



**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023  
1:00 P.M.**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

(1:03 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:02:50)

Vice Chair Quinlan called the meeting to order.

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

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Michael Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; and Hannah Rennie, Portfolio Manager

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

(1:07 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:06:49)

Public Comment: Crispin Hollinshead (comment attached)

*1:08 p.m. Member Kelly entered the meeting.*

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR**

(1:09 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:09:03)

1. Approve March 16, 2023, Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
2. Receive Geothermal Zone Update

Public Comment: None

Motion to approve the April 20, 2023, Community Advisory Committee Consent Calendar by Member Nicholls

Second: Member Dowd

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

### **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR**

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

(1:11 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:11:25)

SCP's Portfolio Manager Hannah Rennie reported on two new power purchase agreements in Mendocino County by the developer Renewable Properties. The first being 4 MWs of solar with 4 MWhs of battery storage in Ukiah and the second being a 4.99 MWs solar project in Laytonville.

Member Hollinshead asked why there was no storage in the second contract and Ms. Rennie answered that there was not enough value for the capacity, but the contract does allow for it to be added in the future. Vice Chair Quinlan asked why the projects are not crossing the 5MW threshold and CEO Syphers responded there are not many projects between 5 and 10MW. Member Hollinshead asked what area size the projects take up and CEO Syphers responded that generally 5 acres are required for 1MW.

CEO Syphers explained that the Financial Report was omitted this month because staff had found an error, but it would be included in the next meeting packet. He then discussed the art showcase at SCP's Headquarters and invited the Committee and public to the viewing on April 28, 2023. He discussed the 0% financing program and how it had reached its loan limit. He stated that SCP would be closing applications and staff would be reviewing the program. He mentioned that Sonoma Water and Cal Forward hosted a regional forested area community meeting which discussed fire risk and power issues.

Member Nicholls suggested SCP use QR codes to make info in the Operations Report sharable. Member Lipp asked if instead of ending the 0% finance program a waitlist could be started. Member Hollinshead asked how many projects were accepted in the 0% finance program and CEO Syphers responded that there were 89 completed projects and 30 pending. Member Fenichel asked if the Art Show would be ongoing, and CEO Syphers responded that is his intention.

Public Comment: June Brasher asked how many projects in the 0% financing program were done with rebates.

4. Receive Legislative and Regulatory Updates, Provide Feedback and Recommend Positions to the Board on AB 527 (Min), AB 593 (Haney), SB 83 (Wiener/Wood), and Other Bills as Appropriate

(1:29 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:28:55)

CEO Syphers discussed the regulatory updates in the packet and mentioned that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) opened an Order Instituting Investigation regarding natural gas pricing. He then discussed the status of Fast-Trip. He stated that SCP has requested PG&E supply customer area maps for those areas affected by Fast-Trips. CEO Syphers then discussed legislative updates; he stated that the Governor's Budget Trailer Bill is the most concerning as it will make changes to how CCAs are governed. He discussed AB 527 (Min) "neighborhood de-carbonization" and AB 593 (Haney) which would direct the California Energy Commission to enact a carbon reduction strategy. He discussed SB 83 which would create a timeline for energizing homes and create an 8-week deadline to connect new homes to the grid.

Vice Chair Quinlan stated he is concerned with the Governor's Budget and asked what the Committee could do. CEO Syphers responded that the CAC needed to focus efforts on transmission issues and local involvement. Member Lipp added that AB 527 and AB 982 should be reviewed.

Public Comment: June Brasher raised concerns about AB 538.

Motion to Receive Legislative and Regulatory Updates, Provide Feedback and Recommend Positions to the Board on AB 527 (Min), AB 593 (Haney), SB 83 (Wiener/Wood), and Other Bills as Appropriate by Member Dowd

Second: Member Nicholls

AYES: Quinlan, Fenichel, Hollinshead, Dowd, Kelly, Nicholls, Booth, Lipp

ABSENT: Morris, Johnson, Wells

5. Recommend the Board of Directors Approve the Proposed Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

(2:07 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:07:34)

Michael Koszalka, COO, stated this was the third public viewing of the budget adding that it was the second time the Committee had seen it. CEO Syphers added the budget would require an amendment, a \$50,000 increase in the Industry Memberships & Dues line item of the proposed budget due to an increase in CC Power dues.

Public Comment: None

Motion to Recommend the Board of Directors Approve the Proposed Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, with an amendment of a \$50,000 increase in the "Industry Memberships & Dues" line item of the proposed budget related to CC Power dues by Member Kelly

Second: Member Fenichel

AYES: Quinlan, Fenichel, Hollinshead, Dowd, Kelly, Nicholls, Booth, Lipp

ABSENT: Morris, Johnson, Wells

6. Discuss 2023 Community Advisory Committee Goals

(2:10 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:10:34)

Vice Chair Quinlan reported that there had been no further meeting of the Ad Hoc on Equity. Member Hollinshead added that Committee goals should include increasing energy storage and new projects.

Public Comment: June Brasher said she liked learning about battery storage and the community needs assessment.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(2:15 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:15:37)

Member Dowd mentioned he would be unable to attend the June 15, 2023, Committee meeting.

**ADJOURN**

(2:15 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:15:42)

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Darin A. Bartow, J.D.**  
**Clerk of the Board**

12 April, 2023

Letter to the Sonoma Clean Power Board of Directors

My name is Crispin B. Hollinshead. I am a member of the SCP Community Advisory Committee, but I am writing as an individual.

As you know, the climate crisis is dire. Our only hope to halt the rising global temperature is complete decarbonization of the economy, as rapidly as possible. The State of California has committed to this and informed energy producers that they need to almost triple the amount of electricity currently being produced, using non-carbon generation, in order to replace the use of fossil fuels in transportation and heating. SCP, with the motto "Electrify Everything", is already providing 100% non-carbon electricity and initiating the GeoZone project to significantly increase baseload non-carbon energy.

While the climate crisis is inexorable in its destruction, the peak oil impact will be abrupt and imminent. Conventional global oil production (not including deep water, shale oil, or tar sands) peaked in 2005. The US shale oil boom covered the global demand gap, but the recession beginning in 2008 reduced demand. All global oil production peaked in 2018, but the COVID pandemic again reduced demand. The recession and then the pandemic, obscured the fact that oil was not going to be plentiful and cheap forever.

The oil industry has acknowledged the US shale oil boom is over and most reserves will be exhausted in the next few years. Global conventional oil reserves are also in decline, unable to make up for this production shortfall. This will lead to destructively high oil prices. The challenge at this point is to shift to renewable energy fast enough to reduce fossil fuel demand, keeping prices affordable.

Climate change and diminishing oil production lead to the same conclusion: Shift to renewables as soon as possible. However, the existing high-voltage transmission grid is barely adequate for the existing load, so increased power production alone won't solve the problem. Significant changes will need to be made to infrastructure and grid management.

The grid currently ships power at the time it's needed, thus being limited by peak capacity. In an average 24-hour period the grid operates at about 40% of capacity, and yet we are already experiencing brownouts during peak loads. Distributed storage will allow more effective use of the existing grid, but will require massive investment. Every energy-producing facility should have enough storage capacity to allow around-the-clock distribution management. In addition, large distributed storage is needed to allow communities to receive power when the grid capacity is available, to have on hand for local loads. This distributed storage can even be installed in individual homes and businesses. In addition, increased distributed energy production will reduce what has to be transported over the grid. Combined with increased distributed storage, local power resilience will increase as well. The good news is that battery technology is changing rapidly and prices are falling.

The solution includes efficient conservation (using less), more local power production (importing less), and massive distributed storage (using the grid around the clock). This Distributed Energy Resources system will require new power-management tools, and infrastructure, but can be implemented more quickly than expanding grid capacity. Fossil fuels are finite and subject to inflation over time. Renewable power costs are fixed and getting cheaper each year; the energy collected is free, so shifting to renewables will save the community money over time.

I therefore ask the SCP Board of Directors to consider investigation this path, directing SCP staff to do further research, plan, and execute phased installation. The window of opportunity to avoid economic disruption is closing rapidly.