



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

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**\*\*\*\*AB 361\*\*\*\***

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

CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF AB 361 WHICH SUSPENDED CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE BROWN ACT, MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE PARTICIPATED IN THE DECEMBER 16, 2021, MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Nicholls called the meeting to order at approximately 1:04 p.m.

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

Committee Members absent: Member Sizemore

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; Rebecca Simonson, Director of Programs; Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs; Kate Kelly, Director of Public Relations and Marketing; and Scott Salyer, Programs Manager.

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

Public Comment: None

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Approve November 18, 2021, Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (Staff Recommendation: Approve)
2. Approve Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Dates for 2022 Calendar Year

Motion to Approve the November 18, 2021, Community Advisory Committee Consent Calendar by Member Wells

Second: Dowd

Public Comment: None

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

Chair Nicholls thanked outgoing Committee Members Chaban and Sizemore for their work, and following this, Member Chaban thanked the Board and staff for their support of the Committee.

Director Reynolds introduced the reappointed committee members: Dick Dowd and Denis Quinlan. She then introduced the four new committee members: Sarah Booth, Jeff Kelley, Spencer Lipp, and Crispin Hollinshead. They each took the opportunity to introduce themselves.

Director Reynolds announced there is still one vacant CAC seat and that the ad hoc appointed by the Board of Directors to handle the recruitment is meeting in January to determine how to fill the position. Then she introduced Darin Bartow as the new Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board.

Director Reynolds gave a marketing update and shared that staff has been reaching out to a number of nonprofits for the holidays to help fight food insecurities affecting those less fortunate. She mentioned that CEO Geof Syphers and Kate Kelly, Director of Public Relations & Marketing, were on the air with KZST and spoke about their Adopt a Letter Program and the Advanced Energy Center. She mentioned SCP sponsored three outdoor winter ice skating shows at Snoopy's Home Ice.

Director Reynolds then invited Chad Asay, Director of the Advanced Energy Center, to give an update. Director Asay told the Board that the Advanced Energy Center had been decorated for the holidays and invited them to stop by. He then spoke of how the Center is a place to come for people to learn about electrification of housing. He spoke of Santa Rosa Chamber's successful events held at the Center and the interest showed by the City of Rohnert Park in using the Center and encouraged the Board to spread the word for other meetings and events to be held at the Advanced Energy Center.

Director Reynolds then introduced Scott Salyer, Programs Manager, who gave an update on the Advanced Energy Rebuild Program. Program

Manager Salyer explained that after the 2017 wildfires hit our area, the Board of Directors approved up to \$6 million for incentives to help homeowners rebuild more efficiently and resiliently. He continued that SCP collaborated with PG&E and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, to create this program, which provided, up to \$12,500 for an all-electric home, along with a \$5,000 bonus incentive for appearing solar with battery. The program has enrolled 387 homes. These totals include 261 single family homes 96 multifamily units and 30 accessory dwelling units. Today, 297 of these homes have completed the program. At the end of the program, staff expects SCP will have provided a little over \$2 million total in incentives to these homeowners. PG&E has extended the incentive completion date to November 15, 2022, for customers that can demonstrate delays due to COVID-19 or other extenuating circumstances. Programs Manager Salyer offered his help if the customer is unsure. CEO Syphers thanked everyone in the Programs and Marketing departments for building and supporting this program.

CEO Syphers continued with the financial section of the report and significant updates for the next fiscal year, including that the costs of energy expenditures are approximately 12% over budget on energy costs. CEO Syphers anticipates bringing forward a proposal to adjust rates to the January Community Advisory Committee meeting and then the Board of Directors at the February meeting, after PG&E's actual rate and fee changes.

Member Quinlan inquired as to what the liquidated damages in the financials referred to. CEO Syphers responded that he would come back to the next meeting with more information.

Member Wells asked Director Asay what the attendee size for meetings at the Advanced Energy Center would be. Director Asay responded that the Energy Center can hold the full capacity of 152 people but is being capped at 50% capacity (75 people) due to COVID.

Public Comment: Tom Conlon congratulated SCP on a good year and spoke about the Advanced Energy Rebuild Program. Jeff Kelley thanked SCP for this report and explained this was a good example of how SCP honors their customers.

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

Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, announced that the petition disallowing PG&E from subsidizing their Green Tariff Shared Renewable (GTSR) customers was unanimously approved. Director Reardon provided background on the decision. PG&E's interpretation of recent changes to the

PCIA methodology resulted in a subsidy to their Green Tariff Shared Renewables customers. This subsidy was so significant that the GTSR tariff was less expensive than regular bundled service. Demand for the tariff immediately increased, with PG&E enrolling 235 MW by April of 2021, exceeding the 207 MW cap set by Senate Bill 43. PG&E did not develop new resources to provide energy for the tariff marketed as "100% renewable". SCP and other CCAs filed a joint petition to alert the CPUC to this inequity and successfully argued the program should be fixed.

Director Reardon gave a verbal update to the packet that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued a proposed decision finalizing revising Net Energy Metering (NEM), the program that allows rooftop solar customers to earn credit for the energy that they export to the grid, which would significantly reduce the credit those customers are paid per kilowatt hour. Director Reardon will provide a summary of the proposed legislation in a future meeting.

Member Fenichel inquired if PG&E was attempting to treat residential producers as wholesalers. CEO Syphers explained that while not exactly, the proposed decision would move much closer to wholesale compensation. Member Fenichel further inquired if this is how it is done in places that have a lot of solar and CEO Syphers explained that as more solar comes on the market, in areas where you see a higher solar penetration, a grid connection fee is being charged. Member Fenichel then inquired about shared battery storage to reduce cost. CEO Syphers explained that he had worked on a project like this in India, so while it is possible, it is difficult to get permission to do this in California. Finally, Member Fenichel asked if a legacy was discussed for people who have added solar panels, but their 20 years is not up yet. Director Reardon explained that the legacy period would be 15 years from whenever the customer connected to the system.

Member Quinlan inquired as to what changes were made in the PCIA methodology. Director Reardon explained that the impact was on all customers who were not on the PG&E solar choice tariff. So, PG&E is bundled customers who are on the baseline tariff, we're paying in to make their 100% solar tariff cheaper than it ought to have been. Member Quinlan then asked if the NEM published rules would apply to all customers, which Director Reardon replied that it would impact our customers as well.

*Member Dowd exited the meeting at approximately 2:24 P.M.*

Chair Nicholls asked if there will be consideration given to reopen the previous program subsidizing battery storage for those that were in tier 3 high fire areas and/or not on a municipal water system. Director Reardon updated that the CPUC is allowing utilities to move \$67 million in funding for

the battery incentive program, but that will go to waitlisted customers and to customers in resilience zones. Director Reardon will follow up with Chair Nicholls on specifics.

CEO Syphers gave a legislative report. He said that President Biden asked Martha Guzman to serve as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 in San Francisco. Governor Newsom selected his Chief Energy Advisor Alice Reynolds to be the new CPUC President. Staff will continue to monitor the details of the Build Back Better initiative.

Public Comment: Crispin Hollinshead discussed pricing and the real cost of energy if you add in the costs of fossil fuel energy.

5. Recommend that the Board of Directors Approve and Ratify the Sonoma Clean Power Market Access Program Plan

Rebecca Simonson, Director of Programs, detailed staff's request that the Committee recommend to the Board to approve and ratify the proposed market access program plan for SCP. She detailed how staff issued what's called an elect to administer (ETA) application, which provides financial incentives in exchange for real world electricity efficiency and peak load shifting from projects. The financial incentives would be based on actual avoided cost curves. The program would be run through a platform called Flex Market established by the company named Recurve, and the platform ties directly to SCP's customer level interval meter data for measuring actual real world energy efficiency savings and peak load shifting. The platform would automatically calculate the hourly and overall electricity savings achieved on a customer level or set of customers for energy efficiency efforts. This will be administered through CPUC funding.

CEO Syphers added that this is the first time SCP has applied for CPUC funding. He went on to say that if the CPUC continues creating programs with similar goals, then SCP should continue to apply for those programs.

Chair Nicholls asked if any other CCAs participated in the program. Director Simonson responded that MCE was the only CCA that granted automatic access for the funding, but several others have applied.

Director Simonson explained that the way the program is structured would incentivize the aggregators of energy efficiency projects. Member Fenichel asked if the program anticipated more users signing up than the money would allow. Director Simonson answered that part of implementation would be to forecast out for the program. Member Fenichel inquired where the CPUC gets this money and Director Simonson responded that it comes from charges on all customers' bills.

Member Quinlan asked for clarification on aggregators and Director Simonson confirmed that it is service providers putting together a pool of customers. Finally, Member Quinlan asked if SCP anticipates challenges finding service providers and Director Simonson answered potentially based on fuel switching, but because this program is pure electricity she does not see an issue.

Motion to Approve and Ratify the Sonoma Clean Power Market Access Program Plan by Member Wells

Second: Quinlan

Public Comment: Tom Conlon supports the Sonoma Clean Power Market Access Program and asked if SCP is sure the benefits of the program will go to customers.

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

6. Recommend that the Board of Directors Pass a Resolution Opposing the Use of Rail to Transport U.S. Coal for Export

CEO Syphers explained that this resolution mirrors what the Counties of Sonoma and Mendocino adopted in opposing a Wyoming shell company's attempt to restore the rail quarter north of Willits to the Humboldt Bay to export coal to China. The essential issues in opposing this center around climate, water, and air quality.

Motion to Recommend that the Board of Directors Pass a Resolution Opposing the Use of Rail to Transport U.S. Coal for Export by Member Quinlan

Second: Chaban

Public Comment: None

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

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Darin Bartow, Clerk of the Board

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