VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Staff Report - Item 9

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Mitch Sears, Executive Officer
Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: CAC Task Groups for 2023

DATE: December 15, 2022

Background/Discussion
Each year Staff asks the CAC to consider forming task groups to assist VCE Staff and the Board with tasks and projects. Staff is recommending that prior to the December meeting, CAC members consider possible task groups that need to be formed now and provide input on goal oriented tasks and projects that can be accomplished. Throughout 2023, Staff may revisit with the CAC on forming additional task group(s) as needed to assist with tasks and projects as they become defined.

For reference, the 2022 Task Groups and membership are listed below and the existing 2022 Task Group "Charges" are attached. Task groups tentatively identified for formation in 2023 at the December CAC meeting will be finalized at the January meeting.

2022 CAC Task Groups

1. Legislative/Regulatory
   A. Members: Lorenzo Kristov, Jennifer Rindahl, Christine Shewmaker (through March 2022), Yvonne Hunter (through July 2022)
2. Outreach
   A. Members: Mark Aulman, Marsha Baird, Yvonne Hunter (through June 2022)
3. Programs
   A. Members: Marsha Baird, David Springer, Rahul Athalye (beginning August 2022)
4. Energy Resilience
   A. Members: Lorenzo Kristov, Gerry Braun

Preliminary Staff Suggestions
As in past years, staff believes that fewer Task Groups helps efficiently allocate resources and focus on the most important issue/policy areas. Therefore, staff is supportive of the formation of up to 4 task groups. With the continuing activity in the first three Task Groups listed above, staff suggests that they would be reconstituted for 2023.

Attachments:

1. Legislative/Regulatory Task Group 2022 Charge
2. Outreach Task Group 2022 Charge
3. Programs Task Group 2022 Charge
4. Energy Resilience Task Group 2022 Charge

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2022 LEG/REG TASK GROUP CHARGE

Members: Yvonne Hunter (Chair)
Lorenzo Kristov
Jennifer Rindahl
Christine Shewmaker

Staff Lead: Mitch Sears

2022 Charge:

Work with VCE's lobbyist and VCE staff to:

- Provide feedback, technical information and strategic advice to VCE staff on key legislative and regulatory issues facing VCE and the CCA community in general, including legislation and regulatory issues related to VCE's Strategic Plan and Environmental Justice Statement.
- Provide periodic reports to the CAC about legislation and regulatory issues.
- Solicit recommendations from the CAC on VCE positions on key legislation and regulatory proceedings.
- Advise VCE staff on CalCCA's regulatory work when appropriate.
- Work with staff to consider options to enhance the Task Group's and CAC's understanding of regularoty proceedings.
- Contribute to VCE's engagement with legislators and other stakeholders.
- Work with staff to periodically review and update VCE's Legislative Platform for consideration by the CAC and VCE Board.

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2022 OUTREACH TASK GROUP CHARGE

Members: Mark Aulman (Chair)
Marsha Baird
Yvonne Hunter

Staff Lead: Rebecca Boyles

2022 Charge:

Collaborate with VCEA staff and consultants on community outreach to, and liaison with, member communities

Assist in the development of public information strategies, planning, and materials related to VCEA policies and programs. As requested by staff, review draft materials and provide comments as appropriate

Specific Tasks

1. Consult with staff and Green Ideals on short-term and long-term outreach strategies and communications projects

2. Help define audience segments within VCE's service area and consult on appropriate messages and communications approaches

3. Provide a sounding board to assist in message development and copy testing

4. Review development procedures for marketing communications and public relations projects

5. Conduct review of marketing materials at the draft (pre-release) stage

6. Provide concise summaries of activities at the monthly CAC meetings

7. Assist with projects designed to implement the VCE Outreach and Marketing Plan with emphasis on environmental justice and the VCE Strategic Plan

8. As requested by the Director of Customer Care and Marketing, provide outreach and messaging support for the efforts of other CAC task groups, e.g., Programs TG and Rates TG.

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2022 PROGRAMS TASK GROUP CHARGE

Members: Marsha Baird (Chair)
David Springer

Staff Lead: Rebecca Boyles

2022 Charge: The CAC Programs Task Group will assist VCE Staff with development and planning of Customer Programs that are prioritized for implementation by the criteria outlined in the 3-year Programs Plan adopted by the Board in June 2021. Specifically, the Task Group will:

(1) advise on program details and review program design/implementation forms for programs prioritized for implementation in 2022,

(2) assist VCE Staff with updates to programs already in place,

(3) collaborate with Staff on annual update to the 3-year Programs Plan,

(4) assist Staff with finding and applying for external funding for upcoming programs,

(5) have preliminary discussions with Staff on programs in line for implementation in 2023, and

(6) provide summaries and updates at monthly CAC meetings on Task Group activities.

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2022 ENERGY RESILIENCE TASK GROUP CHARGE

Members: Lorenzo Kristov
Gerry Braun

Staff Lead: Gordon Samuel

Concept: Form a Task Group (TG) to consider practical ways that VCE can work with its member jurisdictions and other local collaborators to address imminent challenges related to climate disruption. The TG would focus initially on how VCE could contribute to building local energy resilience, i.e., the capability to maintain electric service for essential community needs and functions during planned and unplanned power system outages.

2022 Charge: Work with VCE staff and other potential collaborators to develop specific ideas and initiatives for providing energy resilience benefits for Yolo County people and communities while maintaining VCE's financial health and core responsibilities.

Scope/Tasks: To support the above Charge on local energy resilience and the ability to maintain electric service during grid outages, the task group will focus on microgrids. A microgrid is a local electricity system that can operate both in grid-connected mode and in "islanded" mode independent of the grid. The TG would narrow the scope to focus on "clean energy" microgrids, that is, ones comprised of renewable generation, energy storage, bi-directional EV charging and demand management controls, and that do not use fossil fuel resources.

There are two main types of microgrids. **(1) Single-facility microgrids** have a single point of connection to the utility grid, like a college campus, office park or single building. **(2) Multi-customer microgrids** serve several customers, buildings and energy resources each having a separate point of connection to the utility grid. To operate in islanded mode type (2) must use the utility's distribution wires to move power from the generation and storage resources to the customers.

The TG proposes to focus on type (1) for 2022. Existing statutory and regulatory rules make type (2) very challenging if not impossible. This situation could change as many advocates are working to change the rules, but that's at least a few years in the future. Meanwhile, type (1) can provide much needed local benefits as a community "resilience hub" during grid outages and as a 24x365 source of clean energy during normal conditions.

Given the above considerations, the TG reviewed the recent announcement by Marin Clean Energy (MCE) and the Pittsburg USD to install battery storage on 10 schools that already have rooftop solar, to turn those schools into community resilience hubs. (https://www.mcecleanenergy.org/mce-news/1-6-megawatts-of-energy-storage-coming-to-pittsburg-unified-school-district/). There are other reasons why schools would be desirable locations for community energy resilience hubs — see Attachment 1 "Resilient Clean Energy Schools" (RCES) proposal — and therefore the TG proposes to identify a school in the VCE service area for implementation of a type (1) microgrid.

The TG proposes the following tasks for 2022:

1. Develop a draft local energy resilience vision for VCE, to provide a context for energy resilience efforts that can serve as a guidance document for the next several years. Aim for CAC adoption by end of 2022 for recommendation to VCE Board.
2. Identify a specific school in VCE service area for definition and implementation of a resilience hub. In collaboration with relevant partners (e.g., school board or administrator, company having microgrid deployment experience) develop an implementation plan in the form of a "shovel-ready" project description that can be submitted for funding. Aim for complete project plan by end of 2022.
3. Work with other CCAs and CalCCA to explore advancing RCES as a statewide program and collaboratively develop a strategy for advocacy.
4. Hold a public forum on Community Energy Resilience and for Staff to handle the logistics.

Strategic Plan: **Goal 4. Promote and deploy local decarbonization and grid innovation programs to improve grid stability, reliability, community energy resilience, and safety.**

4.1 Objective: Working with a variety of local, regional and state partners, develop a grid innovation roadmap for VCE's service territory that supports community energy resilience and reliability.

4.2 Objective: Develop a VCE decarbonization roadmap to guide near and long-term program decisions and offerings.

PROVIDED BY LORENZO KRISTOV

Attachment 1

Resilient Clean-Energy Schools

A recent press release from MCE unveiled their project to install battery storage on 10 schools in the Pittsburg CA USD.[1] The total of 1.6 MW / 3 MWh of storage will work in conjunction with the solar panels already on these schools to create resilient clean-energy microgrids, enabling the schools to have continuous fossil-free electricity service during grid outages, to serve as resilience hubs for their communities in addition to maintaining their core school functions.

Proposal: Create a statewide campaign to replicate this model on 2500 schools across the state.[2] The campaign would be aimed at the Legislature, Governor and relevant state agencies. It would seek to educate and engage the public and the entire energy industry through mass media, trade press, webinars, etc. It could be framed for legislation or a ballot initiative.

The RCES model: Install battery storage, bi-directional EV charging and microgrid control systems to work in conjunction with solar PV systems. The system will be able to sustain electricity service during grid outages for multiple days by charging the batteries from the on-site solar panels. The integrated EV charging stations will have sufficient capacity to charge EV school buses to support conversion of school bus fleets.

Benefits of RCES systems:

1. Substantial reduction or even elimination of school energy costs, even with electrification of school buses and other school systems such as heating
2. Continuous fossil-free power supply during utility grid outages, to serve as resilience hubs for their communities
3. Making schools ready with necessary charging infrastructure for EV buses
4. Ability to smooth each school's 24-hour net load profile on the utility grid to prevent any adverse grid impacts and minimize need for grid infrastructure upgrades
5. RCES systems can be the subject of clean-energy curricula at the schools, to prepare students to participate in the clean-energy economy
6. Reduction in GHG emissions in all school districts in the state, with attendant local health benefits
7. Boost to California clean-energy jobs and economy
8. A statewide program ensures that no communities are left behind. Some don't.

Next steps:

- Begin to identify and recruit potential supporters and plan the statewide campaign

Explore options for campaign leadership and funding

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[1] https://www.mcecleanenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/MCE-1.6-Megawatts-of-Energy-Storage-Coming-to-Pittsburg-Unified-School-District.pdf

[2] 2500 schools in California already have solar panels due to Prop 39 funding which was passed as a ballot initiative several years ago. Only about 250 of these schools also have battery storage already.