

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

Staff Report - Item 5

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: CAC June 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes

DATE: August 25, 2022

Recommendation

Receive, review and approve the attached June 23, 2022 meeting minutes.



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022
VIA VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE**

Chair David Springer opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, June 23, 2022 beginning at 5:03 p.m. via videoconference pursuant to the Brown Act and Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361). 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: David Springer (Chair), Marsha Baird (Vice Chair), Yvonne Hunter, Christine Shewmaker, Mark Aulman, Lorenzo Kristov, Keith Taylor, Kristin Jacobs, Jennifer Rindahl (arrived at approximately 5:13 p.m.), Gerry Braun (arrived at approximately 5:36 p.m. and departed at approximately 6:48 p.m.)

Committee Members Absent: Cynthia Rodriguez

**Welcome and
Approval of
Agenda**

Motion made by Mark Aulman to approve the June 23, 2022 meeting agenda, seconded by Christine Shewmaker. Motion passed with Cynthia Rodriguez, Jennifer Rindahl, and Gerry Braun 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: Yvonne Hunter informed those present that they met last Friday, which was a short meeting due to the legislature going into their Summer recess. The Legislative report was provided to the Board at their June meeting. The report was informative and is available on VCE's website.

Outreach: Mark Aulman informed those present that they met earlier this week. Items discussed were: the need to analyze effectiveness of reaching out to Spanish speaking customers; power content label coming out soon; developing consistent messaging regarding rate options; EV rebates being more accessible on the website; and, the possibility of working with the Programs Task Group on how to present information to customers effectively.



He thanked Yvonne Hunter for her service on the Outreach Task Group. He also thanked Lorenzo Kristov for providing information on financial opportunities to pursue. Mr. Aulman extended an invitation to all to attend the City of Woodland Sustainability Advisory Committee's July 9th meeting, where the Committee is seeking community input on environmental sustainability. He had a good time at Celebrate Davis, lively crowd and interaction was fun.

Energy Resilience: Lorenzo Kristov had nothing new to report. VCE Staff Gordon Samuel thanked Mr. Kristov for keeping staff informed on what has been happening with microgrids. Mr. Samuel informed those present that he has had two meetings with the City of Davis on climate action and adaptation plan where several items were identified in the plan and overlap with VCE. There is potential collaboration between VCE and the City on several plan items.

Programs: Marsha Baird informed those present that there was a programs update provided to the Board at their June meeting. She announced that the Task Group will be bringing to the CAC later this year the evaluation of current programs and planning of programs for 2023. VCE Staff Sierra Huffman provided an update on the heat pump program and announced that the webinar held for contractors and home energy raters was well attended. The webinar will be edited and made available on VCE's website. Lastly, Ms. Baird informed those present that the Task Group is considering another agriculture program for 2023. Ms. Huffman informed those present that Comfortable Homes rebates are available but with smaller fund amounts and TECH Clean California hopes to have more monies available in quarter 3 of 2023 from the Governor's budget. Yvonne Hunter informed those present that she continues to work with Cool Davis and those contractors that participated in Cool Davis' webinar. She will be asking them questions about their audits and rebates and would like to get VCE Staff input on any questions that they may have. She hopes that their answers and input may assist VCE in their programs.

(Jennifer Rindahl arrived at approximately 5:13 p.m.)

June 9, 2022 Board meeting update: Assistant General Manager Gordon Samuel informed those present that the Board approved an updated Legislative and Regulatory Policy and Procedure; approved several amendments to consulting agreements to bring those agreements up to date and in line with VCE's calendar year budget; received an update on Net Energy



Metering (NEM) 3.0; discussed customer rate options and received feedback; and, received an information presentation on load forecasting,

Staff Report: Mr. Samuel informed those present that the Department of Commerce circumvention case has been paused. He provided an update on several power projects that are moving forward.

Consent Items

Chair Springer announced that the CAC's July 28th meeting has been cancelled.

Lorenzo Kristov made a motion to approve the Consent agenda, seconded by Yvonne Hunter. Motion passed with Christine Shewmaker abstaining and Cynthia Rodriguez and Gerry Braun absent. The following items were:

5. approved May 26, 2022 meeting Minutes; and,
6. received Legislative and Regulatory updates; and,
7. received 2022 long-range calendar.

There were no written or verbal comments as identified above.

Item 8: Review and consider recommendation on draft Customer Rate structure. (Discussion/Action)

VCE Staff Edward Burnham provided a brief background on the draft customer rate / product options. Staff are seeking additional feedback, comments and a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Burnham informed those present that Staff incorporated into the updated rate/product options information on product differentiation, highlights of the Base Green option, marketing framework and organizational cost/benefits. Staff and the CAC discussed the carbon free percentage and the benefits of the Base Green option, talking points and messaging about the options to customers, rate setting, maintenance of renewable content and low greenhouse gas (GHG), and rate options for Net Energy Metering (NEM) customers.

(Gerry Braun arrived at approximately 5:36 p.m.)

Yvonne Hunter made a motion to recommend to that the VCE Board adopt Staff's recommendation as outlined in the Staff Report, seconded by Mark Aulman. The CAC Members discussed amendments to the motion to add language to clarify programs offered to CARE/FERA customers and rates offered in the Base Green option.

There were no written or verbal public comments.



After discussing the motion, Yvonne Hunter amended her motion that the CAC recommends that the VCE Board:

1. adopt a new rate structure with three customer options starting in 2023: (1) Standard Green (default) and (2) UltraGreen (100% renewable) with rates based on cost-recovery and (3) Base Green option with rates at or below PG&E rates on a total bill comparison; and,
2. automatically enroll California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) and Family Electric Rates Assistance (FERA) customers in the Base Green option as described in the staff report. CARE/FERA customers will not have access to the Customer Dividend program but will retain access to all other programs.

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

AYES: Baird, Hunter, Shewmaker, Kristov, Aulman, Rindahl, Taylor, Jacobs, Springer, Braun

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rodriguez

ABSTAIN: None

Item 9: Receive presentation and consider recommendation to the Board to participate in California Community Power Joint Powers Authority geothermal projects: A) Ormat Nevada Inc. and B) Open Mountain Energy, LLC (Discussion/Action)

Mr. Samuel reviewed background, mid-term reliability procurement order (MTR), MTR timing, and the two (2) projects: Ormat and Open Mountain (Fish Lake) Project. Staff are seeking feedback and a recommendation to the Board. The CAC had a brief discussion about: the projects, Resource Adequacy (RA) capacity/import capability, transmission capability from these project areas, VCE's procurement obligations as outlined in the MTR order, and, the potential to work with these developers outside of VCE's participation in CC Power projects. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Christine Shewmaker made a motion that the CAC recommends to the VCE Board that VCE participate in the California Community Power (CC Power) geothermal projects:

- a. Ormat Nevada Inc. (Ormat) Portfolio of Geothermal Projects; and,
- b. Open Mountain Energy LLC., Fish Lake Geothermal (OME)

Motion seconded by Yvonne Hunter. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Baird, Hunter, Shewmaker, Kristov, Aulman, Rindahl, Taylor, Jacobs, Springer, Braun

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rodriguez

ABSTAIN: None



**Item 10: Review
Community
Advisory
Committee (CAC)
Charge.
(Discussion)**

The CAC reviewed their Charge which was last updated in January 2021 to include the objectives outlined in the 3-year Strategic Plan and reflect the adopted Environmental Justice statement. After a brief discussion, the CAC agreed that their Charge does not need to be updated at this time. However, the CAC did point out that their Charge refers to the “Interim General Manager” and it should be changed to “Executive Officer”. There were no written or verbal public comments.

(Gerry Braun departed at approximately 6:48 p.m.)

**Advisory
Committee
Member and
Announcements**

Christine Shewmaker commented that it will be important as the CAC and Board moves forward discussing rate options and reviewing them in the future, that VCE look at the differentiation factors, such as: cost, RPS, local projects, and carbon free contribution.

Yvonne Hunter announced that this is her last CAC meeting assuming the Board appoints a person to the vacant Davis seat at their July meeting. She stated that it has been an honor to work with all of you and Staff; applaud your dedication; and, salute you for everything that you do for VCE. She is excited that the CAC has two new members. She will continue to volunteer her time taking photos for VCE.

Several CAC Members extended their thanks to Ms. Hunter for all of her contributions.

Mr. Samuel announced that an intern started this week for the Summer. Scott Adler will be helping with load forecast in the agriculture sector. He is getting his Master’s degree at UC Davis.

**Adjournment to
Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 5 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Alisa M. Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst