

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Staff Report - Item 5

TO: VCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst
SUBJECT: CAC July 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes
DATE: August 27, 2020

Recommendation

Receive, review and approve the attached June 25, 2020 meeting minutes.



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Chair Hunter opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a special meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2020 beginning at 5:02 p.m. via 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: Yvonne Hunter (Chair), Marsha Baird (Vice Chair), Gerry Braun, Christine Shewmaker, **Mark Aulman (**departed at 6:55 p.m.), Lorenzo Kristov, ***Jennifer Rindahl (*** departed at 6:58 p.m.), Peter Meyer, Chris Casey, David Springer, *Cynthia Rodriguez (*arrived at 5:44 p.m.)

Committee Members Absent: None

Approval of Agenda Motion made by Chris Casey to approve the July 23, 2020 meeting Agenda with Item 9 – energy technologies to be addressed before Item 8 – draft Integrated Resource Plan, seconded by Mark Aulman, motion passed unanimously with Rodriguez absent.

Public Comment / Introductions There were no written or verbal public comments.

Task Group and VCE Staff Reports **Task Group Reports**

Outreach Task Group: Mark Aulman informed those present that the Task Group made edits to the News & Review insert and identified some issues with the NEM postcard mailer. Moving forward with making those revisions.

Rates Task Group: Lorenzo Kristov informed those present that this Task Group is scheduled to meet next Wednesday to discuss tasks/charge.

Programs Task Group: Marsha Baird informed those present that the Task Group continues to meet every other week. The group has been brainstorming on the next programs to added to the programs list with the Electric Vehicle (EV) program starting in December 2019 and the Energy Efficiency (EE) starting in June 2020. Task Group has been working on finalizing the NEM Donation program.



Strategic Plan Task Group: Gerry Braun informed those present that the Task Group will convene in the next few weeks and is working towards submitting a Strategic Plan to the Board for approval within the next few months.

Leg/Reg Task Group: Chair Hunter informed those present that the legislature is currently closed due to COVID. The Task Group has been meeting every two weeks. Due to the truncated legislative session and no hearings, most bills are not moving forward as the legislature is concentrating on COVID, economic development, utilities/fire related bills.

7/9//2020 Board meeting summary: Interim General Manager Mitch Sears provided a summary to those present of the Board's July 9, 2020 meeting: 1) a Legislative Platform was adopted upon the Community Advisory Committee's and Staff's recommendation; 2) the Board provided their input on the draft Integrated Resource Plan (IRP); 3) Board approved amendments to VCE's Procurement Plan based on policies previously adopted; and, 4) the Board appointed Cynthia Rodriguez representing unincorporated Yolo County to the CAC.

Staff Report: Mr. Sears informed those present that San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) has put an application in to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to collect Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) fees as uncollected fees. If granted, Solana Beach CCA is the only one affected by this request and would equal to an approximate 250% increase in PCIA fees for each customer. Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) came out of bankruptcy court with a straw proposal to regionalize PG&E's territory into five (5) regions with VCE grouped in a region with other areas that have diverse and different needs and traits. CalCCA and other CCAs are discussing and providing feedback on this, including VCE.

Consent Items

There were no written or verbal public comments.

Motion made by Christine Shewmaker to approve the consent items, seconded by David Springer. Motion passed with Cynthia Rodriguez absent. The following items were:

1. approved June 25, 2020 special meeting Minutes; and,
2. received customer enrollment update as of July 14, 2020.

Item 7: Overview of Committee meeting procedures (Informational)

Chair Hunter briefly reviewed Committee meeting procedures. Staff are to confirm what constitutes a quorum of the CAC; how many CAC members can be on a CAC Task Group and can communicate via e-mail without violating the Brown Act; and, the number of "yes" votes needed to pass a motion, when a quorum is present at a meeting. Staff are either to communicate the information via e-mail or provide a verbal report at the next meeting.

There were no verbal or written public comments.



**Item 8 (9):
Discussion on
priorities for the
types of energy
technologies for
future local
renewable resource
procurements
(Informational
/Discussion)**

Mr. Sears reminded those present that this item arose out of the CAC’s review and discussion at its last meeting of the Legislative Platform. After discussing biomass as included in the document, the CAC agreed on the need for a discussion and prioritization of the different renewable resource technologies and their relationship to possible local renewable projects. VCE Staff Gordon Samuel provided information and definition of the different types of energy technologies that are in the “front of the meter” or “utility side of the meter”.

(*Cynthia Rodriguez joined the meeting at 5:44 p.m.)

Questions and discussion occurred: solar customers with battery storage and without storage – where does excess energy go; does battery storage on the customer side of the meter help VCE; value of photovoltaic and storage compared to geothermal; biomass costs; and, battery storage capacity, output and resource adequacy value.

There were no verbal or written public comments.

The CAC requested that an agenda item be added to discuss prioritizing potential local renewable resources at a future CAC meeting, preferably prior to the next issuance of a request for offers.

**Item 9 (8): Draft
Integration Resource
Plan (IRP) and make
recommendation on
adoption to the
Board of Directors
(Action)**

Dr. Olof Bystrom reviewed highlights of the final draft Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) confirming the conforming 46 MMT as the selected preferred portfolio and the mandatory 38 MMT portfolio. Dr. Bystrom also briefly reviewed the Action Plan, which outlines how VCE would achieve these goals outlined in the IRP.

Questions and discussion occurred: cost of the two different portfolios; margin error in the market costs; hybrid resources; and, carbon neutrality. During the discussion, it was suggested that the concept of incorporating the goal of carbon neutrality by 2030 (similar to SMUD’s newly adopted goal) to the staff recommendation. It was agreed that the CAC should have further discussion on the concept at a future CAC meeting and Dr. Bystrom agreed to provide information on SMUD’s plans. Additionally, it was suggested that VCE should make efforts to exceed the 46MMT path as recommended by Staff.

There were no verbal or written public comments.

Christine Shewmaker made a motion to:

- a. accept Staff’s recommendation to adopt the IRP report and supporting documentation with the conforming 46 MMT selected as Preferred Portfolio; and,
- b. change bullet #2 of Staff’s recommendation, which read as “38MMT portfolio is mandatory to submit but is not the recommended path”



to “while mandatory 38 MMT portfolio is not the recommended path forward due to financial projections, we encourage the Board to make ongoing efforts at VCE to exceed the 46 MMT path.”

Motion was seconded by Mark Aulman. Motion passed with the following vote:

AYES: Hunter, Baird, Braun, Shewmaker, Aulman, Kristov, Springer, Casey, Rindahl, Meyer, Rodriguez

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

(**Mark Aulman departed the meeting at 6:55 p.m.)

Item 10: Updates on energy storage procurement items a) request for offers for local renewable projects and Incremental RA; and b) renewable energy procurement reporting process (Informational)

VCE Staff Gordon Samuel provided an update on the current status of VCE’s local request for offers (RFO), joint RFO with Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA), and a joint CCA request for information on long duration storage.

Questions and discussion occurred: incremental resource adequacy (RA); evaluation criteria; qualitative factors when analyzing proposed projects; and, commercial and residential load requirements.

There were no verbal or written public comments.

Item 11: Update on VCE’s response to address current environmental and social justice issues (Informational)

Mr. Sears and Director of Customer Care and Marketing Rebecca Boyles provided a verbal update on the Board’s working group formed to address environmental and social justice issues. The working group consisting of VCE Board Members Don Saylor, Lucas Frerichs and Jesse Loren has been working with VCE Staff on drafting a statement that is action focused. The Board working group will be reaching out to stakeholders to get their feedback and input. The CAC requested that the CAC Members be given the opportunity to provide names of stakeholders as there were several CAC Members who were very interested in being involved with this issue. CAC Members were encouraged to send recommendations of organizations to be contacted to Staff. Ms. Boyles provided the next steps and schedule.

(*** Jennifer Rindahl departed at 6:58 p.m.)

There were no verbal or written public comments.

Item 12: Update on VCE Strategic Plan process (Informational)

Mr. Sears provided a verbal update of the Strategic Plan process and timeline, with the goal of presenting a 3 year Strategic Plan to the Board in October 2020. Mr. Sears will be setting a few meetings with the CAC’s Strategic Planning Task Group to discuss further. Those CAC Members that are on the Strategic Planning Task Group are: Gerry Braun (Chair), Lorenzo Kristov, Mark Aulman and Jennifer Rindahl.



Long Term Calendar

At the last meeting, CAC Member Lorenzo Kristov asked if an agenda item could be added regarding when a bidder responds to a VCE request for offer, what rights does VCE have to look at how the property was obtained. Mr. Kristov informed those present that he will prepare a short description of the issue and send it to Mr. Sears and CAC Members Hunter and Baird.

As noted above, the discussion on setting a goal of carbon neutrality for VCE was requested to be included on a future CAC meeting agenda.

It was asked that a future agenda item, either as informational or for action, on a potential program for VCE, similar to what is currently being offered by Sonoma Clean Power called the “Self-Generation Incentive Assistance Program”.

**Advisory Committee
Member and
Announcements**

Ms. Shewmaker suggested that the Leg/Reg Task Group look into an environmental justice related bill: AB 345. Chair Hunter will pass onto Mark Fenstermaker, VCE’s lobbyist consultant.

Lorenzo Kristov informed those present that Climate Center will be holding a summit meeting on August 5th from 9 a.m. – 12 noon on various environmental justice issues. He will send out a link to VCE Staff for distribution to all.

**Adjournment to
Next Meeting**

Ms. Shewmaker moves to adjourn the meeting, Peter Meyer seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. to the next regular scheduled CAC meeting for Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 5 p.m. via teleconference.

Alisa M. Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst