

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

Staff Report - Item 5

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: CAC June 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: July 22, 2021

Recommendation

Receive, review and approve the attached June 24, 2021 meeting minutes.



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Chair Christine Shewmaker opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, June 24, 2021 beginning at 5:01 p.m. via videoconference 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), Yvonne Hunter, Marsha Baird, Gerry Braun, Lorenzo Kristov, David Springer, Jennifer Rindahl

Committee Members Absent: Cynthia Rodriguez (Vice Chair), Mark Aulman

Welcome and Approval of Agenda

Chair Shewmaker recognized Tessa Tobar, whose last day with VCE was on June 15th. She and other CAC Members thanked Tessa for her work.

David Springer made a motion to approve the June 24, 2021 meeting Agenda, seconded by Jennifer Rindahl. Motion passed with Rodriguez and Aulman absent.

Public Comment / Introductions

Opened 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: Yvonne Hunter provided a summary on legislative activities. The group recently has focused on two bills: SB 612 and AB 843. Lorenzo Kristov provided a summary on regulatory: the California Public Utilities Committee (CPUC) approved a new ruling making (OIR proceeding) moving towards resource planning, integration of DERs, etc. This will wrap up an old proceeding to start a new proceeding that will be more intense. It is anticipated that this new proceeding will last years with numerous committees and lots of work ahead. SB



99 is going to first assembly next Wednesday, a milestone on moving this bill along.

Outreach Task Group: Marsha Baird informed those present that the group has been giving feedback to Staff on VCE's website with many ideas already implemented to update the website. The website is looking really good. Yvonne Hunter commented that the website is evolving.

Programs Task Group: Ms. Baird provided a summary on the group's activities: discussed priority programs and how to approach them; the OhmConnect program, and grant resources with the assistance of Ms. Hunter and Jennifer Rindahl. She commented that the OhmConnect program offering free thermostats is moving forward quickly.

Rates Task Group: Mr. Kristov informed those present that the group met and VCE's consultant Don Dame attended. New ideas were discussed. VCE Staff Edward Burnham is to provide a brief update to the CAC at their next meeting.

Carbon Neutral Task Group: Chair Shewmaker informed those present that the group has postponed looking at load forecast and sensitivities; however, the group did discuss load forecast, power purchase agreements (PPAs) and how both are impacted at various times of the years. Staff have identified a consultant in response to the request for proposals for 100% carbon free portfolio study and Staff are moving forward on negotiations. A status report will be provided to the CAC at their August meeting and an update to the Board at their September meeting.

6/10/2021 Special Board meeting summary: VCE Interim General Manager Mitch Sears informed those present that the Board adopted a Fiscal Year 2021/2022 operating budget focusing on stable rates and utilizing reserves and programs. The Board adopted the 3-Year Programs Plan and was very appreciative of the CAC's and Staff's work on this plan. Harriet Steiner of Best Best Krieger (VCE's general co-counsel) retired and the Board approved an agreement with Richards, Watson and Gershon as VCE's co-counsel.

VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles gave a status of OhmConnect project: Board approved the OhmConnect project – a one (1) million statewide campaign to distribute thermostats to residential customers. The goal is to mitigate 950 MW this summer. VCE is working on outreach communication. Mr. Sears informed those present that OhmConnect has no limits on who is eligible other than they must be a residential customer.



Staff Report: Mr. Sears informed those present that SB 612 is going into the Energy Committee at the Assembly to be heard on June 30th. VCE and others are gathering updated letters of support. Recruitment to fill the Program and Community Engagement Specialist position vacated by Tessa Tobar. VCE participated in their 2nd CC Power JPA meeting and joined CC Power’s long duration storage procurement process. Gerry Braun asked about the status of vacancies on the CAC Mr. Sears informed those present that Staff are actively recruiting with a new due date for applications of July 1st. If no additional applications are received, the item will be postponed to the Board’s September meeting, since their August meeting has been cancelled.

Consent Items

Yvonne Hunter made a motion to approve the June 24, 2021 Consent Agenda items, seconded by Lorenzo Kristov. Motion passed with Rodriguez and Aulman absent. The following items were:

5. approved May 27, 2021 meeting Minutes; and,
6. received customer enrollment update as of June 16, 2021.

Item 7 – renewable technology (front of the meter) discussion. (Discussion)

Chair Shewmaker introduced this item which focuses on front-of-the-meter (FOM) and informed those present that VCE Staff will present information on behind-the-meter (BTM) at a later meeting. She noted that BTM resources will also play a role in VCE’s portfolio. Mr. Sears reiterated that it is important that Staff, the CAC Carbon Neutral Task Group and the carbon free portfolio study consultant, hear views from the CAC on several of the primary front-of-the meter (FOM) utility scale resources as their views would be helpful to inform the study. Mr. Sears introduced Bill Her [(VCE Staff – Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD))] who reviewed those FOM technologies proven and primarily used.

The CAC asked questions and discussed pros, cons, and usage of photovoltaic (PV), PV paired with battery energy storage system (BESS), wind, geothermal, biomass, and energy storage. Some key comments from CAC members included:

- Wind: Siting should address environmental concerns
- Geothermal: Attractive but limited availability
- Biomass/bioenergy: Covers a wide range of technologies. Projects need to clearly state which technology and which sources are being used so know the pros and cons. Local opportunities.
- Energy storage: Helps with need for resilience. Similar to biomass, lots of technologies and not all are the same.
- Important to include resiliency and net benefit when evaluating projects.

Other questions/comments were discussed: load capacity, usage of the term “intermittent” not the most accurate, suggest using “predictable”, any hydrogen



projects, tax credits, environmental concerns with wind resources, off shore wind projects, scarcity and availability of geothermal, the need to provide pros and cons of bioenergy/biomass by specific project/technology to understand its environmental affects, the need for resilient energy storage, and, the need to look at the costs, local resources, and multi-use of FOM resources.

There were no written or verbal public comments.

**Item 8: Update on
Net Energy
Metering (NEM) 3.0
(Informational)**

Chair Shewmaker introduced this item. She reminded those present that Net Energy Metering (“NEM”) is roof top solar (photovoltaic) and is considered a behind-the-meter resource.

VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles provided a definition and brief history of NEM and the transition from NEM 1.0 and 2.0 to 3.0. Staff informed those present that currently NEM 3.0 is being discussed at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) with an anticipated decision from the CPUC by the end of 2021, and implementation of NEM 3.0 by early 2022. Staff provided key issues that are to be considered by the CPUC, potential cost shift from NEM to non-NEM customers, compensation for surplus generation, equitable access to low-income customers, how to avoid grid costs from NEM customers, GHG emissions reductions, contribution to renewable portfolio standard (RPS) goals and T&D efficiencies.

It was suggested that VCE adopt a policy on NEM Customers with the above considerations in mind. CAC Member Gerry Braun asked the Board Clerk to forward his email regarding East Bay Community Energy’s “policy” towards NEM customers as this is a good example of recognizing the value NEM customers bring to a CCA and its communities. Staff are to look at other CCAs’ policies towards their NEM customer base and underserved communities and customers.

Ms. Boyles highlighted additional considerations: Staff believes that any CPUC modifications to NEM should be based on a full benefits/cost accounting approach. This should include assessment of the avoided cost values a NEM customer provides to the system such as GHG emission reductions, contributions to RPS goals, and transmission and distribution system efficiencies. Staff will be monitoring to see how the CPUC incorporates these principles into any decision, recognizing that the calculation of the cost to serve and benefits provided are complex and subject to interpretation. Another consideration is the role of roof top solar in reaching VCE’s goals and its effect on load and storage.

Lastly, it was suggested that VCE help educate those interested in getting solar and to encourage solar plus storage.

There were no written or verbal public comments.



Item 9: Long Range Calendar

Chair Shewmaker briefly reviewed the additions and revisions to the 2021 long range calendar. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Advisory Committee Member and Announcements

Staff were asked to provide an update on several NEM customers who live in mutual housing and had some billing issues. Ms. Boyles provided the status and informed those present that conversations are occurring between the customers, PG&E, billing, and Staff.

Marsha Baird wanted to provide an additional update on the Programs Task Group, who were approached with the idea of having a program whereby a VCE customer pay for another customer to opt up to UltraGreen. This program idea is being discussed.

Mr. Sears informed those present that COVID meeting rules are set to expire on September 30th. The CAC and Board will continue to meet remotely through September then beginning in October possibly a hybrid approach of “in person” and video/teleconference. Staff are looking at working in a few meetings in Winters, if a location that is large enough can be located.

Adjournment to Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m. The next regular CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 5 p.m. via videoconference.

Alisa M. Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst