



**MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021  
8:45 A.M.**

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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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS PARTICIPATED IN THE FEBRUARY 4, 2021 MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Slayter called the meeting to order at approximately 8:50 a.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Slayter, Vice Chair Bagby, and Directors Elward, Fudge, Gjerde, Harrington, Hopkins, King, Landman, Rogers, and Strong

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

Chair Slayter asked new Director Elward to say a few words about herself and her interest in serving on the Board.

**II. BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Approve January 7, 2021 Draft Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
2. Resolution Approving and Attesting to the Veracity of the 2019 Power Source Disclosure Annual Report for Sonoma Clean Power's CleanStart Product and EverGreen Product and EverGreen Product and Power Content Label

Public Comment: None

Motion to Approve the Consent Calendar by Director Landman.

Second: Director Rogers.

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote: 11-0-0

**III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR CALENDAR**

3. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of the Board for One-Year Terms

Prior to taking nominations, Chair Slayter shared words of appreciation and highlights from his time as Chair of the Board for the previous year.

Motion to Appoint Vice Chair Bagby as Chair for a one-year term by Director Landman.

Second: Director Rogers

Public Comment: None

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote: 11-0-0

Director Slayter passed Chair duties over to Chair Bagby for the remainder of the meeting; Chair Bagby opened up the nominations for Vice Chair.

Motion to Appoint Director King as Vice Chair for a one-year term by Director Fudge.

Second: Director Slayter

Public Comment: None

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote: 11-0-0

Chair Bagby offered gratitude to former-Chair Slayter, stated her intent to follow his example as Chair, and that she looks forward to working with Vice Chair King and SCP staff going forward.

#### 4. Receive Internal Operations and Monthly Financial Report and Provide Direction as Appropriate

Director of Internal Operations Stephanie Reynolds congratulated the newly appointed Chair and Vice Chair; she continued by introducing SCP's newest staff member, Hannah Rennie, who is working with the Procurement Team as an Energy Market Associate. Director Reynolds called attention to an item in the report about the Electric Bike Program, which will provide incentive for up to 200 electric bicycles to low-income customers. Senior Programs Manager Rachel Kuykendall gave details on the GridSavvy Community program and asked for Board members to share the program with their networks to solicit partners for this program.

Director Reynolds continued with an update on the Advanced Energy Center construction, upcoming educational webinars, and the monthly financial statements. COO Koszalka provided background on the budget for new Board members.

CEO Geof Syphers gave an update about SCP's banking institutions stating that comments from the last meeting were helpful and staff have begun making changes and will separately bring an investment proposal to the Board in a future meeting.

Director Slayter asked Senior Programs Manager Kuykendall how much an average GridSavvy participant saves in GHG reductions; she responded that she could bring that information back for a future board meeting.

Public Comment: None

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

Director of Regulatory Affairs Neal Reardon began the report with an update on microgrids and that the CPUC is actively engaged on this topic for the purpose of resiliency during PSPS events.

CEO Geof Syphers opened the legislative portion of the report by stating there are several bills SCP is analyzing and will have positions on at the next Board meeting. He also gave an introduction to a bill that SCP and CalCCA is working on directed at PG&E and other investor-owned utilities regarding legacy contracts. Once language for the bill is available, he will distribute to Board members and publish it on SCP's website. On a national level, the Biden Administration has been making changes that align with SCP's mission and values, including moving to electrify the US Postal Service vehicle fleet.

Public Comment:

Mark Mortensen, an EverGreen Customer from Santa Rosa, noted his appreciation for SCP's legislative work and gave additional background on the concept of "green" hydrogen.

Woody Hastings with the Climate Center welcomed Director Elward and new Chair Bagby, and thanked Director Slayter for his work as Chair; he then asked if SCP could speak to SB 204 which is about Community Choice Agencies.

CEO Syphers replied that he is not yet briefed on SB 204. Chair Bagby requested SB 204 be added to the legislative report for the next meeting.

6. Receive Staff Summary on Power Charge Indifference Adjustment and Provide Direction as Appropriate

Director of Regulatory Affairs Neal Reardon gave an overview of the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment ("PCIA") fee for the benefit of new Directors; he detailed how the PCIA is meant to recover PG&E's net, unavoidable costs for long-term contracts they signed on behalf of customers who later left PG&E service and became SCP customers.

Director Rogers suggested that staff let Board members know what they can do to help advocate for finding an equitable resolution to this problem; Director Strong expressed gratitude for staff because the PCIA is very complicated as a consumer and repeated Director Rogers' suggestion that staff advise members on how they can lobby for a more equitable system.

Vice Chair King echoed support for trying to figure out a legislative solution and putting an end date on the PCIA.

Public Comment:

John Rosenblum commented that the PCIA is a small portion of the total bill the customer pays.

Woody Hastings from the Climate Center commented on the idea of “provider of last resort” that PG&E has previously claimed in filings.

Tom Conlon asked how this period of peak PCIA pricing might affect SCP operations and opt-outs.

Chair Bagby called a recess at 10:25 a.m.; meeting reconvened at 10:30 am.

## 7. Receive Programs Strategic Action Plan and Provide Direction as Appropriate

Director of Programs Cordel Stillman gave a high-level overview of the Strategic Action Plan which is updated twice each year.

Public Comment:

Ben Peters commented on the school and municipal storage studies as they pertain to equity as well as rate structure.

Jenny Blaker, Cotati resident and EverGreen customer, commented about a letter she sent to the Board of Directors about biomass concerns on behalf of 10 organizations and 90 individuals.

John Rosenblum echoed Ben Peters’ comment about the school storage studies in addition to the usage of Power Purchase Agreements.

Mark Mortensen, member of Friends of the Climate Action Plan, but speaking as an EverGreen customer, commented on several program strategies, and expressed concern for resilience during PSPS events.

Maya Khosla, wildlife biologist and writer, thanked the Board for highlighting so many programs, echoed Mark Mortensen’s concern about resiliency, and added to the concerns about forest biomass.

Woody Hastings with the Climate Center stated he is glad to learn about the Equity Framework and continued with additional concerns about forest biomass.

Andy Ferguson spoke on heat pump water heaters and that he expressed difficulty in finding information about SCP’s webinars on the website.

Kimberly Burr from Forestville stated that she thinks including biomass energy from the forests as part of the portfolio is problematic.

Larry Hanson, representing Forest Unlimited, added to the concerns surrounding forest biomass energy.

The Clerk of the Board then read the following written comment into the record:

*Thank you for your thoughtful discussion of our concerns on forest biomass burning, and for all your work on providing options for Sonoma County energy. We are proud and pleased to promote the Evergreen program to the ruble. We appreciate and support the need for research into the complex problems of forest management and reduction of wildfires. Supervisor Hopkins referred to regenerative practices by chipping and returning the*

*wood to the land. Yes, these are practices that are very worth considering. This takes the woody "waste" out of the energy designation. This is where we need to keep our understanding of wood bio waste. We need not to consider it as fuel to burn. Once again, Thank you for your very important work,  
Christine Hoex for 350 Sonoma*

Director Hopkins addressed comments on biomass by stating she views this as a first step, an investigation, and not a decision; she expressed her goals for forest stewardship. Director Gjerde agreed with Director Hopkins in that more information is needed and the Board has a responsibility to investigate all options. Director Fudge also expressed interest in receiving more information and wants to make sure that this process is transparent. Vice Chair King said he understood from the report that this is informational and not intended for decision at this time; he recommended to shelve biomass for 2021 portfolio until more information is available. Director Landman stated he is open to more information but at this stage has concerns about forest biomass as well; he also would like to see biomass tabled for the 2021 portfolio. Director Hopkins encouraged the environmental community and others to really consider what the alternatives could be and encourages productive discussions on the topic.

Chair Bagby commented that this is a critical time for this discussion and does not want to table this discussion; she supports more education and information on the topic.

#### 8. Discuss EverGreen Local Resource Public Workshop #2 and Provide Direction as Appropriate

Director of Planning & Analytics Rebecca Simonson provided an overview of the second public workshop on the EverGreen Local Resource Plan. The Local Resource Plan is expected to be completed by May. Since the packet was published, SCP received approximately 70 additional comments however many of those respondents answered that they did not attend the webinars or watch the recordings. She stated that SCP currently has no plans to build any kind of biomass plant.

*Director Hopkins left the meeting at approximately 11:28 a.m.*

Vice Chair King noted that Petaluma City Council will be considering joining EverGreen at their February 22 meeting. He also commented that he would like SCP to look at offshore wind for the EverGreen portfolio and would like to monitor the concept of renewable hydrogen.

Director Landman agreed with Vice Chair King and noted the importance of geothermal as a portion of the portfolio to make it steady, dependable, and available 24 hours a day.

CEO Syphers encouraged the Board to consider how to reach the public to better grow EverGreen now that the member cities and towns are upgrading to EverGreen.

Director Harrington stated that City of Sonoma has a Community Services and Environment Commission that works on signing people up for EverGreen as an annual goal with measurable outcomes.

Public Comment:

Jenny Blaker commented that the environmental community would like to work with SCP and Directors to find solutions to the concern of biomass. She reiterated her concerns about biomass as part of the portfolio.

Larry Hanson, as representing Forests Unlimited, is open to the investigation and offered to help provide sources for the investigation and agreed with Director Hopkins' comment about healthy forests as opposed to the unhealthy forests we have now.

Woody Hastings stated that while he remains skeptical of using woody biomass, is open to CEO Syphers' concept of establishing a set of principles.

Ben Peters echoed Vice Chair King's comment about investigating offshore wind as well as Director Landman's comment about geothermal resources. He continued with a comment about energy storage and biomass.

*Director Harrington left the meeting at approximately 11:52 a.m.*

John Rosenblum commented that the public comment process for the local resource plan has been very open and does not find that to be the case for the municipal and school storage studies. He continued with concerns about efficiency and backup generation for resource adequacy. He then discussed the topic of tax credits.

Tom Conlon congratulated staff and the Board on doubling EverGreen's load. He reiterated concerns about biomass as part of the EverGreen portfolio and stated there is no baseline carbon stock inventory for Sonoma County.

Maya Khosla agreed with the idea of bringing knowledgeable individuals to provide information about biomass and encourages SCP to seek input from well recognized ecologists as well.

Mark Mortensen reiterated concerns about forest biomass.

The following written comments were read as part of the meeting record:

*1) Hi Beau,*

*I need to leave to watch the on-bill financing webinar, but here are my thoughts regarding CEO Sypher's question about how do we get more people to subscribe to EverGreen.*

*I mentioned at a previous meeting, and think it's still a valid comment, that a potential solution that checks the EverGreen promotion box and equity goals is to enroll at CARE/FERA customers in the EverGreen program. I'm not sure how much of your load-base this represents, but switching those customers over, who are already receiving a subsidy, will help ensure that not just*

*customers with the means to pay a premium for clean energy can also be a part of the clean energy future.*

*Thank you!*

*Patrick Carter*

*2) My concern - also relevant to the biomass issue - is that the evaluation passed very quickly to grant applications for specific projects without public review or discussion. By comparison, the Evergreen/local renewables program is exemplary in its public outreach.*

*John Rosenblum, PhD*

*Rosenblum Environmental Engineering*

Chair Bagby commented in response to these concerns that there is no action item on the agenda to make a decision about the use of forest biomass.

*Director Fudge left the meeting at approximately 12:04 p.m.*

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

Ben Peters expressed appreciation that Chair Bagby has been elevated to Chair and her previous support for investigating diversifying revenue streams.

#### **V. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

#### **VI. ADJOURN**

Chair Bagby adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beau Anderson  
Clerk of the Board