



**MEETING MINUTES
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021
1:00 P.M.**

******GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-25-20******

******GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20******

RE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS N-25-20 AND N-29-20 WHICH SUSPEND CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE BROWN ACT, AND THE ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SONOMA TO SHELTER IN PLACE TO MINIMIZE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE PARTICIPATED IN THE JANUARY 21, 2021, MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dowd called the January 21, 2021 meeting of the Community Advisory Committee to order at 1:04 pm.

Committee Members Present: Chair Dowd, Vice Chair Baldwin, and Members Brady, Chaban, Fenichel, Mattinson, Morris, Nicholls, Sizemore, Quinlan, and Wells

Staff Present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Mike Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; and Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

None

III. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve December 16, 2020 Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Public Comment: None

Motion to approve the December 16, 2021 Community Advisory Committee Consent Calendar by Vice Chair Baldwin

Second: Member Nicholls.

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote: 10-0-1

IV. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR

2. Receive Internal Operations and Monthly Financial Report and Provide Feedback as Appropriate

Chief Operating Officer Michael Koszalka provided details regarding COVID-19 impacts to SCP. He stated that staff will bring forward a budget adjustment and sales forecasts soon and that the FY21/22 budget review will begin in April. He then advised that development of the Integrated Resource Plan will start in spring and continue through fall, and it will have more detailed forecasts and modeling to plan out the next several years.

Director of Internal Operations Stephanie Reynolds provided construction updates on the new SCP headquarters project, which is expected to be completed this summer, and noted that the Advanced Energy Center is slated to open later in spring. She then provided an overview of the monthly financial statements.

Member Morris asked about the situation with customers not paying bills; COO Koszalka responded that SCP has been monitoring the 30-, 60- and 90-day delinquent payment reports, and while customers have been slower to pay than typical, they are still paying. He then stated that SCP's write off for bad debt budget is at 1.2% and that the upcoming budget update will ask to increase that amount because staff expects bad debt to go up due to COVID-19.

Public Comment: None.

3. Receive Legislative and Regulatory Updates and Provide Feedback as Appropriate

Director of Regulatory Affairs Neal Reardon covered regulatory updates, beginning with PG&E's Mailer on Bill Increases. He then gave an update on the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment proceedings and that a decision is expected in the second quarter of this year. Director Reardon then detailed a proposed CPUC microgrid decision which is positive for customers and citizens; the three areas of proposed changes: 1) Microgrids controlled by state & local entities can now serve an adjacent parcel; 2) The Commission is removing the cap of five critical facility microgrids per utility territory; and, 3) The Commission clarified that storage devices eligible under Net Energy Metering would also be eligible to serve microgrids.

CEO Geof Syphers provided the legislative portion of the report. In the last 24 hours, President Biden made a number of decisions including rejoining the

Paris Climate Accord and revoking the permit for the Keystone Pipeline; his appointments would likely have a positive impact on the climate agenda. He then updated the Board on several new appointments to SCP's Board of Directors: for Santa Rosa, Mayor Chris Rogers with Victoria Fleming as alternate; Windsor selected Deb Fudge with Esther Lemus as alternate; Rohnert Park selected Vice Mayor Jackie Elward with alternate Susan Adams. The seat shared by the cities of Ft. Bragg, Pt. Arena, and Willits is pending appointment.

CEO Syphers stated that there are a number of bills that are still under review and one of particular interest is SB 99 (Dodd) Community Energy Resilience Act. He then stated that CAISO released their final report about the root causes of the August heat wave and outages; some providers estimated their loads too low, there was an extreme heat wave, extreme humidity, combined with cloud cover which caused solar output to drop substantially. Combined with these factors were also some natural gas power plant failures.

Chair Dowd posed a question to CEO Syphers about SB 45 by Portantino regarding the concern about protection from wildfires. CEO Syphers replied that he does not have an analysis yet but will have it soon.

Member Mattinson posed a comment that was raised at the last Board meeting regarding the natural gas bans and Windsor reversing their ban because they could not afford a legal fight. He noted that the litigant in that case is a director at a bank where SCP has funds deposited and he asked if action being taken on this with the Board or staff level. CEO Syphers replied that staff is working on a response that will go to the Board and an update on this issue will also be presented to the CAC.

Member Brady requested CEO Syphers or Director Reardon to provide any updates from CEC regarding renewable energy requirements for indoor and greenhouse cannabis cultivators; CEO Syphers replied he is not aware of any updates on this issue. Chair Dowd requested staff follow up on the issue.

Public comments: None

4. Receive Annual Report

Director of Public Relations & Marketing Kate Kelly presented this item and noted the efforts of Brand Manager April Varellas. Director Kelly covered each page of the annual report with a brief summary of the contents presented.

Public comments: None

5. Receive Programs Strategic Action Plan and Provide Feedback as Appropriate

Director of Programs Cordel Stillman provided a brief overview of some of the highlights contained in the Plan as a bi-annual report of SCP programs. He highlighted GridSavvy, CALeVIP, and the Advanced Energy Build Program. Director Stillman then detailed proposed programs such as the Programs Equity Framework and the Electrification Equity. He then described programs that have been completed such as the school bus electrification study, and those that have been discontinued like the residential battery incentive program.

Member Quinlan expressed appreciation for the programs update and stated that these presentations are among his favorites. He also asked for more information on Program Equity Framework; Director Stillman replied that it is in progress with a draft that will be taken to the Board of Directors in February. The Committee will also see it at the next meeting and have an opportunity to weigh in and advise. Member Quinlan asked why the PermaGreen program enrollments are paused; CEO Syphers responded that the program is paused due to legislative concerns and potential compliance issues surrounding jurisdictional concerns while the CEC weighs a decision. Director Stillman concluded the report by expressing gratitude for program managers and senior program managers.

Public Comment:

John Rosenblum commented on the analysis of 17 municipal facilities to determine the feasibility of adding battery storage and expressed concerns about the cost-effectiveness of sophisticated power purchase agreements.

6. Discuss EverGreen Local Resource Public Workshop #2 and Provide Feedback as Appropriate

Director of Planning & Analytics Rebecca Simonson provided a verbal presentation of the written report. She highlighted an item not included in the report - a 1 MW ProFIT solar project outside of Petaluma, named Bodega Energy West, that began commercial operation on December 31, 2020. Director Simonson then described another 1 MW project that is expected to begin operation within the next several months; it is also located in the Petaluma area. Director Simonson detailed that feedback received on the Local Resource Plan Workshop #2 is provided in the report.

Chair Dowd commented about jurisdictional requirements to comply with State mandates to reduce GHG emissions and stated that was one of the reasons the City of Santa Rosa upgraded to EverGreen. Additionally, he mentioned that the Town of Windsor put the solar array on a wastewater pond and is surprised that other jurisdictions have not taken these or similar actions. Chair Dowd suggested that it may be a cost-effective way of meeting the GHG

reduction mandates. Director Simonson replied that the cost-effectiveness of a project is determined on a case-by-case basis and that EverGreen is also a cost-effective option for many. Part of SCP's plan will include outreach to the local jurisdictions to improve the utilization of renewable energy resources on municipal sites.

Member Morris noted that Petaluma City Council adopted an impressive framework for climate action put together by new Climate Action Commission. One priority action item is to have the city join EverGreen. Member Sizemore watched the LRP Workshop #2 presentation and commented that while it was technical, Director Simonson did a good job of explaining those technicalities. She expressed understanding of the biomass concerns but agrees that staff's idea to address biomass on a case-by-case basis is a good plan.

Member Sizemore left the meeting at approximately 2:39 pm.

Member Wells spoke about the marketing of EverGreen and suggested that the local element should be a primary focus over the GHG emissions. Per The Climate Registry, SCP is the only public agency who has published 2019 GHG emissions so far. He stated that per the report, CleanStart had lower GHG emissions than EverGreen which may present a marketing issue. He went on to ask if SCP will be able to maintain these CleanStart GHG emissions and if EverGreen will be able to reduce GHG emissions. Director Simonson explained that the GHG emissions report is a long process and others may still report. Regarding CleanStart being cleaner she stated that it is about methodology - while it appears CleanStart is cleaner than EverGreen, it's not necessarily so. The Climate Registry uses an annual methodology whereas the CPUC and others are moving toward an hourly methodology. SCP does intend to reduce the GHG emissions of EverGreen going forward however it depends on how much of the supply is provided by the Geysers geothermal.

CEO Syphers added that SCP has been advocating for more accurate reporting of GHG emissions using EverGreen as an example. He also answered Member Wells' question about whether CleanStart can maintain the current low level of emissions - not quickly but the goal over time will be to keep it as low as possible. CEO Syphers also stated that this topic should be addressed again going forward, especially during the Integrated Resource Plan.

Member Wells commented about a state law change regarding the reporting requirements of power content labels which currently only include percentages of the sources, but in the future GHG emissions will also be included. Director Simonson confirmed that change is happening this year to cover 2020 reporting.

Member Baldwin asked about the process SCP will implement regarding biomass. Director Simonson explained that SCP will look at the net benefit. For example, if it is a waste product, the cost savings, emission savings, where it came from, etc., will be determined on a case-by-case basis. She emphasized that no biomass projects are currently proposed.

Public comment:

John Rosenblum expressed appreciation for Director Simonson and Senior Energy Analyst Ryan Tracy for the handling of public comments during the LRP process. He also reiterated his previous questions and comments about the cost-effectiveness of solar and storage and the lack of public input to that study.

7. Discuss Proposed Process for Nominations and Selection of a Chair and Vice Chair in Advance of Open Nominations and Vote at February Meeting

To commence the discussion, Chair Dowd encouraged other Committee Members to speak up if they have interest in being Chair or Vice Chair.

Member Brady left the meeting at approximately 2:58 p.m.

Director of Internal Operations Stephanie Reynolds advised that this item is for discussion and staff can offer suggestions, but this item is for the Committee to decide. CEO Syphers detailed that the Authority's JPA establishes that the Board of Directors to appoints Committee members, but the Committee itself selects its own Chair and Vice Chair.

The Committee agreed to establish a two-part process which would begin each year in December where the Members would express their interest in serving as Chair or Vice Chair with a vote held the following month.

Vice Chair Baldwin commented that all committee members should present a statement with member interest, background, biography, qualifications, etc. She also stated that the agenda review call which takes place prior to CAC meetings is very helpful and suggests that in addition to the Chair, another Member sits in on that call on a rotating basis. Member Mattinson expressed preference to allow flexibility in the scheduling of nominations and votes to ensure newly appointed Members can participate. Member Nicholls expressed interest in having a CAC retreat to allow for members to meet outside of a meeting.

Member Morris agreed with Vice Chair Baldwin's suggestion to have Members present a written statement. Member Morris went on to ask if Members can self-nominate in addition to being nominated by others. Director Reynolds replied that has been the practice, yes.

COO Koszalka clarified direction for this year's process - by Monday, staff will send out a statement form to members. Members will have to return the statements within two weeks so they can be included in the next packet.

Public comments: None

V. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Dowd looks forward to when the Committee can gather again in person. Member Mattinson commented that the Committee previously had a youth student member and encourages staff to consider it again when possible.

VI. ADJOURN

Chair Dowd adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beau Anderson
Clerk of the Board