



**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026
1:00 P.M.**

Recommend the Board of Directors Approve the Proposed Guidelines for New Public-Private Partnerships for the Geothermal Opportunity Zone

Ryan Tracey, Chief Strategy Officer, briefed the committee on lessons learned from last year's termination of agreements with Chevron and Cyrq and outlined a new strategy for advancing the Geothermal Opportunity Zone. CSO Tracey highlighted progress on a parallel statewide initiative through California Community Power, which recently executed "GEODE" agreements to support geothermal development and provide early commercial signals to the industry. SCP plans to shift from broad public solicitations to targeted bilateral agreements in the next round, supported by newly proposed guidelines emphasizing local project focus, partner expertise, scalability, ratepayer benefits, workforce and labor commitments, environmental safeguards, and transparency.

Public Comment: Fred Allebach asked staff to clarify the differences between Calpine's technology and closed-loop geothermal systems, the technologies SCP is considering for the GeoZone, and what authority SCP has in Mendocino County to pursue its 600 MW geothermal goal compared with private developers like Chevron. Woody Hastings with the Climate Center expressed support for SCP's evolving GeoZone work and its inclusion of workforce, environmental, and transparency criteria, while raising questions about the rationale for using bilateral agreements instead of open solicitations and suggesting SCP also consider midscale geothermal solutions that support community level resilience rather than focusing solely on large utility-scale projects. Bill Brockenborough, a Mendocino County resident, expressed strong support for the GeoZone effort and urged SCP to prioritize financially capable partners and to require developers to bring major firms with substantial balance sheets to ensure geothermal projects can be successfully financed and built. Dan McCullough of the North Coast Carpenters Union requested that the Carpenters, Pile Drivers, and Millwrights be directly included in any project labor agreement negotiations, noting they are not part of the building trades council. Jay Goldin asked for more detail on why SCP's agreements with Cyrq Energy and Chevron were terminated and what those companies were unable to find in local geothermal resources, and he also echoed support for exploring smaller scale geothermal options for community resilience.

Motion to Recommend the Board of Directors Approve the Proposed Guidelines for New Public-Private Partnerships for the Geothermal Opportunity Zone and to Include Public Participation and Transparency by Member Nicholls

Second: Member Hollinshead

Motion passed by roll call vote.

AYES: Lipp, Hollinshead, Soto, Wang, Young, Hagen, Heffler, Nicholls, Morris