



**MEETING MINUTES  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021**

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**\*\*\*\*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 FEBRUARY 18, 2021, MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dowd called the meeting to order at approximately 1:04 pm

Committee Members present: Chair Dowd, Vice Chair Baldwin, and Members Fenichel, Mattinson, Quinlan, Sizemore, Chaban, Wells, Nicholls, and Morris. Member Brady absent with prior notice.

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Mike Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations; Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs; Rachel Kuykendall, Senior Programs Manager; and Programs Manager Nelson Lomeli.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

Public Comment: None

**III. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Approve January 21, 2021 Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
2. Recommend that the Board Approve and Delegate Authority to the CEO to Execute Fourth Amendment to Contract with Sixth Dimension LLC for an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$393,979 through April 1, 2021 for the Advanced Energy Center
3. Recommend that the Board of Directors give the Chief Executive Officer authority to execute the Second Amended Agreement for Professional Services with Sixth Dimension, LLC. for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$927,390 through August 31, 2021 for the SCP Headquarters Project

4. Recommend that the Board Delegate Authority to the CEO to Amend and Extend a Professional Services Agreement with TRC Engineers for the Advanced Energy Build Program to Increase the Not-to-Exceed Contract by \$31,500 to \$2,848,000 and Extend the Term through December 31, 2022

Motion to approve the February 18, 2021 Consent Calendar by Vice Chair Baldwin

Second: Member Nicholls

Motion passed: 10-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Public Comment: None.

#### **IV. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Dowd announced that Member Bill Mattinson will be leaving the Committee; Chair Dowd continued by saying that Member Mattinson will be missed dearly.

Member Mattinson expressed that it has been a great experience to work with SCP and the Committee throughout his tenure and that he will continue to keep up with SCP's progress. He said he would file his resignation with staff on this day and confirmed that this meeting would be his last.

Vice Chair Baldwin thanked Mattinson for acting as a mentor and offering guidance when she came aboard. Members Nicholls, Quinlan, Sizemore, Fenichel, and Wells also expressed their gratitude and appreciation for Member Mattinson's work on the Committee.

Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer, added his appreciation for Member Mattinson for "walking the walk" and living the values that SCP holds.

Public Comment: None.

#### **V. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR**

5. Nominations and Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for One-Year Terms

Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations, began by explaining that all Committee Members were asked to submit a brief statement form, all of which were included in the meeting packet, and that four Members expressed interest in serving as Chair or Vice Chair: Chair Dowd, Vice Chair Baldwin, Member Quinlan, and Member Nicholls. She then asked the Chair to open discussion for nominations and requested that votes be held separately for Chair and Vice Chair.

Member Chaban nominated Member Mike Nicholls for Chair, second by Vice Chair Baldwin.

Public Comment on the Nomination for Chair: None.

Motion Passed: 10-0-0 by roll call vote. Chair Dowd removed himself from consideration for Vice Chair position which left two remaining nominees: Vice Chair Baldwin and Member Quinlan.

Member Sizemore nominated Vice Chair Baldwin to continue in her role as Vice Chair; second by Member Wells.

Public Comment on the Nomination for Vice Chair: None.

Motion Passed: 9-0-1 by roll call vote, with an abstention from Vice Chair Baldwin.

Newly elected Chair Nicholls accepted responsibility to continue as Chair for the remainder of this meeting. He gave thanks to Former-Chair Dowd for his leadership.

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

Director Reynolds commenced the update by noting there are no major updates this month. The gap between sales and energy costs has evened out; revenue and expenses are 18% over budget. Opt-outs are lower than usual for this time of year and SCP continues to serve 87% of eligible customers within its' service territory.

COVID-19 protections for residential and small commercial customers have been extended by the CPUC through June 30, 2021.

The Advanced Energy Center is moving along; SCP will soon begin to film webinars from the Center. A list of upcoming webinar events was provided in the meeting packet and can also be found on SCP's website.

Rachel Kuykendall, Senior Programs Manager, provided a brief GridSavvy update and shared information about a behavioral demand response program where customers can participate without having to purchase a technology. Customers will be able to choose whether to keep their earned rewards or donate them to a community partner organization. She asked Members to share the community partner solicitation with their networks and then clarified that community partner organizations are local, 501(c)(3), non-profits that are ideally aligned with SCP's mission.

Member Sizemore asked if the webinar workshops are recorded and provided on the website and if staff tracks how many people view them.

Director Reynolds confirmed that they are recorded. Mike Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer, added that staff records how many people attend the webinars live but is not aware if recording viewership is tracked.

Member Dowd commented on the weather emergency that took place in Texas which resulted in widespread, days-long power outages for millions of people across the state and then asked for CEO Syphers, COO Koszalka, or other staff, to provide insight on what kind of impacts SCP may see as an energy provider.

CEO Syphers shared background on the issue and stated that information is being released in near-real time as the emergency continues. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), which has a parallel function to California's Independent System Operator (CAISO), has reported that renewable energy sources have contributed very little to this problem. Some customers in Texas will see extraordinarily large electric bills due to being exposed to wholesale market prices. SCP's customers will see some increased costs because the entire electric system that is interlinked is seeing higher prices in the spot market, but nowhere near what Texas is experiencing.

Chair Nicholls recommended a segment from Rachel Maddow's show the previous night that also covered the topic.

Vice Chair Baldwin shared her experience that it has been convenient and easy to attend these meetings virtually and recommends continuing virtual webinars and meetings.

Director Reynolds agreed and speculated that the webinars will continue being held virtually, perhaps also with a live audience in attendance and filmed from the Advanced Energy Center.

Member Morris inquired about the GridSavvy RFQ - through what method will the RFQ be issued and how can she pass along the information to her networks?

Senior Programs Manager Rachel Kuykendall answered that the RFQ is posted on the Sonoma Clean Power website on the Solicitations page as well as on social media. It was also distributed via e-mail to subscribers of some SCP mailing lists, including Programs and Solicitations.

CEO Syphers gave an update on CC Power which was officially launched, and the first Board meeting was held 2/17/21. He joined an ad-hoc committee to work on policies. There was public input that CC Power should develop policies on labor and the environment; the Board also added an equity component to the policy discussion. CEO Syphers added that the long-duration storage request for offers (RFO) is ongoing. Ryan Tracey on SCP's staff contacted Congressman Thompson's office to find out if the 2021 Green Act Bill could be

used as vehicle to make battery storage, or other forms of stand-alone energy storage independent from generation, eligible for the investment tax credit because currently they are not. A positive response was received from the Congressman's office stating that is their intent.

Chair Nicholls asked if electric vehicles, which have their own battery storage, would have any affect under that Bill.

CEO Syphers estimated that 600-700 MWhs of electric vehicle battery storage currently exists within Sonoma County. He thinks this bill has no nexus with that but will take a closer look and that the prospect of electric vehicles providing support to the grid will likely start by providing support to the home or building it is connected to without flowing onto the grid.

Director Reynolds concluded the staff report with a financial update and stated that a budget adjustment item will be brought forward at the next meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Vice Chair Baldwin noted an error in the published Agenda Packet and correction is as follows:

- Community Advisory Committee - ~~March 18, 2021~~ **April 15, 2021**

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

Director of Regulatory Affairs, Neal Reardon, began the with regulatory portion of the update and gave brief background on the items included in the written report.

Public Comment on Regulatory Updates: None.

CEO Syphers noted Governor Newsom has filled all of the vacancies on the CPUC, CEC, and CAISO. CalCCA is proposing its own bill this year. The bill seeks to ensure that all customers, whether investor-owned utility bundled customers, CCA customers, or direct access customers, receive fair access to the resources they are paying for. The Bill's author is Senator Portantino with eleven co-authors so far.

Member Quinlan asked CEO Syphers to clarify item number two in the description of the CalCCA bill CEO Syphers first answered that the calculation that factors into the PCIA does not recognize the premium for a GHG-free resource and is currently only credited based on the spot market value. Secondly, "other products" is included as a catch-all because new products are invented all the time, and this seeks to anticipate those new products that may be created in the future.

Member Sizemore asked if CEO Syphers could speak to AB525 by Chiu and Wiener with regards to offshore wind.

CEO Syphers said he is getting briefed on it this week but that it may need some tweaks to work for projects that are being explored off the coast of Humboldt Bay.

Public Comment on the Legislative Updates: None.

#### 8. Receive Draft Programs Equity Plan and Provide Feedback as Appropriate

Program Manager Nelson Lomeli gave a thorough overview of the draft framework that is included in the packet, which seeks to support diversity, equity, and inclusion in SCP customer programs. He pointed out that members of the public will have multiple opportunities to provide feedback on the framework and a final draft of the framework will come back to the CAC on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

CEO Syphers thanked staff for their efforts on this project. During his performance review with the Board in 2020, he and SCP were tasked with developing an equity plan for all aspects of Sonoma Clean Power. It was decided that this process would start with Customer Programs, but this is just one part of a bigger effort that will take place over the next several years. He also added that this work can be very difficult at times, especially because historically speaking, electric providers have generally done a poor job of reaching low-income, rural, and non-English speaking customers.

Chair Nicholls commented in response to CEO Syphers' statement regarding those without internet access and added that there are a number of people in our own communities that are in that situation and we need to figure out a better way to conduct outreach to them. He recommended utilizing some of the local Spanish language resources such as the newspaper *La Luz* as well as Spanish radio stations. He recommended Los Cien as a community-based partner.

Member Sizemore added that local churches and church leaders may be important connections so that people can hear the information from trusted sources. She also suggested staff connect with City Councilman Juan Orozco.

Chair Nicholls added the Latino First Group in Mendocino County and former SCP Board member Jonathan Torrez.

Vice Chair Baldwin suggested communicating with the local Boys and Girls Clubs which reach a lot of parents who work and might not otherwise hear about something like this.

Member Chaban suggested contacting the Mendonoma Health Alliance and senior centers. He asked where Members can post their comments as well since Members can talk to their communities and come up with many more ideas.

Nelson Lomeli explained that the website will be set up after this meeting and that is where the framework, workshop dates, registration links, and comment forms will be.

Member Mattinson pointed out something he has said in prior meetings, that many Committee Members are older and that it's important to get more youth involved. He also recommended establishing a youth scholarship.

Member Quinlan suggested having a concrete goal to recruit one or more members from the environmental and social justice (ESJ) communities to serve on the Community Advisory Committee and on SCP's staff.

CEO Syphers responded to this suggestion by saying it is a fine line to walk while seeking people from the communities we are trying to serve to come work for us and offer that representation without burdening them with solving the problem by themselves. It is important to invite these voices to the table but not have them feel like we are relying on them. We need them to feel that they are advising us on solving a problem *we* need to solve, as the more privileged group of people.

Member Chaban recommended having an ESJ Advisory Council to advise but not make decisions.

Member Morris commented about a recent Press Democrat article that discussed the City of Santa Rosa's community engagement efforts. Additionally, the City of Petaluma has the Climate Action Commission which aligns with some of the things that SCP is working on. Finally, she spoke about an article about innovation behavior that business leaders need to adopt and agreed to share it with staff.

Member Wells recommended Land Paths which does a lot of work based out of Roseland. He also added that he can connect staff to the bicycle shop on Occidental Road which has deep community ties.

Member Quinlan added that the reality is that there are more subsistence level concerns which may take precedence over clean energy and climate change issues and recommended we tie our goals to some of those concerns.

Member Mattinson asked how SCP can partner with landlords who serve the underprivileged communities to develop programs that improve the comfort and efficiency of homes without costing the tenants anything.

Public comment: None

*Member Sizemore left the meeting at approximately 2:55 pm.*

Chair Nicholls concluded by recommending a partnership with the Economic Development Board, specifically Marco Suarez.

Vice Chair Baldwin requested that Nelson and Staff provide Committee Members with a summary and relevant details so they can share the information with their networks.

Nelson Lomeli confirmed he send out some follow up information to the Committee.

## **VI. ADJOURN**

Chair Nicholls adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beau Anderson  
Clerk of the Board