



**MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021  
8:45 A.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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS PARTICIPATED IN THE JULY 1, 2021 MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bagby called the meeting to order at approximately 8:50 am.

Board Members present: Chair Bagby, Vice Chair King, and Directors Landman, Elward, Slayter, Fudge, Gjerde, and Hopkins.

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Michael Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations; Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs; Rebecca Simonson, Director of Planning & Analytics; Cordel Stillman, Director of Programs; Kate Kelly, Director of Public Relations and Marketing; Chad Asay, Programs Manager; Carolyn Glanton, Programs Manager; Scott Lawrence, Commercial Accounts Specialist; Joshua Nelson, Special Counsel.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Approve June 3, 2021 Draft Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
2. Approve and Authorize the CEO to Execute a New Contract with Sonoma Water for the Continuation of the Energy Education Program through June 30, 2023 with an Annual Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$300,000 and Aggregate Contract Value of \$600,000
3. Approve and Authorize the CEO to Execute a Fourth Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with EHDD for the SCP Headquarters Project
4. Approve and Authorize the CEO to Execute an Option to Extend the Lease for the Advanced Energy Center an Additional 36 Months

Motion to Approve the July 1, 2021 Board of Directors Consent Calendar by Director Hopkins

Second: Director Landman

Public Comment: None

Motion passed by roll call vote: 8 - 0 - 0

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR CALENDAR**

5. Receive Presentation on Climate-Safe California from Barry Vesser of The Climate Center

Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer, encouraged the Board of Directors to consider Sonoma Clean Power's long-term goals prior to introducing Barry Vesser from The Climate Center to give a presentation on an initiative called Climate-Safe California which focused largely on the path to achieve net-negative emissions by the year 2030.

Director Hopkins requested a copy of the presentation to share with her networks. A [link](#) provided by Mr. Vesser to online Climate-Safe California resources was distributed to all Board of Directors members following the meeting.

*Director Rogers joined the meeting at approximately 9:10 a.m.*

Direction was given to Staff to determine a list of actions that Sonoma Clean Power can take and return to the Board again to continue this discussion.

Public Comment: None

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

CEO Syphers began with an update that PG&E has begun undergrounding of lines in the SCP service territory and recognized SCP staff member Ryan Tracey who identified that this area could be targeted economically. He also disclosed that under his delegated authority as CEO, he enacted an emergency authorization to extend consumer COVID-19 emergency protections following a recent CPUC meeting; the Board will have the opportunity to ratify this decision during the August meeting.

Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations, continued the report. Staff is monitoring all public health guidance for public meetings and expects

to continue virtual meetings through September; the October Board of Directors meeting is expected to be held in person at the new SCP headquarters.

Cordel Stillman, Director of Programs, provided some programmatic updates as part of the semi-annual Programs Strategic Action Plan, which was included in the meeting materials. One of the most notable achievements was the opening of the Advanced Energy Center.

Director Slayter asked for an update on the status of the lease of the current SCP business office at 50 Santa Rosa Ave. CEO Syphers replied that there will be an overlap of approximately 10 months. Director Reynolds added that the property manager has taken photos and is open to having realtors show the space. Mike Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer, stated that the cost of finishing the lease was already factored into the budget.

Director of Internal Operations Reynolds stated that advertising for the Advanced Energy Center will begin in earnest after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Kate Kelly, Director of Public Relations and Marketing, spoke about the Movies on the Square series that Sonoma Clean Power is sponsoring. Photo opportunities and free popcorn will be available to the public at the Advanced Energy Center.

Director Reynolds continued by calling attention to the Advanced Energy Center's product catalog. Staff showed a brief video walkthrough of the products and services available through Advanced Energy Center website. Center tours are encouraged and interested parties need only to contact staff to schedule.

Director Slayter asked if any other CCAs have anything like the Advanced Energy Center running. CEO Syphers replied that there are no other places like the Advanced Energy Center in the United States, to his knowledge, but word is continuing to spread about this kind of facility.

Public Comment: Woody Hastings from The Climate Center and also a SCP customer stated that he is also switching to all-electric technologies in his home. He stated that he had received a tour of the Advanced Energy Center and noticed that electric yard equipment was missing from the products offered. AB1346 is legislation to address small, off-road engines and their emissions is going to a hearing soon. He concluded with his hope and reminder that the Advanced Energy Center is for everyone and ensuring the Center is accessible for all.

Director Stillman reflected on the comments regarding electric yard equipment and stated that the CEC grant that made the Center possible was

focused on buildings and the built environment. There are plans to include electric yard equipment at the Center in the future.

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

Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, began his regulatory report with an update not included in the written materials that PG&E is adding an additional factor in the decision to call a PSPS event - tree overstrike. There are over 5 million trees that pose a risk based on PG&E's calculations. Sonoma and Mendocino Counties could expect to see an increased number of PSPS events based off this information.

CEO Syphers continued into the legislative report with an update that SB612, the ratepayer equity bill sponsored by CalCCA, was held back by Chair Holden in the Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee, meaning it will become a two-year bill unless leadership provides a rule change.

Director Rogers asked Director Reardon who is responsible for maintaining the trees that could strike the lines. Director Reardon responded that PG&E is.

Director Hopkins stated she had heard in the news about PG&E rates increases and asked for any updates on that. Director Reardon stated that was part of PG&E's General Rate Case (GRC) Application and proposed significant increases of about 18%, primarily on distribution. Staff will follow this closely and provide updates as they become available. Director Hopkins asked to clarify if the increase in distribution rates would affect SCP customers, and Director Reardon answered that it would. He continued with clarifying that the soonest of those particular rate increases would be expected in January of 2022 related to the Energy Resource Recovery Account (ERRA) and GRC rate changes would occur in 2023.

Public Comment: None

8. Receive Update on Mendonoma Coast EverGreen Campaign

Kate Kelly, Director of Public Relations and Marketing, and Scott Lawrence, Commercial Accounts Specialist, gave a presentation about an ongoing business outreach "influencer campaign" targeting the Mendonoma Coast. "Mendonoma Coast" is a name given by locals to the coastal region encompassing northern Sonoma and southern Mendocino counties. This "influencer campaign" utilizes a local Mendonoma Coast business owner, Steve May of Surf Market, to help promote the benefits of EverGreen while increasing awareness of Sonoma Clean Power. Slides shown during the

presentation were provided in the meeting materials.

Director Landman congratulated Staff on the initiative and encouraged expanding it to use some of the new and opted-up customers to grow the campaign.

Director Gjerde echoed the sentiments to expand the campaign and opined that it is a good model for supermarkets.

Public Comment: None

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

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

Public Comment: Written comments received from Benjamin Peters, below, were read into the record during the meeting.

"First off - thank you for the opportunity to present at the SoCo BioBiz competition. SCP sponsorship means a lot, and based on the excellent presentations - there is a tremendous opportunity to utilize wood waste productively in our community. For example - few people realize the vast amount of wood pellets we are importing into the North Bay; and in addition to eliminating wood imports, the opportunity to reduce propane and natural gas through responsible bio resources.

Secondly - now that the budgeting process is concluding in our member jurisdictions, SCP should request cities provide insight into the energy equipment they have budgeted for, as an opportunity to collaborate, share insights into clean energy alternatives, and potential joint procurements. For example, my city recently approved over \$1M in funding for diesel generators, with an encouragement to find alternatives. Wouldn't it be great if SCP helped member cities find alternatives to diesel generators, which at best become stranded assets rather than grid resources.

Lastly - per item number 10 on the agenda, you may want to consider peak demand reduction as one additional performance metric. The last time this topic came up, the paradox of promoting Evergreen growth inherently promotes growth in energy consumption, which even at 100% renewable, is not enough to solve our climate crisis. Having SCP leadership incentivized to reduce peak demand, and thus Resource Adequacy requirements and costs - is both financially prudent and climate smart.

Thank you.

--

Benjamin Peters"

## **ADJOURN**

Upon the guidance of Joshua Nelson, Special Counsel to the Sonoma Clean Power Authority, Chair Bagby closed the public portion of the meeting to enter into closed session at approximately 10:47 a.m.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board of Directors of the Sonoma Clean Power Authority considered the following in closed session:

9. Public Employee Performance Evaluation - Chief Executive Officer (Gov't Code Section 54957)
10. Public Employee Labor Negotiations - Chief Executive Officer Position. Authority Negotiators: Chair, Melanie Bagby; Vice Chair, Dave King; and Special Counsel, Joshua Nelson (Gov't Code Section 54957.6)

Closed session convened after a brief recess at approximately 10:54 a.m.

Closed session concluded and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:44 a.m.

There was no reportable action from Closed Session.

Respectfully submitted,



Beau Anderson  
Clerk of the Board