



**MEETING MINUTES
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 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 APRIL 15, 2021, MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nicholls called the meeting to order at approximately 1:03 p.m.

Committee Members present: Chair Nicholls and Members Chaban, Dowd, Morris, Sizemore, Quinlan, and Wells.

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Mike Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations; and Carolyn Glanton, Program Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Public Comment: Tom (no last name provided) inquired about the opening date for the Advanced Energy Center as well as rebates available for certain technologies.

Chief Executive Officer, Geof Syphers, replied to the commenter that while progress is moving quickly, the Advanced Energy Center does not have a set opening date yet. It will be announced publicly via SCP's website and in Board and Committee meetings when the time comes.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve March 18, 2021 Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

2. Recommend that the Board of Directors Adopt the 2021 EverGreen Local Resource Plan

Public Comment: Jenny Blaker submitted the following written comment, which was read into the meeting record:

Dear Chair and members of the Community Advisory Committee

I see that energy from burning of biomass is still being considered in various items on today's meeting agenda and still being considered as part of the Evergreen Local Resource Plan.

I'm sorry that I cannot participate in the meeting today but do urge you once again to review and consider the implications of the March 29 letter to the Board of Directors of SCP, included in the packet for today.

Climate scientists worldwide oppose the use of forest woody biomass to create energy. It is not clean (but highly toxic); not carbon neutral (producing more carbon emissions than coal), and not renewable, as living trees are one of the best ways to sequester carbon, and if they are cut down, even if they are replaced, the seedlings would take decades to grow to mature trees. Logging of trees is also devastating to forest ecosystems, important wildlife habitat, and our watersheds.

I urge you to listen to these scientists (the March 29 letter has references and links to many related studies) in any decision-making related to the use or promotion of bioenergy from forest woody biomass.

Thank you.

Jenny Blaker

Motion to Approve the April 15, 2021 Community Advisory Committee Consent Calendar by Member Dowd.

Second: Member Wells

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR

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

Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations, provided an overview of

the Internal Operations Report. CEO Syphers announced that Commissioners and staff of the California Energy Commission will be touring the Advanced Energy Center on April 19, 2021. He also shared that Eris Weaver from Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition told him that that SCP's Bike Electric program has been keeping them busy with participants signing up for safety classes and receiving their free helmets.

Director Reynolds concluded the report by announcing that SCP staff will be hosting a drive-thru donation event at the Redwood Empire Food Bank on Friday, April 16th.

Public Comment: None

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

CEO Syphers gave an update on a CPUC Proposed Decision addressing the PCIA. He continued into the legislative portion of the report with brief updates on Senate Bill 612 and Assembly Bill 843. He also addressed concern from public commenters about procuring energy from woody biomass.

Member Quinlan requested clarification on the proposed amendments to SB 612.

Public Comment: None

5. Discuss Draft Equity Framework Workshops, Receive Programs Equity Framework and Provide Feedback as Appropriate

Program Manager, Carolyn Glanton, first gave thanks to a former SCP staffer, Nelson Lomeli, who championed the Programs Equity Framework.

Before diving into SCP's public equity workshops and the Programs Equity Framework, she gave background on how other CCA's are approaching equity; as a member of CalCCA, SCP staff regularly participates in environmental justice and equity calls with other CCA's. Recently, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) and Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) shared some information on what they are doing. 3CE has a large Hispanic community and is working to build partnerships with Community Based Organizations (CBO's). 3CE also shared that they've received more public engagement for virtual events by using Facebook Live instead of Zoom. RCEA's Board passed a resolution and adopted a commitment to racial justice last year. They are also tying Equity and Inclusion to job descriptions and staff

work plans; seeking ways to ensure diversity and inclusion in their hiring and promotion practices; increasing engagement and collaboration with local tribes to create a racial justice action plan.

Ms. Glanton then continued by sharing some of the public feedback SCP received in the equity workshops held in March 2021 and thanking SCP staff who assisted with the workshops. The staff report identifies the updates that were made to the draft Framework based on suggestions received from the public, Board of Directors, and Community Advisory Committee Members. The Framework will help staff develop new programs, as well as evaluate existing programs.

Chair Nicholls shared that as a member of the of the Economic Development Board of Sonoma County, he and other members attended a webinar on equity issues and learned about unconscious bias. He recommended SCP staff, Board of Directors, and Committee Members to consider doing the same.

Member Sizemore recommended seeking connections with landlords, or city/county officials that can help make those connections, so that SCP can build trust with the community through trusted sources.

Member Morris suggested adding a recommendation to ensure data collection methods are inclusive of all communities and their members. She also requested that staff keep the Committee apprised of any big learnings or roadblocks that are encountered along the way.

Public Comment: None

6. Review and Provide Feedback on the Draft Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and Draft Rates for July 1, 2021

Mike Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer, gave a high-level overview of the draft budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Notably, the budget requires no rate changes at the start of the fiscal year on July 1, 2021. However, SCP will subsidize customer rates by using funds from SCP's rate stabilization fund to ensure customer rates are no more than 5% above PG&E's bundled rates. While the PCIA remains difficult to forecast, Sonoma Clean Power has no debt and has a healthy amount of reserve funds.

Member Quinlan asked for details on various items, including the PCIA forecasts. Director of Planning and Analytics, Rebecca Simonson, added that the PCIA forecasts have historically been very inaccurate.

Member Chaban asked about the CEC Grant Expenditures that relate to the Advanced Energy Center. Program Manager Chad Asay explained that the Grant covers operating expenses through June 2023 and a large portion, approximately \$2.1M, is earmarked for incentives.

Member Morris asked about the rent obligation for the current SCP office space at 50 Santa Rosa Ave. as well as the lobbyist line item in the budget. CEO Syphers explained that there will be an overlap of 7-8 months after SCP moves into the new headquarters. SCP will try to negotiate a buyout with the landlord, but the full rental costs have been factored into the cost of construction for the new building. He said that a lobbyist will be helpful again to help maintain political relationships, do research, and offer expert advice and advocacy.

Public Comment: None

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beau Anderson
Clerk of the Board