



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
City of Davis Conference Room
(inside Community Chambers building)
23 Russell Blvd., Davis, California 956126**

Chair Athalye established that there was a quorum present and opened the Community Advisory Committee of Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2025 beginning at 5:01 p.m., held at the City of Davis Conference Room, located inside the Community Chambers building at 23 Russell Boulevard, Davis, California 95616.

Welcome and Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Rahul Athalye (Chair), Keith Taylor (Vice Chair), Mark Aulman, Lorenzo Kristov, David Springer, Diccon Westworth, Danielle Ballard, Ari Halberstadt (arrived at 5:03 p.m.)

Committee Members Absent: Jennifer Rindahl, Cynthia Rodriguez (departed at 5:28 p.m. during Item 9)

Welcome Chair Rahul Athalye welcomed everyone and reminded everyone that VCE is still seeking candidates to fill the unincorporated Yolo County CAC seat. He asked the public attendees to introduce themselves.

Public Comment / Introductions There were no verbal or written public comments on items not listed on the CAC's Agenda and no verbal or written public comments on the CAC's Consent Agenda.

Brief VCE staff Report **Task Group Reports:**

- A) **Legislative & Regulatory:** Lorenzo Kristov informed those present that the Task Group has been concentrating on discussing Senate Bill 540, which is on the CAC's Agenda tonight.
- B) **Programs & Outreach:** VCE Staff Rebecca Kuczynski informed those present that there was nothing to report.
- C) **Strategic Plan:** Danielle Ballard reported that the group is reviewing the Strategic Plan and providing input on the major update. More information will be provided later under the Regular portion of tonight's meeting Agenda.

Staff Report: VCE Staff Gordon Samuel announced that the Board at their April 8, 2025 meeting received VCE's 2024 financial audit, a prepay update, and



Staff held a power charge indifference adjustment (PCIA) workshop. Mr. Samuel informed those present that VCE will be participating in three (3) events: Winters Youth Day, California Honey Festival, and Celebrate Davis. If anyone is interested in participating at the events, please contact Staff.

**Agenda:
Consent Items**

There were no written or verbal public comments as identified above.

Mark Aulman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items, seconded by Lorenzo Kristov. Motion passed with Jennifer Rindahl absent. The following items were:

4. approved March 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes;
5. received Customer Participation update (1st Quarter 2025);
6. received updated VCE Load Management Standards Plan; and,
7. reviewed and approved draft Bioenergy and Strategic Plan 2025 Task Group charges.

**Item 8: Strategic
Plan update –
discussion and
timeline roadmap.
(Information/Discu
sion)**

VCE Chief Executive Officer Mitch Sears introduced this item. VCE Staff Edward Burnham provided an overview of the process of updating the Strategic Plan. Staff and the Strategic Plan Task Group have provided administrative updates and developed a preliminary draft plan to make substantive edits to VCE's goals and objectives. Mr. Burnham encourages CAC Members to review the draft provided in the Staff Report and provide their input to Staff. Mr. Burnham reviewed the major update timeline, which includes public workshops, surveys and CAC and Board meeting schedules, and next steps. There were no written public comments.

Verbal Public Comment: Bill Julian asked if VCE was leveraging any local resources for energy efficiency programs for smaller scale technologies.

**Item 9 - 2024 Net
Margin discussion
and receive
feedback from
CAC.
(Discussion/Action)**

Mr. Burnham informed those present that the 2024 audited financial statements resulted in a net margin of \$26.4 million. He reviewed the background of 2024 Net Margin and presented several 2024 Net Margin allocation scenarios. Mr. Burnham noted that in developing the scenarios, Staff have taken into account VCE's Dividend Program parameters, as well as available and forecast cash reserves information.

Staff and the CAC discussed: how the net margin is determined and distributed; rate setting; affordability and rate competitiveness; the effects of discounted rates and programs on Customer opt-out rate; the effects of Net Energy Meter (NEM) Customers who over generate on the net margin; and,



the factors used and differences between the allocation scenarios. There were no written or verbal public comments.

The CAC did not make any recommendation on which scenario is preferred. Mr. Burnham informed those present that Staff will be presenting various scenarios to the Board at their June 12, 2025 meeting.

Item 10 - Receive additional information, discuss and seek recommendation from the CAC to the Board on Senate Bill 540 (Becker) Pathways Initiative and Regional Organization. (Information/Discussion/Action)

Mr. Sears introduced this item, provided an overview of this item, and reminded those present that VCE can take a position on Senate Bill (SB) 540 of support, oppose or no position. Mr. Sears provided a brief summary of regional and western markets and the history of wholesale electricity markets that have led to SB 540. VCE Staff Yvonne Hunter provided what SB 540 does and does not do and reviewed answers to key questions raised at the CAC's March 27, 2025 meeting.

The CAC received the following verbal public comments:

Bill Julian: Mr. Julian informed those present that he provided written public comment on this item, which was distributed to the CAC Members and Staff earlier this week. He explained his position and recommendation to oppose SB 540.

Carl Linvill: Mr. Linvill informed the history of the Pathways Initiative on SB 540.

Legislative and Regulatory Task Group Comments: Staff noted that the Task Group did not reach a consensus on a position on SB 540; therefore, there is no recommendation from the Task Group to the CAC.

Verbal Public Comment: Christine Shewmaker informed those present that she has listened to numerous discussions from various groups on the pros and cons of SB 540. She recommends that the CAC oppose SB 540.

As mentioned above by Mr. Julian, he submitted written public comment earlier in the week which was distributed to the CAC members and staff prior to this meeting.

The CAC Members briefly discussed and provided their individual opinions on SB 540.



Motion made by Lorenzo Kristov to oppose Senate Bill 540, seconded by Keith Taylor. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Taylor, Aulman, Kristov, Springer, Westworth, Halberstadt, Athalye

NOES: Ballard

ABSENT: Rindahl, Rodriguez

ABSTAIN: None

Mr. Sears informed the CAC that Staff will summarize the CAC's discussion and provide the CAC's recommendation to the Board along with Staff's recommendation to support SB 540 as outlined in the Staff Report on this item.

**Item 11 - Receive
2025 Long Range
Calendar.
(Information)**

Board Clerk Alisa Lembke informed those present that Senate Bill 540 has been added to the Board's May 8, 2025 meeting and has added Capitalization Policy as a placeholder to the Board's September 2025 meeting. There were no written or verbal public comments.

**Item 12: Advisory
Committee
Member and Staff
Announcements**

There were no announcements by the CAC members or VCE Staff.

**Adjournment to
Next Meeting**

The CAC has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, May 22, 2025 at the Capay Valley Health and Community Center (RISE), Community Room, located at 17317 Fremont Street, Esparto, California 95627. Thereafter a VCE Strategic Plan Workshop will be held. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Alisa M. Lembke

Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst