



**MEETING MINUTES  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023  
1:00 P.M.**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

(1:03 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:03:11)

Vice Chair Quinlan called the meeting to order.

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

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Michael Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs; Deb Emerson, Managing Director; Chris Golik, Finance Manager; Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning and Analytics; Kate Kelly; Director of Public Relations and Marketing; and Brytann Busick, Marketing and Events Manager.

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

(1:04 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:04:12)

Public Comment: Tom Conlon mentioned that there was an increase in the amount of electricity produced using biomass on SCP's Power Content Postcards, and asked why and whether this would continue in future years.

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR**

(1:08 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:08:14)

1. Approve February 16, 2023, Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
2. Receive Geothermal Zone Update
3. Recommend the Board Approve and Delegate Authority to the Chief Executive Officer or Designee to Execute Two Professional Services Agreements with Hiner & Partners, Inc. With a Collective Amount Not-To-Exceed of \$167,000 for

Two Separate Research Efforts, the Customer Operations Satisfaction Survey and the Annual Brand Awareness Survey

4. Recommend the Board Approve and Delegate Authority to the Chief Executive Officer or Designee to Execute an Amendment to the Contract with Keyes & Fox LLP for an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$200,000 through June 30, 2023, for Procurement and Regulatory Affairs Purposes

Public Comment: None

Motion to approve the March 16, 2023, Community Advisory Committee Consent Calendar by Member Dowd

Second: Member Nicholls

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

ABSENT: Fenichel, Johnson, Kelly

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR**

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

(1:09 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:09:43)

Michael Koszalka, COO, discussed SCP's new telenovela, "Por El Mañana." He mentioned that the episodes were available on SCP's website and highlighted the red-carpet event SCP had at the Energy Center for the premiere. He discussed SCP restructuring its customer service contract with Calpine and Calpine's grant competition for local causes. CEO Syphers discussed his exploration of alternative meeting dates and times for the Committee to help make meetings more accessible, but added that there was no recommendation to change the meeting schedule since the alternative times would lead to lower overall committee member attendance. He discussed SCP's finances in the context of the recent failure of Silicon Valley Bank and explained that SCP's funds are held in two different regional banks supported with FDIC insurance and/or strong liquidity and the Sonoma County Investment Pool.

Vice Chair Quinlan asked if there was any public reaction to the telenovelas and CEO Syphers responded that there had been a lot of interest, even requests for another season. Member Nicholls asked if SCP funds were held

with the County of Sonoma. COO Koszalka stated that roughly \$35 million was with the Sonoma County Investment Pool, roughly \$30 million held by Summit Bank, and roughly \$37 million held by River City Bank.

Public Comment: None

6. Receive Legislative and Regulatory Updates, Provide Feedback and Recommend Positions to the Board as Appropriate

(1:21 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:21:53)

Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, discussed the extension of Diablo Canyon in which PG&E is allowed to continue running the plant until their application is amended and accepted. He discussed PG&E's Fast-Trip system for automatically shutting off distribution circuits and stated that SCP is leaning on the CPUC to provide transparency regarding Fast-Trip, and he reiterated that SCP is requesting PG&E disclose which circuits are connected to Fast-Trip devices to better inform customers who are medically vulnerable to power outages. CEO Syphers mentioned that Sonoma County recently banned all new gas stations, and he mentioned the Bay Area Air Quality Management District adopted a ban on the sale of new natural gas water heaters by 2027 and home heating systems by 2029. He stated he has been having meetings to greet and welcome new State legislators. He said that the Windsor Business Park was told by PG&E that they would not be able to connect to the grid on any known timeline. CEO Syphers then stated that SCP would be working with Assemblyman Wood and Senator McGuire's offices to request and review documentation from PG&E to assess their financial stability because power outages and interconnection issues are becoming more widespread.

Member Hollinshead asked if SCP had considered small scale distributed storage and CEO Syphers answered that regulators need to improve how it is compensated for providing grid reliability. Member Dowd added that electrical stability is critical to the economy and would like the Committee to be kept up to date. Member Lipp mentioned there are emerging induction stoves with batteries that allow use without circuit upgrades. Member Wells asked if legislators are familiar with the transmission interconnection slowdown issues for new supply and storage resources and CEO Syphers replied that they needed to be more familiar with transmission, and this year legislator turnover has been extremely high. Vice Chair Quinlan asked if current transmission infrastructure is inadequate, and CEO Syphers responded that it is and that time is of the essence to work on the transmission system. Vice Chair Quinlan then asked if there were any updates on teleconference meeting

rules and CEO Syphers responded that it is too early to tell. Member Hollinshead asked if there is any degradation in the available capacity of the historical transmission infrastructure out of existing GeoZone area resources and CEO Syphers responded that SCP is still working on the answer to that question.

Public Comment: Tom Conlon mentioned he appreciated the legislative conversation and stated that SCP should look at AB 538 (Holden).

7. Review and Provide Feedback on the Draft Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

(2:00 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:59:46)

COO Koszalka discussed the Draft Annual Budget for FY 23/24 and mentioned it would be brought to the Committee again before final adoption. He mentioned there were no projected rate increases and that SCP should be reaching its fiscal reserve targets within FY 23/24. He stated that there was a 4.7% budget increase and pointed out that this is below inflation levels and that the revenue figure is down because SCP will be able to lower rates. He discussed the 5-year forecast and CEO Syphers stated that in 2014, SCP projected that they would hit their financial goals in 10 years but now are planning to meet goals ahead of schedule, in 9 and a half years.

Vice Chair Quinlan congratulated SCP on the forecast and asked if the reserve target allowed for inflation and CEO Syphers responded that it did. Member Booth asked if there was a marketing plan to show off SCP hitting its target and offering lower rates as a result, and CEO Syphers cautioned against it. Member Hollinshead asked if there was a place for a fund in the budget to build on investments and CEO Syphers responded that the door is open for future conversation on the subject.

Public Comment: None

8. Discuss 2023 Community Advisory Committee Goals

(2:13 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:13:23)

Vice Chair Quinlan started the conversation by stating that in order to address the Committee's goals an Ad Hoc was created and Members Wells, Quinlan and Johnson met and discussed equity and diversity needs. Member Wells gave a report on the Ad Hoc discussion. He stated that SCP should perform a community needs assessment and it is very important for staff to go where the

underserved are located. The Ad Hoc discussed the need for rates to be simple and added that age diversity should also be considered. Vice Chair Quinlan added that a mobile "SCP On Wheels" initiative might be a good idea to get the word out to the community.

Chair Morris thanked the Ad Hoc and stated that communication is very important to connect with the community. Vice Chair Quinlan requested that this item be continued to the April Committee meeting. CEO Syphers added that bill reduction is an important part of the equity conversation.

Public Comment: None

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(2:33 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:33:44)

Member Nicholls mentioned that the Russian River Chamber would be holding its Night Market.

### **ADJOURN**

(2:34 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:34:52)

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Darin A. Bartow, JD**  
**Clerk of the Board**