



**MEETING MINUTES  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021  
1:00 P.M.**

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**\*\*\*\*GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-08-21\*\*\*\***

\*\*RE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19\*\*

CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-08-21 WHICH SUSPENDED CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE BROWN ACT, MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE PARTICIPATED IN THE SEPTEMBER 16, 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 Quinlan, Dowd, Chaban, Wells, and Morris.

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Mike Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations; Chad Asay, Director of the Advanced Energy Center; Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning & Analytics; and Claudia Sisomphou, Communications Specialist.

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

Public Comment: None

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Approve July 15, 2021 Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
2. Receive Notice on Starting Contract Negotiations with Calpine Energy Solutions, LLC for Data Management Services
3. Recommend that the Board of Directors Approve Updated Terms and Conditions for 12-Month Pilot Program
4. Receive Notice on Board of Directors Approved Performance-Based Salary Increase and Annual Contract Goals for CEO Syphers

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

Motion to Approve the September 16, 2021 Community Advisory Committee Consent Calendar by Member Dowd

Second: Quinlan

Public Comment: None

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote: 6 - 0 - 0

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR**

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

Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations, notified the Committee that Member Brady and Vice Chair Baldwin have both resigned from the Committee; there are 7 vacancies to fill by the end of the year. The Board of Directors Ad Hoc Committee will review applications soon. Director Reynolds made a final request for help with outreach as applications are still being accepted.

Sonoma Clean Power was awarded as one of North Bay Business Journal's Best Places To Work.

Rebecca Simonson, formerly Director of Planning & Analytics, has become Director of Programs. Ryan Tracey, formerly Senior Energy Analyst in Planning & Analytics, was promoted to Director of Planning & Analytics. Staff is recruiting for 6 vacant positions, including Senior Energy Analyst.

The Bike Electric Program achieved a goal of 200 e-Bikes sold, as of September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Chad Asay, Director of the Advanced Energy Center, provided some updates on the EPIC Lead Locally grant's goals which are on pace to be met sooner than expected. He also provided information on upcoming events being held at the Advanced Energy Center and shared details of a recent positive guest experience.

Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer, notified the Committee that the Annual Attestation of the Accuracy of the Power Source Disclosure and Power Content Label filing will go before the Board for approval at the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, but was not completed in time for inclusion in the packet materials for this Committee meeting. The Committee will be provided a copy of these

materials at the next meeting.

CEO Syphers continued with information on the Site Leasing Interest Program (SLIP) sought Sonoma Clean Power customers to lease their property to develop new energy sources, a test concept aiming to build new small-scale sources for EverGreen.

Director Reynolds continued with an update on the annual Joint Rate Mailer, which for the first time, was delivered to customers digitally in addition to physical mailers. She also called attention to the draft financial statements included in the packet materials. Audited financial details for fiscal year 20/21 will be available in November or December.

CEO Syphers gave updates on CC Power, which is the joint JPA of CCAs. Certain projects have been shortlisted for the long duration storage negotiations that have been ongoing since last year. There will be a Request For Offers for 200 MW of firm clean resources - baseload renewable power. He also provided information on CCA reporting requirements under General Order 156 (GO 156) and a recent press release from the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce that was critical of CCAs for not adequately contracting with diverse suppliers. In response, CalCCA held a meeting with the Chamber to discuss their concerns, and helped reach a new understanding that CCAs are doing slightly better than the IOUs, but still have interests in doing better.

Member Quinlan posed questions on SLIP, the financial statements, and the Better Together Resilient Communities Grant Program letter of support contained in the packet.

Member Morris commented on the information about the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce report and is happy to know that it could be an opportunity to form partnerships going forward.

Public Comment: None

7. Receive Update on Empower (SCP's Community Engagement, Education, and Outreach)

Claudia Sisomphou, Communications Specialist, provided the Committee with an extensive update on the development of Sonoma Clean Power's Community Engagement, Education, and Outreach program known as Empower. The program seeks to focus on four areas for improvement: Building Partnerships, Customer Education, Focus on Equity, and Engaging Youth. She provided a list of key questions to help shape the Committee's discussion. Ms. Sisomphou advised that in addition to providing verbal

feedback, Committee members and members of the public could email her with any additional comments at [community@sonomacleanpower.org](mailto:community@sonomacleanpower.org).

During the segment on Building Partnerships, Member Quinlan suggested the Ceres Community Project as an organization of potential interest. Chair Nicholls suggested working closely with the Sonoma County Economic Development Board (EDB), Los Cien, Los Cien's sister organization in Mendocino County, the West Company also in Mendocino County, in addition to the Sonoma Mendocino Economic District. Member Morris recommended Daily Acts; Member Chaban recommended the Mendocino Health Alliance, senior centers, Mendocino Land Trust, and Redwood Coast Land Conservancy; and Member Wells recommended Land Paths, Sonoma Ecology Center, and Sonoma County Regional Parks which now has a community engagement program.

During the Customer Education segment, which focused heavily on how to reach people where they are instead of asking them to come to us, Chair Nicholls suggested getting onto the Rotary Speaking circuit.

During the Focus on Equity segment, Chair Nicholls commented on his recent conversations with CEO Syphers and some background on what the Sonoma Mendocino Economic District has done. COO Kozzalka spoke on recent advice SCP has received is to avoid using focus groups for immigrants and non-English speaking people, and rather to use one-on-one interviews with hired interviewers from those populations.

During the segment on Engaging Youth, Chair Nicholls suggested paid internships, scholarships, working with graduate students whose area of study aligns with Sonoma Clean Power's work or goals. These ideas could also lead to a youth perspective on the Community Advisory Committee. CEO Syphers pointed out some areas where SCP already demonstrated success that can be built upon such as four paid interns working at the Advanced Energy Center, a Department of Energy graduate student who is working on a post-doctorate program will soon be placed in the SCP office, and contributions SCP makes to various local scholarship programs. Member Quinlan commented on the potential to create a mobile version of the Advanced Energy Center which can be taken on the road to visit schools and meet students where they already are. Chair Nicholls also commented on the challenges some areas face regarding broadband internet connectivity.

CEO Syphers concluded this presentation by thanking Ms. Sisomphou for her work on this endeavor.

Public Comment: A written comment was received from Woody Hastings:

“Hi, I need to hop off at 2pm. I don’t think I heard North Bay Organizing Project. They even have a Climate Justice Task Force that is in early stages of trying to figure out some kind of community energy resilience deployment – maybe a microgrid, somewhere underserved in SCP territory. Thanks!”

8. Recommend that the Board of Directors Approve Resolution Creating a Geothermal Opportunity Zone

CEO Syphers introduced the presentation given by Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning & Analytics. The goal of this initiative would be to explore the potential for developing more geothermal energy to serve as a clean baseload resource. The Counties of Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino are uniquely situated and contain the largest operational geothermal resource in the world, providing an opportunity to partner and support the research and development of additional geothermal power.

Member Quinlan asked about mineral ownership. CEO Syphers and Director Tracey both answered that mineral ownership also includes heat, and that there have been new developments in technology to allow for improved extraction methods.

Member Wells asked about the boundaries of the proposed opportunity zone, specifically regarding the Warm Springs area of Sonoma. Director Tracey replied that the map is a rough approximation of the area of focus. CEO Syphers added that if Counties agree to partner on this, we could later entertain projects outside of the boundaries.

Member Morris asked about the origin of the term GeoZone to which CEO Syphers replied that it was coined by Senator Padilla as a short-hand way to talk about the opportunity zone. Member Morris also asked where other significant sources of geothermal power in California are located. Director Tracey replied most is in the Salton Sea, and recent development in Nevada which is imported into California.

Member Morris suggested that staff consider an educational campaign about geothermal energy that covers the fundamentals, and if possible, offer a tour of the Geysers. She commented that the report brought concerns of fracking to mind as well as earthquakes. CEO Syphers said that a primer on geothermal energy will be added to future discussions on the topic.

Public Comment: None

Motion to Recommend that the Board of Directors Approve Resolution Creating a Geothermal Opportunity Zone by Member Quinlan

Second: Dowd

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote: 6 - 0 - 0

9. Recommend that the Board of Directors Approve an Investment Policy for Sonoma Clean Power

Mike Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer, presented this item which, if approved by the Board of Directors, would create Financial Policy B.5, Investments. As a public agency, SCP is guided by State law, and this policy aims to formalize and codify that SCP will follow those guidelines.

Public Comment: None

Motion to Recommend that the Board of Directors Approve an Investment Policy for Sonoma Clean Power by Member Dowd

Second: Wells

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote: 6 - 0 - 0

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beau Anderson  
Clerk of the Board