the CAC and Board on consent for approval. Mark Aulman seconded the motion.

There were no written or verbal public comments.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Shewmaker, Hunter, Baird, Aulman, Kristov, Springer,
Rindahl
NOES: Braun
ABSENT: Rodriguez
ABSTAIN: None

**Item 12: Consider
Cost-based Customer
Rates – 2022
Customer Rates.
(Discussion/Action)**

Mr. Sears provided an overview of the background on rates, financial update, what information has changed since this item was presented to the CAC and motion adopted by the Board. Mr. Sears reviewed the 2022 reserve target, rate recommendation, rates implementing procedure, and Staff's recommendation.

The CAC discussed the Board's decision about rates effective November 1, 2021, VCE's policy to match PG&E generation rates, and how that will affect future rates.



The members of the Rates Task Group, Mr. Kristov and Mr. Braun, then gave a short report. They suggested that the methodologies and information used in forecasting be looked at and discussed soon. The CAC continued to discuss: PG&E's filing on November 8, 2021 updating PG&E rate increase and power charge indifference adjustment (PCIA) decrease, various budget scenarios, how VCE's resources will affect the budget, current and future forecast modeling, and Staff's recommendation.

Marsha Baird commented that she would make a motion slightly different than Staff's recommendation. Marsha Baird made a motion that the CAC recommend that the Board approve the following:

- Adopt customer rates for 2022 to match PG&E 2022 generation rates for all customer classes except CARE and FERA customers to cover VCE's FY 2022 budget expenditures and to achieve 120-150 days cash reserves by the end of 2022;
- Adopt a 2022 rates implementing procedure including the following:
 - a. Provide a 5% rate discount for CARE and FERA customers in 2022;
 - b. Direct staff to prepare an analysis of budget including an increase to 2022 renewable portfolio content percentage and return to CAC and Board in Q1/2 2022 with recommendations.
 - c. Direct staff to conduct a review of the VCE Dividend Policy and potential rate discounts including but not limited to:
 - i. Providing a 5% rate discount for all customer classes during peak summer months in 2022 (June – September.);
 - ii. Providing an additional 5% rate discount for CARE and FERA customers during peak summer months (June – September.);
 - iii. Allocating additional funds for community program implementation; and,
 - d. Return to CAC and Board in Q1/2 2022 with recommendations.

This motion was seconded by Yvonne Hunter. A couple of members expressed their concern that the motion did not include specifically looking at forecasting. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Shewmaker, Hunter, Baird, Aulman, Springer, Rindahl

NOES: Braun, Kristov

ABSENT: Rodriguez

ABSTAIN: None



Mr. Sears informed those present that a discussion on forecasting will be brought to the Rates Task Group for further exploration, with the intent of providing an overview of what was discussed back to the CAC at a future meeting.

Item 8: Introduction to community resiliency. (Information)

Chair Shewmaker introduced this item. CAC Member Lorenzo Kristov provided an introduction to community resiliency, defined sustainability and resiliency, and provided an overview of the layered architecture of community resiliency. After a brief discussion, the CAC expressed their interest in having future conversations on strategies and policies for building resilient communities, including energy resilience.

There were no written or verbal public comments.

Item 11: Review Near-term Procurement Directives and Delegations for 2022 Power Procurement Activities. (Informational)

Mr. Samuel updated those present on the delegations and directives necessary for VCE and SMUD staff to continue procurement activities on behalf of VCE's power supply portfolio. Mr. Samuel provided a high-level overview of the products necessary to meet compliance obligations and maintain a balanced power portfolio while meeting power supply portfolio targets set by the VCE Board. He also review the next steps.

There were no written or verbal public comments.

Item 13: Receive and update CAC 2021 Long-Range Calendar. (Discussion)

Chair Shewmaker noted to those present that the November Strategic Plan update has been postponed to the CAC's December meeting.

There is no verbal or written public comment.

Advisory Committee Member and Announcements

Lorenzo Kristov asked Staff about how Time of Use (TOU) rates were being received. Ms. Boyles informed those present that some residential customers have transitioned, but the majority will transition in April 2022. In addition, in speaking with other CCAs, customers appeared to understand the change and a few were confused about TOU and what it meant. VCE Staff will continue to monitor.

Yvonne Hunter commented that at the CalCCA Virtual Annual Meeting on December 1st, Senator Alex Padilla will be one of the speakers. He has deep local government roots and having him at the CalCCA event is wonderful.

Chair Shewmaker informed those present that the CPUC has initiated the process for ending subsidies for installing natural gas connections/pipelines in new construction.

Mr. Sears encouraged those who will be attending the CalCCA Annual Meeting to visit with other CCAs.



David Springer expressed his excitement of the replacement of furnace and hot water heaters programs that are rolling out on December 1st and to look at comfortablehoimerebates.com website for more information.

**Adjournment to
Next Meeting**

The December meeting has been scheduled for the 3rd Thursday on **December 16th at 5 p.m.** due to the Christmas holiday. Thanks to everyone for participating.

Alisa M. Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Chair Christine Shewmaker opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, December 16, 2021 beginning at 5:03 p.m. via videoconference pursuant to the Brown Act and Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361). At the October 14, 2021 meeting, the Board of Directors found that the local health official recommended measures to promote social distancing and authorized the continuation of remote meetings for the foreseeable future.

Welcome and Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Christine Shewmaker (Chair), Cynthia Rodriguez (Vice Chair), Yvonne Hunter, Marsha Baird, Gerry Braun, Mark Aulman (arrived at 5:19 p.m./departed at 6:31 p.m.), Lorenzo Kristov, David Springer (arrived at 5:11 p.m.), Jennifer Rindahl

Committee Members Absent:

**Welcome and
Approval of Agenda**

Chair Shewmaker announced that Item 5 – Approval of the November 18, 2021 meeting Minutes have been pulled from the consent agenda per the Board Clerk’s request. The November 18, 2021 CAC meeting Minutes will be presented for approval at the CAC’s next scheduled meeting. Yvonne Hunter made a motion to approve the December 16, 2021 meeting agenda without Item 5 – November 18, 2021 meeting Minutes, seconded by Gerry Braun. Motion passed with David Springer and Mark Aulman absent.

**Public Comment /
Introductions**

There were no written or verbal public comments on items not on the agenda and on Consent Agenda items.

**Brief task Group and
VCE staff Reports**

Task Group Reports

Leg/Reg Task Group: Chair Shewmaker informed those present that the draft 2022 Legislative Platform is on tonight’s regular agenda. Yvonne Hunter announced that group has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow afternoon. Lorenzo Kristov had nothing to add.

Outreach Task Group: Yvonne Hunter informed those present reviewed and provided comments on the Strategic Plan brochure. And, the group continue to meet monthly to review outreach items with VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles.

Programs Task Group: Marsha Baird informed those present that the group met yesterday, and the plan is to bring design implementation for the EV Program and



dual heat fuel pump program forward to the CAC at the January 2022 meeting then on to the Board at their February 2022 meeting.

(David Springer arrived at 5:11 p.m.)

VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles provided an update on the Ag Pilot Program, called “Ag FIT” (flexible irrigation technology). Rebecca: Implementation advice letter will be submitted January 1, 2022 (???) Advice for the Ag FIT (flexible irrigation technology) working, May 2022 launch, outreach already to several growers

Rates Task Group: Lorenzo Kristov information those present that there was nothing new to report.

Carbon Neutral Task Group: Chair Shewmaker announced that the Task Group, Staff and Energeia USA will provide an update on the regular portion of the agenda.

Staff Report: Interim General Manager Mitch Sears informed those present that over the past couple of months VCE has been engaged in the work around the implementation of PCIA (Power Charge Indifference Adjustment) and PG&E rates for 2022. The latest information is that implementation will be on March 1, 2022 instead of January 1, 2022. He provided an overview of the process, anticipated PCIA and PG&E generation rate costs, and the schedule of presenting information to the CAC and Board. Lastly, he informed those present that the Board’s December 2021 meeting was cancelled due to the continued uncertainty on rates and PCIA from the CPUC, resulting in lack of information needed for the Board to make a business decision.

CC Power (JPA) is in process of procuring long duration storage on behalf of multiple CCAs, VCE is one of them. He reviewed the schedule of bringing the projects to the CAC and Board. The long duration storage is 8 hour battery storage project(s) which will help VCE with regulatory, resource adequacy (RA) and grid reliability objectives.

Staff will be bringing a draft Collections Policy to the CAC at their January meeting for consideration, then back again in February where Staff will be looking for a recommendation to the Board. The adoption of a collections policy is a good practice for VCE and other CCAs.

Mr. Sears informed those present that he had a conversation with CAC Member Gerry Braun about the CAC considering making a recommendation to the Board to add Ex Officio members to the CAC, specifically focused on staff representatives from each of VCE’s member jurisdictions. The idea is to have greater communication and potential coordination between the jurisdictions and VCE. Mr. Braun commented that he has seen some of the larger CCAs doing specific collaboration with member jurisdictions, a trend that we (VCE) need to recognize.



Marsha Baird asked if someone could give an update on the CalCCA virtual Annual meeting held on December 1st, which was attended by some CAC members and VCE Staff. Mr. Sears provided an update and comments were provided by a few CAC members who were in attendance.

Consent Items

Chair Shewmaker reminded those present that Item 6 – customer enrollment update, was the only item on the Consent agenda. Yvonne Hunter made a comment that she noticed that there was a large amount of opt ups in Davis. She has been speaking with VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles to find out if there is a reason for the increase. Ms. Boyles was going to check the QR code to see if the opt ups were coming from the sign at the Davis Food Coop or elsewhere.

(Mark Aulman arrived at 5:19 p.m.)

Yvonne Hunter made a motion to approve Consent Agenda item 6, seconded by Mark Aulman. Motion passed unanimously. The CAC received the customer enrollment update as of November 10, 2021. There were no written or verbal comments as indicated above.

Item 7: Review and provide recommendation on VCE 2022 Legislative Platform. (Action)

Mr. Sears introduced this item mentioning that the “Platform” is used by VCE as guide for legislative engagement by VCE during the course of the legislative year. Mark Fenstermaker of Pacific Policy Group, VCE’s lobbyist consultant, reminded those present that the Legislative Platform outlines legislative issues and positions VCE would take in the 2nd year of the legislative session. He informed those present that Staff and the Leg/Reg Task Group provided their input to draft the 2022 platform being presented tonight. Mr. Fenstermaker reviewed the issue areas in detail. There was a brief discussion on restructuring the electricity utility sector, net energy metering (NEM) and representation of customers in that conversation. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Yvonne Hunter made a motion that the CAC recommend to the Board that the 2022 Legislative Platform outlining a number of legislative issues and positions VCE would take on each, be adopted, seconded by Cynthia Rodriquez. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Shewmaker, Rodriquez, Hunter, Baird, Braun, Aulman, Kristov,
Springer, Rindahl

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Item 8: Receive preliminary results of zero-carbon portfolio study from

VCE Staff Gordon Samuel reviewed several slides highlighting the preliminary results of the VCE zero-carbon portfolio study prepared by Energeia USA. Staff are seeking feedback from the CAC as the final study/report is being prepared for presentation to the Board for their January 2022 meeting. Mr. Samuel reviewed background and



**Carbon Neutral Task Group.
(Discussion/Action)**

timeline then turned it over to Maggie Riley of Energeia USA who reviewed project deliverables, optimized portfolios, hour by hour versus carbon neutral balancing, peak and minimum days draft results, risk analysis, annual costs by portfolio, and next steps.

Each Carbon Neutral Task Group Member provided their input on the process of Energeia performing a zero-carbon portfolio study. Several subjects were discussed: generation, hour by hour, impact of electric vehicles (EVs), energy storage, capacity of supply, demand impacts to power plants, using the final report as a stepping stone to potentially modify VCE's renewable energy policy and portfolios, potential intermediary steps that could be taken towards carbon neutrality, and what approaches are being taken by other CCAs on carbon neutrality.

Mr. Sears reminded the CAC that Staff will be forwarding the final report to the Board at their January meeting for consideration.

Cynthia Rodriquez made a motion that VCE staff forward the information to the Board. Gerry Braun wanted to clarify that the final report has not been prepared, but that the slides reflect the study's findings. He suggested that the current slide deck be forwarded to the Board. Ms. Rodriquez clarified her motion that it was her intention to ask VCE Staff to forward the slide deck to the Board. Gerry Braun seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Shewmaker, Rodriquez, Hunter, Baird, Braun, Aulman, Kristov,
Springer, Rindahl

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Item 9: Review and discuss formation of CAC Task Groups for 2022. (Discussion)

VCE Staff and CAC Members discussed which task groups should be formed based on the needs, tasks and projects in 2022. Mr. Sears reminded those present that task groups should be reevaluated yearly as they are temporary in nature; however, some goals are ongoing. It was agreed that the Legislative/Regulatory, Outreach and Programs task groups were needed in 2022.

(Mark Aulman departed at 6:31 p.m.)

VCE Staff and CAC Members continued to discuss the formation of other task groups, such as tasks focusing on rates, procurement, carbon neutrality, decarbonization, and resiliency. It was agreed that the Rates Task Group should continue into 2022, but that the "charge" would need to be updated. There was discussion about the Carbon Neutral Task Group continuing into 2022; however, now that the carbon neutral study has been completed, the group should be focusing on decarbonization tasks. As a result of their discussion, both the Rates and Carbon Neutral task groups would continue; however, their "charges" would need to be modified to reflect the current



needs of the Board, Staff and goals outlined in VCE's Strategic Plan. The CAC asked that each task group provide a draft "charge" to be reviewed and discussed at the CAC's next meeting. The CAC asked that VCE's Strategic Plan (SP) be distributed to the CAC members for reference; for the task groups to incorporate the goals outlined within the SP into their draft "charges"; and, to work with VCE Staff, when needed, on drafting the "charges".

There were no written or verbal public comments.

Item 10: End of Year (Quarterly) Strategic Plan update. (Informational)

As indicated in the staff report, Staff are to provide an annual report on the status of goals, objectives and metrics of the Strategic Plan to the Board and CAC, with quarterly reporting to VCE Interim General Manager. Since the adoption of the Strategic Plan in November 2020, the cadence of reporting to the Board and CAC has been quarterly.

Mr. Sears updated the CAC on progress of the goals outlined in VCE's 3 year Strategic Plan. Suggestions were provided by the CAC that the cadence of reporting could possibly be changed from quarterly reports to bi-yearly reporting and to assist with engagement of community and staff, that a staff representative from each jurisdiction attend the CAC meetings. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Item 11: Receive and update Community Advisory Committee 2021 Long-Range Calendar. (Discussion)

Chair Shewmaker informed those present that the January and February CAC calendar has not been reviewed as that will be up to the new Chair and Vice Chair. She also reminded those present that if there are any suggested topics, to please email Mitch Sears, Board Clerk Alisa Lembke, and the new Chair and Vice Chair.

It was suggested that sometime in June or July 2022, that Net Energy Metering (NEM) 3.0 be added to the calendar. Mr. Sears provided the Board and CAC's schedule for January and February 2022:

- CAC meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 20th.
- Board special meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 27th.
- Board regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 10th.
- CAC meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 24th.

There were no written or verbal public comments.

Item 12: Election of 2022 CAC Chair and Vice-Chair (Effective January 2022) (Action)

CAC Members were encouraged to take on the role of Chair and Vice Chair and to communicate their interest and/or questions to Interim General Manager Mitch Sears. There were no volunteers to serve as Chair or Vice Chair; however, Yvonne Hunter volunteered to serve as Interim Chair and Marsha Baird volunteered as Interim Vice Chair, both willing to serve for a few months.



Cynthia Rodriguez made a motion for Yvonne Hunter as Interim Chair and Marsha Baird as Interim Vice Chair, both to serve for the next three (3) months, seconded by Jennifer Rindahl. Motion carried.

Outgoing Chair Shewmaker expressed her hope that there would be more financial stability in the year ahead and that would allow the CAC more time to focus on long range goals consistent with VCE's long term mission. She also mentioned that she felt it was important to not lose sight of the importance of resiliency.

There were no verbal or written public comment.

**Advisory Committee
Member and
Announcements**

Mr. Sears thank Christine Shewmaker and Cynthia Rodriguez for serving as Chair and Vice Chair this past year.

Chair Shewmaker informed those present that New York City (NYC) passed an "electrification" resolution where any new building under seven stories be electrified beginning in 2024, There have been numerous other municipalities that have passed similar electrification resolutions, but NYC is one of the largest.

**Adjournment to
Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 5 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Alisa M. Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst