



**MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021  
8:45 A.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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS PARTICIPATED IN THE DECEMBER 2, 2021 MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bagby called the meeting to order at approximately 8:49 a.m.

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

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 Programs; Kate Kelly, Director of Public Relations and Marketing; Scott Salyer, Programs Manager; Claudia Sisomphou, Communications Specialist; and Joshua Nelson, Special Counsel.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Approve November 4, 2021 Draft Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
2. Authorize Extension of SCP Resolution 2021-05 Permitting Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Board of Directors and Community Advisory Committee Pursuant to AB 361
3. Adopt Resolution Setting a Date, Hour and Place for Regular Meetings and Approve Board of Directors Meeting Dates for 2022 Calendar Year

Public Comment: None

Motion to Approve the December 2, 2021 Board of Directors Consent Calendar by Director Rogers

Second: Director Landman

Motion passed by roll call vote: 10 - 0 - 0

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR CALENDAR**

4. Receive Nominations and Appoint Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Member(s) for the Term Beginning January 1, 2022

Directors Elward, Slayter, and Gjerde spoke on behalf of the ad hoc committee appointed to review applications for candidates to fill current and upcoming vacancies on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC).

The ad hoc committee recommended the reappointments of existing Committee members Dick Dowd and Denis Quinlan for new four-year terms that would end in 2025. Four new candidates were recommended: Sarah Booth and Jeff Kelly for four-year terms ending in 2025, and Crispin Hollinshead and Spencer Lipp for two-year terms ending in 2023 to fill early vacancies left by prior members.

Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer, gave brief statements on the background of each of the new candidates.

The ad hoc committee recommended leaving one final vacant seat open until the committee can reconvene again to determine the best path to improve diverse representation on the CAC

Director Landman expressed concern with leaving a vacancy and turning down other qualified candidates.

Public comment:

Sarah Booth, Jeff Kelly, Spencer Lipp, and Crispin Hollinshead, the four new recommended candidates, each gave brief statements on their backgrounds. Dick Dowd spoke on his experience serving so far.

Motion to Appoint Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Members for the Term Beginning January 1, 2022 by Vice Chair King.

Second: Director Gjerde

Motion passed by roll call vote: 9 - 1 - 0

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

Rebecca Simonson, Director of Programs, introduced new staff member Kimberly Beltran who was recently hired as the Technical Programs Manager.

Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations, introduced Darin Bartow who was also recently hired as Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Director Reynolds continued with updates contained in the written report including details on participation rates and marketing updates.

Scott Salyer, Programs Manager, gave a brief overview of the Advanced Energy Rebuild program that was established after the 2017 wildfires to provide incentives to help homeowners rebuild more efficiently. He then gave a detailed update on the program's progress to date and concluded by announcing that the incentive completion date has been extended from November 15, 2021 to November 15, 2022 for customers that can demonstrate delays due to COVID-19 or other extenuating circumstances.

CEO Syphers gave a thorough update on CC Power, the joint procurement entity made up of other CCA's.

He continued with detailed information on the financial updates contained in the packet covering higher than expected energy costs and the expected decrease in PCIA for 2022, followed by likely increases to the PCIA in 2023 or 2024. Staff will return with a detailed plan and forecast to ensure customer bills remain stable and determine how SCP can best protect its customers.

Director Landman commented on the letter campaign regarding CC Power and the perceived lack of public oversight.

Director Slayter posed questions about SCP's banking and investments, and the status of those items. Chief Operating Officer, Mike Koszalka, responded that the Board approved SCP's Investment Policy in October 2021 which clarified and acknowledged that SCP's investing strategies align with California state laws surrounding public agency investments.

Vice Chair King requested more detailed information on participation and opt-out rates, particularly for Mendocino County, at a future meeting. CEO Syphers, COO Koszalka, and Director Reynolds gave some background on recapture efforts and clarified that opt-out rates in Mendocino County have remained fairly stable since Sonoma Clean Power expanded into the region.

Public Comment: None

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

Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, gave additional details on the Proposed Decision rebuking PG&E's management of "100% Solar Choice" rate, as contained in the packet.

CEO Syphers began the legislative report by highlighting several things that went well during the current year before discussing items that staff are monitoring and planning for the upcoming year. He also touched on CPUC staffing changes and the Federal infrastructure bill.

Director Slayter asked about the Net Energy Metering (NEM) 3.0 proposal, the solar connection fee, and what that could mean for customers. CEO Syphers gave some background and stated that because it is such a large topic, staff would bring it forward with more detail in a future agenda item at an upcoming meeting.

Director Fudge asked when the decision would become effective if it is rendered this month as expected. Director Reardon replied that he would return with a full update when the decision is made.

Public Comment: Madge Strong asked a question about the oversight on how PG&E would communicate with their customers regarding the switch from the "100% Solar Choice" discounted rate plan; she also commented that it seems counterproductive to charge people with rooftop solar a prohibitive fee.

*At approximately 10:22 a.m., Chair Bagby called for a 7-minute recess.*

7. Delegate Authority to the Chief Executive Officer or Designee to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Nexo Advertising, LLC in the Amount Not-To-Exceed \$375,000 to Provide Sonoma Clean Power with Multi-Cultural Agency Services Through June 30, 2024

Kate Kelly, Director of Public Relations and Marketing, presented this item and gave background on the Request For Proposals (RFP) process that staff utilized prior to selecting the proposal from Nexo Advertising, LLC for multicultural agency services to provide Spanish language services for SCP.

*Director Peters left the meeting at approximately 10:33 a.m.*

Director Kelly also gave background on Hector Velazquez, owner of Nexo Advertising, LLC., and his work with other clients to support the decision for selecting this proposal.

Public comment: Hector Velazquez of Nexo Advertising, LLC. thanked staff for the opportunity to continue working with Sonoma Clean Power.

Motion to Delegate Authority to the Chief Executive Officer or Designee to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Nexo Advertising, LLC in the Amount Not-To-Exceed \$375,000 to Provide Sonoma Clean Power with Multi-Cultural Agency Services Through June 30, 2024 by Director Landman

Second: Director Elward

*Director Peters rejoined the meeting at approximately 10:38 a.m., in time to cast a vote on this item.*

Motion passed by roll call vote: 9 - 0 - 0. Director Gjerde did not respond when called upon.

8. Continuation of Update on Empower (SCP's Community Engagement, Education, and Outreach)

Claudia Sisomphou, Communications Specialist, continued her presentation on Empower that she began at the October Board of Directors meeting where she covered the section on "Building Partnerships." She gave a brief refresher on the goals of Empower and highlights of the discussion from the last presentation prior to moving onto the next area, "Customer Education."

Vice Chair King asked staff to provide an "elevator pitch" that Board members can use when talking to their constituents or other parties who may be interested in learning more about Sonoma Clean Power or getting a formal presentation or workshop. He expressed difficulty in capturing and then retaining the attention of people when trying to explain what Sonoma Clean Power is and does.

Director Felder spoke about an opportunity for Sonoma Clean Power to have a booth at the City of Sonoma Tuesday night farmer's markets in 2022.

Director Gjerde spoke about contractor shortages in Mendocino County, especially outside of the Ukiah area and along the coast, which make it difficult for Mendocino County customers to access rebates on energy efficient technologies. He would like staff to engage in additional outreach for contractors. CEO Syphers responded that staff would pursue this issue.

Director Peters suggested that SCP and its marketing team develop an elevator pitch, as previously suggested by Vice Chair King. He also recommended the Grassroots Institute as an organization to work with and also commented on the importance of reaching the Hispanic and Latino communities.

Director Slayter commented on SCP's partnership with Sonoma Water to provide energy education in lower elementary grades and suggested expanding that idea into upper grades. He suggested that staff work with climate action committees and other similar groups and also that, staff could reach out to senior housing facilities, which often have community meetings or events, to offer educational presentations.

CEO Syphers commented on programs and activities SCP engages in with upper grade level and high school students, such as the SWITCH Vehicle program.

Chair Bagby stressed the impact social media influencers can have and the importance of utilizing all tools that are available.

Director Fudge suggested creating an early adopter network of customers who would be willing to allow tours of their homes and act as a community resource to show what the technologies are really like in real peoples' homes. Chair Bagby commented that Daily Acts hosts similar tours for some of their programs. Director Elward posed questions about how to ensure the safety of the hosts if something like this were to be offered. CEO Syphers spoke about a model previously used by a nonprofit in the East Bay called Build It Green where they organized home tours on specific days so that there could be additional people onsite to help and also offer cleanup if necessary. They would also publish a guide about the homes on the tour with information on the technologies and costs to help people choose where to tour.

CEO Syphers stated they will return to present the next sections over the next two meetings.

Public comment: Madge Strong sent the following written comment by email:

"Comment on this agenda item: I'd be interested in a presentation (by Zoom) about SCP to Willits Economic Localization (WELL) early in 2022. A little 'pitch' to publicize this would be helpful.

Madge Strong"

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Bagby announced the return of Cloverdale's Winter Festival on 12/3/2021.

Director Slayter announced the Sebastopol tree lighting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, 12/2/2021.

Director Fudge shared that after Santa finishes his visit in Sebastopol, he will be traveling to Windsor at 7:00 p.m. the same day.

Director Elward also shared about Rohnert Park's holiday event on Saturday, 12/4/2021 starting at 5:00 p.m.

Director Rogers commented on SCP's sponsorship of the ice rink in downtown Santa Rosa, which is made of a drought-friendly material called "glice."

Director Peters announced the annual lighted truck parade in Fort Bragg on Saturday, 12/4/2021.

CEO Syphers recognized that it is the 5<sup>th</sup> night of Hanukkah and wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah.

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

Public Comment: Madge Strong submitted the written comment below:

"A public comment to thank Geof Syphers for his presentation to the Willits City Council in November."

*At 11:22 a.m. Chair Bagby called for an 8-minute recess and requested that the Board of Directors convene for Closed Session at 11:30 a.m.*

### **CLOSED SESSION**

9. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation  
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: 1 case

At 11:37 a.m., following closed session, Joshua Nelson, Special Counsel for Sonoma Clean Power, returned to provide the following report:

"We reached a settlement with Sand Hill C LLC which terminates a power purchase agreement between the parties. The terms of the settlement are not disclosed, but we believe they are in the interest of our customers."

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beau Anderson  
Clerk of the Board