



MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019

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50 Santa Rosa Avenue, Fifth Floor, Santa Rosa, California

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Landman called the meeting to order at 8:45am

Board Members present: Chair Landman, Vice Chair Slayter, Directors Belforte, Gjerde, Hopkins, King, Tibbetts, Torrez, and Okrepkie

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Michael Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations; and Jessica Mullan, General Counsel

**II. BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Approve November 14, 2019 minutes of the SCPA Board of Directors meeting
2. Approve Board of Directors Meeting Dates for 2020 Calendar Year (Action)

Public comment: none

December 5, 2019 Sonoma Clean Power Authority Board of Directors Consent Calendar adopted by unanimous consent

**III. REGULAR CALENDAR**

3. Receive Internal Operations and Monthly Financial Report and Provide Direction as Appropriate (Discussion)

Director of Internal Operations Stephanie Reynolds updated the Board on current EverGreen participation rates; the 431 E Street building headquarters project; progress on the Advanced Energy Center construction project; and the Advanced Energy Rebuild program, which has over 300 applications to date. Chief Operations Officer Michael Koszalka then provided an overview of the Monthly Financial Report.

Public comment: Mike Turgeon spoke about pending litigation against the Town of Windsor regarding their ban on natural gas in new residential construction.

4. Receive Regulatory Update and Provide Direction as Appropriate

Director of Regulatory Affairs Neal Reardon provided a regulatory update on the Energy Resource Recovery Account proceedings wherein bundled and PCIA rates are developed and implemented, and the likelihood that the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment fee will increase along with bundled rates in the new year. He then provided an overview of Integrated Resource Plan requirements, and SCP's efforts to fulfill obligations for renewable energy resources under established & mandated targets. Director Reardon detailed an upcoming CPUC workshop on PSPS events and microgrids, and that the CPUC has engaged with stakeholders like SCP in these topic areas.

Director Hopkins noted that the County of Sonoma will participate in the December 12<sup>th</sup> CPUC workshop and asked to what extent staff is tracking local legislation & ballot initiatives, as well as working with other Special Districts and agencies like the Sonoma County Transit Authority and the Regional Climate Protection Authority. CEO Syphers stated that he is personally aware of pending legislation and that he welcomes any direction to staff; Chair Landman gave staff direction to collaborate with the local agencies referenced by Director Hopkins for cross-jurisdictional communications.

Public comment:

Deborah Tavares spoke about microgrids and geothermal energy and requested that staff define microgrids.

Director Reardon, in response to public comment, offered his definition of microgrids as, "a localized network with its own generation source that can island from the grid and maintain reliability."

5. Approve Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy Principles Related to Electric Transmission & Distribution Grid; Adopt Updated SCP Legislative Policy Platform; and Appoint Ad Hoc Committee for Electric Transmission & Distribution Grid Advocacy

CEO Geof Syphers introduced the item by noting that he is asked about the future of PG&E on a daily basis, and by adopting the advocacy & legislative principles it will allow SCP to engage on this topic in a focused and deliberative manner. Katherine Brandenburg, SCP Lobbyist, then updated the Board on a recent California Senate Energy Committee hearing on PSPS events.

Public comment:

Deborah Tavares asked for clarification on certain advocacy principles and the concept of microgrids as outlined in the staff report for this item.

Rick Brown spoke about the advocacy principle for governance with a strong public interest and CPUC priorities.

Woody Hastings noted that several environmental organizations have launched a utility justice campaign and suggested that the Board consider adopting some of their advocacy principles.

Following public comment, Chair Landman requested Vice Chair Slayter, Director Hopkins, and Director King to participate in an ad hoc committee for electric transmission and distribution grid advocacy.

Director King requested an addition to Legislative Policy #5 (Electrification and Efficiency of Buildings) to include a reference to "other greenhouse-gas producing fuels." Similarly, Director Hopkins requested that staff amend this item to include a reference to "wood burning stoves."

Vice Chair Slayter asked if staff could strengthen the language on Legislative Policy #8 (Energy Resiliency) with the following addition: "Remove existing legislative impediments to the development and construction of, and conversion to, locally controlled clean-power microgrids."

Chair Landman asked if adding an item to the proposed Legislative Policy regarding support for public ownership would be appropriate; Director Belforte noted her support for a non-profit public ownership model.

CEO Syphers asked if the Board preferred a municipal model (typically owned by a governmental organization) or a cooperative model (typically owned by customers); Chair Landman noted his preference for a municipally owned model followed by a cooperative model.

Vice Chair Slayter asked that staff prioritize clean and low-cost energy as an advocacy principle.

CEO Syphers then introduced the proposed core principles for advocacy relating to the electric transmission and distribution grid.

Director Belforte asked if there are any other utilities across the nation that are non-profit or not-for-profit; CEO Syphers stated that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of not-for-profit utilities across the country. Director Belforte then asked about reports that Warren Buffett was asked to take over PG&E; CEO Syphers stated that some media reports indicated that Governor Newson asked Mr. Buffett to make an offer to take over PG&E, and in CEO Syphers' estimation, this is not his preferred outcome and would likely be at the cost of ratepayers.

Directors Torrez, Belforte, and Okrepkie noted their support for the proposed advocacy principles.

Director King noted his support for the principles and suggested adding language around outside auditors reviewing the PCIA fee as an advocacy principle, as it would help SCP ensure stable and competitive rates, while diminishing the likelihood of erroneous PCIA fee calculations.

Director Hopkins asked if a principle could be added to address decarbonization of the grid; CEO Syphers proposed the prioritization of locally generated energy distribution services, while ensuring the grid has access to these resources.

Chair Landman stated he would support a principle that encourages regulatory bodies to focus on safety and rates, while encouraging PG&E to exit the generation side and move towards grid safety and distribution. He then requested that public ownership be emphasized, along with the addition of “no reduction in environmental obligations” such as emission targets and renewable energy standards.

Motion to adopt an updated Legislative Policy Platform as amended for 2020 by Director Belforte.

Second: Director Gjerde

Motion passed: 8-0-0 (Director Tibbetts was absent during the vote)

Motion to appoint Vice Chair Slayter, and Directors Hopkins, King, and Okrepkie to an Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Directors to run through 2020 for certain electric transmission and distribution grid issues as outlined in the staff report by Director Belforte.

Second: Director Okrepkie

Motion passed: 8-0-0 (Director Tibbetts was absent during the vote)

Public comment: Deborah Tavares expressed her concern about microgrids and liability for any public ownership of PG&E

6. Receive Nominations and Appoint CAC Member(s) for the Term Beginning January 1, 2020 (Action)

Vice Chair Slayter gave background on the item, including the recruitment process, details on the application materials, and the process used for in-person interviews.

Director Okrepkie expressed thanks to both outgoing CAC members Paul Brophy and Joe Como.

Public comment:

Dick Dowd, Community Advisory Chair, thanked the Board for their efforts, thanked departing Committee Members Paul Brophy & Joe Como, and welcomed the new committee members.

Shivawn Brady introduced herself as a new Committee Member, then detailed her background and involvement in the community.

Patricia Morris introduced herself as a new Committee Member, noted her background as an environmental attorney & her experience as the former Director of Organization and Leadership Development at Kaiser.

Ben Peters detailed his experience interviewing with the ad hoc and his perception that there is a lack of modern technical experience among the current committee members.

Andy Ferguson commented on Director Hopkins' suggestion that greater emphasis be placed on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by using power purchase agreements for local solar production.

Zhibin Zhang asked about the best SCP staff point of contact to discuss solutions for grid improvements.

Motion to appoint Shivawn Brady, Anita Fenichel, Mike Nicholls, Bill Mattinson, Patricia Morris, and Ken Wells to 4-year terms to the Community Advisory Committee by Director Hopkins.

Second: Director King

Motion passed: 9-0-0

#### **IV. CLOSED SESSION**

Item tabled.

#### **V. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice Chair Slayter and Directors Okrepkie and Belforte announced their jurisdictions respective holiday tree lightings.

#### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Public comment: Ben Peters suggest that SCP develop a generator buyer guide to assist with purchasing the lowest emission models.

#### **VII. ADJOURN**

Chair Landman adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:34am.

Respectfully submitted,



Beau Anderson  
Clerk of the Board