



**MEETING MINUTES  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022,  
1:00 P.M.**

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

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

CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE AB 361 WHICH SUSPENDED CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE BROWN ACT, MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE PARTICIPATED IN THE JANUARY 20, 2022, MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Nicholls called the meeting to order at approximately 1:06 p.m.

Prior to taking roll call attendance, Darin Bartow, Clerk of the Board for Sonoma Clean Power, administered the Oath of Office to new Committee Members Crispin Hollinshead, Jeff Kelly, Sarah Booth, and Spencer Lipp.

Committee Members present: Chair Nicholls, Vice Chair Morris, Members Hollinshead, Quinlan, Dowd, Kelly, Booth, and Lipp. Members Fenichel and Wells absent with prior notice.

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; and Kate Kelly, Director of Public Relations and Marketing.

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Approve December 16, 2021, Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
2. Receive the Independent Report for the Financial Statements from Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021

Motion to Approve the January 20, 2022, Community Advisory Committee Consent Calendar by Member Dowd

Second: Hollinshead

Public Comment: None

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote: 8 - 0 - 0

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

Public Comment: None

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR**

### **3. Welcome and Orientation to SCP**

Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), welcomed and requested that all new members introduce themselves to the Committee and all returning members give a brief introduction to the new members. The members of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) introduced themselves. CEO Syphers discussed Sonoma Clean Power and its mission.

Public Comment: None

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

Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations, welcomed the new Committee Members and explained the function of the Internal Operations Report and Monthly Financial Report. Director Reynolds explained that the selection of Chair and Vice Chair for the CAC will take place at the next meeting, in February, and informed the Committee that nomination paperwork would go out shortly. She congratulated the City of Rohnert Park for their entrance into SCP's EverGreen program.

Rebecca Simonson, Director of Programs, introduced the Customer Programs Strategic Action Plan and announced that the timeline for the Strategic Action Plan would be changed to better align with SCP's budget and resource planning. Director Simonson explained that SCP would also align the Action plan with SCP Program's Equity Framework. The Plan will come to the CAC in March. Committee Member Hollinshead inquired if the Strategic Action Plan would consider the need to reduce emissions by 50% and Director Simonson

answered that it would as the plan considers State goals and internal SCP goals.

Director Reynolds discussed Mendocino County's participation in SCP. She explained that SCP's Marketing Team is working on expanding Mendocino County's participation.

CEO Syphers gave an overview of the Financial Report to new Committee Members and encouraged the Committee to look at SCP's Budgetary Comparison Schedule. He explained that the largest expenses are energy expenses and relate to the cost of energy. He explained that SCP does not use tax money from member governments. He further explained that one of SCP's Joint Power Authority (JPA) purposes is to attempt to smooth out customer bills and when SCP is notified of an impending rate change from Pacific Gas and Electric, SCP can sometimes act proactively and adjusts rates further out and in smaller amounts which, in turn, can reduce large fluctuations in customer bills. CEO Syphers explained SCP's Operating Account Fund. The primary purpose of the fund is to protect our customers from severe fluctuations on their electric bills.

Member Kelly asked what the impact of the rate changes will be to SCP customers. CEO Syphers answered that the effect on billing will be about 3½ to 4% impact on customer bills.

Member Quinlan inquired as to a line-item inquiry in the Budget Comparison he made in the last meeting regarding a return of funds. Michael Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer, responded that the return of funds was based on a project that did not go through. Member Quinlan then asked about the last 6 month downward budgetary trend and if we should be concerned? CEO Syphers responded that he is confident SCP's headroom will increase because the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) exit fee will drop dramatically and PG&E charges will go up significantly.

Member Hollinshead asked if there is any sunset on the PCIA billing. CEO Syphers explained that there is not.

Member Booth asked how often the PCIA is adjusted. CEO Syphers answered once per year typically, but certain situations can lead to a mid-year adjustment.

Public Comment: None

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

Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs began with background for the Legislative and Regulatory Update. Director Reardon updated the Committee on Net Energy Metering, now referred to as Net Billing. He went on to explain

that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is proposing changes that would make it less financially rewarding for customers to install on-site generation on their properties and there are two reasons for this: first, the grid participation fee, and secondly, a reduction in energy going into the grid. CEO Syphers added that customers should either use all the energy they produce or store it, but going forward they should not depend on getting as much value for sending energy to the grid. Director Reardon went on to explain that currently customers who do not have solar are paying extra for those that do.

Member Booth asked to clarify how solar credit payments will be calculated? Director Reardon answered that it is calculated as a second-by-second use, unlike the previous model which paid out annually.

Member Kelly asked for additional clarification on the PCIA calculations.

Member Hollinshead asked if the Net Billing proposal is likely to be adopted. Director Reardon answered that everyone involved in energy policy is wondering and will be watching upcoming CPUC meetings.

Member Quinlan inquired how the rate change would affect non-solar rate payers. Director Reardon answered that all rates would be slightly lower and if the CPUC adopts the Proposed Decision, he will report back to the committee.

Member Kelly asked if homeowners and businesses will be treated the same under the new regulations and Director Reardon answered in the affirmative.

Public Comment: None

6. Recommend that the Board of Directors Approve Parameters to Establish New Customer Rates for Implementation Following Certain Changes to Customer Exit Fees on or After March 1, 2022

CEO Syphers explained that PG&E does not give SCP much time to react to their rate changes and SCP wants to provide stability in energy rates; therefore, staff are asking for advanced permission to make the changes. Staff have asked for advanced permission the last 3 years to make rate changes and try to set parameters very clearly. He further explained that there are four criteria that must be met before changing the rates. These are: first, the PCIA changing exit fees on or after March 1, 2022, and PG&E changing their rates. Secondly, there will be a reset of rate classes. Third, to make sure there are bookends to the change, so the rate change is between equal bill and a 5% premium relative to bundled charges. And finally, that the rates return for ratification by the Board after they are implemented.

Director Simonson made note that all the numbers in the item are subject to SCP implementing new rates on April 1, 2022.

Member Kelly asked if the rate change is assuming that PG&E will change their rates. CEO Syphers stated yes.

Public Comment: None

Motion to Recommend that the Board of Directors Approve Parameters to Establish New Customer Rates for Implementation Following Certain Changes to Customer Exit Fees on or After March 1, 2022, by Member Quinlan.

Second: Morris

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote: 8 - 0 - 0

## 7. Receive 2021 Annual Report

Kate Kelly, Director of Public Relations and Marketing, presented the 2021 Annual Report. The report begins with a nod to the Advanced Energy Center followed by messages from CEO Syphers and Board of Directors Chair, Melanie Bagby. Director Kelly stated that the report is available on the SCP website. She detailed SCP programs including Bike Electric, GridSavvy, and Electric Vehicle Charging. Director Kelly highlighted EverGreen at the end of the report and indicated that SCP is working on a case study for the EverGreen program.

Member Morris asked if there is a Spanish Language version and Director Kelly answered no.

Public Comment: None

## COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

## ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 2:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Darin Bartow, J.D.  
Clerk of the Board