

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Staff Report Item - 5

TO: VCEA Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Mitch Sears, Interim General Manager

SUBJECT: Minutes from January 29, 2018

DATE: March 12, 2018

Recommendation

Receive and approve the minutes from the January 29, 2018 meeting.

MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
Community Advisory Committee Meeting
January 29, 2018

The meeting of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance (VCEA) began at 5:30pm in the Davis Senior Center, Activities Room, 646 A Street, Davis, CA.

Committee Members Present: Marsha Baird, Tom Flynn, Yvonne Hunter, Lorenzo Kristov, Christine Shewmaker, David Springer.

Committee Members Absent: Mark Aulman, Gerry Braun.

Staff Members Present: Emily Henderson, Mitch Sears, Kim Villa.

Public Present: Chris Granger, Cool Davis; Chris Soderquist, RePower Yolo.

SMUD Consultants Present: Jen Archuleta, Michael Champ, Toni Hoang, Gary Lawson.

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair C. Shewmaker at 5:30pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Y. Hunter moved, L. Kristov seconded approval of meeting agenda. Approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Brief VCEA Staff and Advisory Task Group Reports

- **Staff:** E. Henderson informed the committee that she brought VCE posters, tri-folds, stickers and tote bags to the meeting for committee members. She also updated the committee on the VCE Champion training that was held on January 24th. Circlepoint trained 15 people. M. Sears added that the training was videotaped and would be posted on the VCE website. He also informed the committee that the presentations to key groups were going well. When questions arise at presentations or elsewhere, they are to be sent to E. Henderson so she can consolidate and share with Circlepoint so responses can be prepared and added to the documentation.
- **Energy task group:** The task group met with Kate Kelly from Defenders of Wildlife. She shared information on the environmental impacts to be considered when selecting sites for local renewable projects. The group suggested that CAC discuss the criteria for local projects, perhaps after launch.
- **Outreach task group:** M. Baird reported that M. Aulman is monitoring Twitter and Facebook in addition to Circlepoint.
- **Legislative/Regulatory task group:** Y. Hunter asked when the Leg/Reg Policy prepared by the task group would be presented to the Board for review. M. Sears responded that it would be on the February 8th consent agenda, that the January meeting had a very full agenda. M. Sears also discussed the CalCCA meeting that he attended, and he commented that he plans to follow-up with a contact from CleanPowerSF regarding how other CCAs chose what legislation to get involved with. T. Flynn also discussed the draft resolution on RA that the CPUC would be voting on at February 8th meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approval of Minutes from January 11th Committee Meeting
Y. Hunter moved, T. Flynn seconded approval of consent agenda. Approved unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Action. Review Board workplan and approve recommended CAC work plan updates and task group structure.

The March Board meeting is being moved from March 8th to March 22nd to allow more time for procurement. M. Sears asked if the CAC would like to move their meeting as well. E. Henderson will poll the committee to help determine the date of the next CAC meeting.

No changes to the task group structure. The Energy task group will wait until G. Braun's return to determine if they will have a chair.

7. Action. Consider recommendation to Board on Net Energy Metering (NEM) Policy

M. Champ presented slides on the NEM Policy, including a review of what other CCAs have done. There were about 5300 NEM customers within Davis, Woodland and unincorporated Yolo County at the end of 2016, 26% of which have surplus generation.

Staff is recommending moving NEM customers from PG&E to VCE on a monthly basis on the customers' PG&E true-up month. These customers will then have a partial year true-up the following April in order to move all customers to the same true-up date. This is in line with what other CCAs have done, but different from what NEM customers are experiencing with PG&E. M. Baird asked about the impact of this on the NEM customers who will have a bill for the partial year true-up that they would not have if they stayed with PG&E. Staff is aware of this and will work with Circlepoint on communications to this group. VCE is also planning to bill NEM customers monthly. PG&E gives customers the option of monthly bills or one bill at the end of the true-up period. C. Shewmaker expressed concern with this change. Communicating the differences and impacts on VCE customers will be very important.

M. Champ reviewed 3 options for how to compensate NEM customers and explained how they each performed on the stated goals of the NEM policy, as well as the financial impacts on customers and VCEA. Staff is recommending Option 2, which is similar to the approach currently taken by CCAs already serving customers.

C. Soderquist from RePower Yolo offered public comment. Looking at solar from the homeowner and commercial customers perspective, the most valuable thing is 20 year agreement with PG&E. If anything happens to JPA, can customers go back to PG&E? [Later in the meeting, M. Sears commented that they had had a conversation with PG&E on this, and were told that customers take their 20 year agreement and NEM status with them and can go back to PG&E.] C. Soderquist also advised that VCE take a look at modeling the various rates – EV, Ag 4, A6. He also commented that metering aggregation is popular with ag customers and would need to consider impact on it.

C. Granger from Cool Davis offered public comment. In Davis, focus is on increasing number of households with solar. Need to know how to tell the story within the community of VCE effect on solar customers.

M. Baird asked if staff had considered anything between Options 1 and 2.

L. Kristov brought up a concern with the ability of PG&E's system to handle additional solar and distribution system problems that could occur. He also raised the idea of incentives to install

storage. And encouraged staff to consider incentives to solar adoption other than rates, such as rebates. Rebates are more flexible than rates to adjust and change with time.

Y. Hunter made the below motion. C. Shewmaker seconded. No vote taken.

Recommend supporting the Staff recommendation of Option 2, and recommend coordinating with the solar industry, as well as solar, ag and commercial customers for input on messaging.

L. Kristov made the below motion. T. Flynn seconded. Motion passed, vote 5-1.

Recommend adoption modified Option 1, with modifications to make the VCEA offering better for existing NEM customers than PG&E's NEM rates.

Recommend that VCEA not use rates to create incentive for solar adoption, but should consider alternative, more flexible ways to incentivize solar, such as rebates, and in the future, incentives for adoption of solar+storage and other programs consistent with VCEA's vision.

Recommend coordinating with solar industry, as well as ag, commercial and residential solar customers to gather input for messaging about VCEA NEM rates.

C. Shewmaker voted against the motion, preferring Option 2 or a modified Option 2 of retail instead of retail plus one cent. Her reasoning was that it was important to send a message that NEM solar (and renewables), whether existing or new is an important part of who VCEA is. PG&E has in her words treated solar roof top customers as if they were part of the problem, wants VCEA to treat them like they are part of the solution.

8. Discussion. Enterprise Risk Policy

T. Hoang presented slides on Enterprise Risk Management, it's purpose and process. Creditors look to see if organizations have ERM. SMUD implemented in 2010, one of the first to do so. Other utilities have it now. Other CCAs do not have a ERM policy but do have components. A draft of the policy will be sent to CAC members for review. CAC members will have the opportunity before the meeting to review the draft and think about the relative importance of the various components.

9. Discussion. 100% Ultra Green Policy

M. Champ presented slides on options for the 100% renewable product offering from VCE, UltraGreen. He shared what other CCEs are doing for their 100% renewable product, including pricing. He also presented 3 options for VCE to consider, with the financial impact of each. There was discussion about fixed vs. variable charges for residential customers, especially LMI (low and moderate income) customers. C. Shewmaker pointed out that for NEM customers who are close to zero, a variable rate might be preferable. There was also discussion from Y. Hunter and C. Granger about ways to make solar accessible for low usage/low income users.

10. Board Member and Staff Announcements

None.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm. Y. Hunter moved, D. Springer seconded. Approved unanimously.

Next Meeting TBD: Monday, February 26, 2018 or Monday, March 12, 2018 at 5:30pm at Woodland Senior Center.