



**MEETING MINUTES  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022  
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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS PARTICIPATED IN THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2022, MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

**CALL TO ORDER**

(1:02 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:02:10)

Chair Quinlan called the meeting to order.

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

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations; Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs; Chris Golik, Revenue Manager; and Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning and Analytics

Chair Quinlan Introduced Member Johnson to the Committee. Member Johnson gave a few words of introduction.

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

(1:04 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:04:42)

Public Comment: None

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR**

(1:05 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:05:16)

1. Approve July 21, 2022, Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Public Comment: None

Motion to approve the September 15, 2022, Community Advisory Committee Consent Calendar by Member Nicholls

Second: Member Dowd

Motion passed by roll call vote

AYES: Quinlan, Morris, Hollinshead, Dowd, Wells, Nicholls, Booth, Lipp

ABSENT: Fenichel, Kelly

ABSTAIN: Johnson

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR CALENDAR**

2. Receive Internal Operations and Monthly Financial Report and Provide Feedback as Appropriate

(1:07 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:07:43)

Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations, welcomed the Committee back and responded to an inquiry by Member Hollinshead noting that Biosearch Technologies in Petaluma, a large customer that recently upgraded to EverGreen, consumed 4.4 GWh of electricity at its Petaluma facility. She discussed the Advanced Energy Center's events including a Spanish speaking induction cooking class and mentioned SCP was named one of "The Best Places to Work in Sonoma County" and also "The Best Place to do Business within Sonoma County."

Chris Golik, Revenue Manager, discussed the two sets of financial reports and pointed out that they were both positive. He stated that the fiscal year ended in June with the operational reserves at \$63.5 million but told the Committee to expect a significant increase to the reserves in November or December, once the financial statements are audited and accepted.

Geof Syphers, CEO, recognized Woody Hastings of the Climate Center and congratulated the City of Stockton on their unanimous vote to join East Bay Community Energy. He mentioned that the City of Cotati was unveiling their first all-electric police cruiser. He discussed the heat storm that hit California the week before and the State's response to it.

Chair Quinlan congratulated SCP on its awards and the response to the heat storm. Member Booth stated that it was interesting to hear SCP's experience

during the heat storm and asked if SCP could draft a response letter regarding electric vehicle reliability during the heat storm.

Public Comment: None

3. Receive Legislative and Regulatory Updates and Provide Feedback as Appropriate

(1:27 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:27:11)

Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, discussed the difficulties that PG&E is having maintaining their distribution lines, so they have made a new proposal to remove overhead wires in certain fire-prone areas and produce power locally for small numbers of customers in so-called "remote grids." He stated that SCP's Board of Directors authorized remote grids under certain conditions in 2020, and SCP and PG&E have successfully partnered on one fully authorized remote grid. Director Reardon then noted that last year PG&E filed a motion with the CPUC to change the process from one that recognizes the SCP Board's authority to authority removal of land from SCP's service territory and each customer's authority to determine PG&E service through an off-grid system to a process that would allow PG&E to unilaterally make all of these decisions with no local input or oversight. He said that SCP will fight this.

In contrast with PG&E's proposal to force SCP and customers to accept PG&E's sole decisions, CEO Syphers mentioned the Pepperwood project and said that it was a model of how "remote grids" should be built, with close collaboration by SCP and the customer, and with approval by all three parties - SCP's Board, the customer and PG&E. Once completed, the Pepperwood system will be the first 100% renewable project built and operated by PG&E.

CEO Syphers then discussed the Federal Inflation Reduction Act and California Resource Board's new rule requiring the phasing out of selling gas powered vehicles by 2035. He discussed the extension of Diablo Canyon, SB 1020 (Laird), and SB 1158 (Becker).

Member Lipp asked how the difference between voluntary and involuntary nature of the remote grid changed the program. Director Reardon responded that PG&E would be removing choice for customers and CEO Syphers added that it would be blocking SCP from delivering clean power to these customers.

Member Booth asked if the criteria for determining the cost of which customers are chosen to receive remote grids was transparent. Director

Reardon answered that PG&E shared a spreadsheet of costs based on the wildfire threat.

Vice Chair Morris inquired if operation of Diablo Canyon still needed to go through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and CEO Syphers answered that it would. She also asked about the impacts of the extension on the PCIA.

Chair Quinlan asked if the Inflation Reduction Act will create new opportunities for the Advanced Energy Center to advise customers on energy efficient technologies, to which CEO Syphers answered with an enthusiastic yes.

Public Comment: None

4. Recommend the Board Authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his Designee to Execute Memorandum of Understanding Agreements with GeoZone Private Partners and Initiate Negotiations of Public-Private Cooperation Agreements

(1:54 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:54:33)

Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning and Analytics, introduced this item as how SCP figures out how to best fulfill the goals of the GeoZone. He explained that SCP started their solicitation period in the spring to investigate geothermal energy sources and had selected three companies and their proposals to move forward with. Those three companies are Eavor, Chevron New Energies, and Cyrq Energy. He explained that with these proposals SCP wants to ensure the continued operation of the existing Geysers facilities while expanding regional output. Due to the very different approaches and risks of the three short-listed companies, staff recommend moving forward with all three.

Chair Quinlan mentioned that he was interested in Eavor because he believes that Sonoma County wastewater could be better used especially during times of drought and asked what type of fluid they use. Director Tracey explained that Eavor uses some water, but that water then goes through a heat exchanger to transfer the heat to an organic fluid for the power cycle. Chair Quinlan then asked if SCP gains something from this MOU step and CEO Syphers explained that because this is a big undertaking the more steps and transparency the better, and federal funding opportunities may mean that having an MOU in place immediately valuable when applying for grants.

Vice Chair Morris inquired about reputational issues that Chevron has and whether Calpine is involved yet. CEO Syphers responded that Chevron's reputational issues have already been called out and Calpine has been closely involved in the early GeoZone process. Member Hollinshead asked if Cyrq's

proposal would be applied to existing facilities and Director Tracey responded that Cyrq's would, and Chevron's might. Director Wells asked what the pool of proposals looked like, and Director Tracey responded that it was narrowed from 7 to 3.

Public Comment: None

Motion to recommend the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to execute memorandum of understanding agreements with GeoZone private partners and initiate negotiations of public-private cooperation agreements by Member Dowd

Second: Member Nicholls

Motion passed by roll call vote

AYES: Quinlan, Morris, Hollinshead, Johnson, Dowd, Wells, Nicholls, Booth, Lipp

ABSENT: Fenichel, Kelly

5. Recommend the Board Adopt Staff's Preferred Portfolio for the 2022 Integrated Resource Plan Filing

(2:26 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:25:52)

Director Tracey introduced the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) as an internal way to make meaningful differences in climate goals. He explained that compliance, an internal IRP, and operations all went into the formulation. He stated that the new goals in this IRP include 100% hourly carbon mitigation by 2026 and an 80% winter evening reliability by 2030. He explained that because solar and storage is not as effective in the wintertime due to the shorter hours of sunlight, finding the right resources to power SCP customers through the winter is clearly the new challenge. He said that SCP's preferred portfolio includes solar, wind, geothermal, and standalone storage, and that the IRP plans it through 2040 while also phasing down reliance on biomass and hydro power.

Chair Quinlan asked what some of the challenges to the IRP were. Director Tracey explained that currently supply chains were an issue, but SCP has the resources to cover through 2027. Chair Quinlan asked if there are any transmission concerns and Director Tracey answered that there are initial concerns for transmission.

*3:04 p.m. Member Booth exited the meeting.*

Public Comment: None

Motion to recommend the Board adopt staff's preferred portfolio for the 2022 Integrated Resource Plan filing by Member Nicholls

Second: Member Wells

Motion passed by roll call vote

AYES: Quinlan, Morris, Hollinshead, Johnson, Dowd, Wells, Nicholls, Lipp

ABSENT: Fenichel, Kelly, Booth

6. Discuss Future Opportunities for Distributed Renewable and Storage Resources Within the Sonoma Clean Power Service Territory

(3:05 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 02:05:13)

CEO Syphers introduced Member Hollinshead who called for discussion on this item regarding items SCP may put on the table for local power generation and what may be next.

Member Hollinshead stated that SCP provides 6.5GW of power, 20% of which is power from local sources. He then stated that two or three times as much is required to decarbonize, and that transmission is a challenge. He then stated that the way around this is distributed storage and another way is solar with storage. He gave the Healdsburg floating array as an example and questioned what SCP can do for facilitating storage in its territory. CEO Syphers explained that the cost can be large, and for microgrid applications it can be tough navigating regulatory hurdles, but this is something SCP can discuss again.

Member Nicholls asked if there are any opportunities for onshore wind projects and CEO Syphers explained that it could require government intervention to overcome environmental hurdles, since many onshore wind projects are blocked by lawsuits. Vice Chair Morris discussed an article she read describing adding solar and storage to previously abandoned housing during renovations for the purpose of being re-sold to low-income individuals and families. This article was distributed to the Committee.

Public Comment: None

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(3:27 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 02:27:03)

None

**ADJOURN**

(3:27 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 02:27:15)

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darin A. Barto". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "D" and a double horizontal line at the end.

Darin Barto, J.D.  
Clerk of the Board