



**MEETING MINUTES  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023  
1:00 P.M.**

---

**CALL TO ORDER**

(1:03 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:04:10)

Chair Morris called the meeting to order.

Members Kelly and Lipp noticed that they would be participating in the meeting via teleconference under AB 2449 for just cause.

Committee Members present: Chair Morris, and Members Hollinshead, Dowd, Kelly, Wells, Nicholls, Booth, and Lipp. Vice Chair Quinlan, and Member Fenichel were 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; Erica Torgerson, Managing Director of Customer Service; Danielle McCants, Customer Operations Manager; Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning and Analytics; and Carolyn Glanton, Programs Operations Manager.

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

(1:05 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:06:21)

Public Comment: None

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR**

(1:06 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:07:34)

1. Approve September 21, 2023, Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
2. Receive Update on Empower and Programs Equity
3. Review the Continued Use of Updated EM-TOU Rate Effective October 1, 2023

4. Recommend the Board Approve the Proposed Customer Rate Reductions which would Establish Parameters Following Changes to Distribution Utility Rates and Fees on or After January 1, 2024, and Amendments to Financial Policy B2 to allow Local Investments with Excess Reserve Funds

Member Nicholls asked for a correction in the September 21, 2023, Minutes, Item 1, as he was discussing two separate issues: undergrounding power lines and insulating power lines. Member Booth asked for a change to the September 21, 2023, Minutes as well to indicate that she was absent. Chair Morris stated that she appreciates how equity drives decisions at Sonoma Clean Power. Member Lipp mentioned he appreciated the discussion on Item 2 and recommended that SCP should look beyond census tracks for their data.

Public Comment: Bob Anderson suggested changes in Item 4.

Member Hollinshead asked that Item 4 be pulled and discussed in response to Bob Anderson's public comment.

There was no staff presentation for Item 4. Member Wells asked why the 3 options mentioned in the staff report for Item 4 were chosen. Member Hollinshead stated that he liked the idea of an investment fund but stated that lowering costs to customers is important too, and he supported Bob Anderson's suggested split of the rates noted in his public comment. Member Nicholls mentioned that SCP doesn't know what will happen to rates over the next few years. Member Dowd expressed a desire for the Board of Directors (Board) to consider other options as well. Member Wells asked if SCP would be reevaluating the rates in 2025 and Geof Syphers, CEO responded that SCP would reevaluate even before that. Member Wells then added the need for local investments and supported staff recommendations knowing that they could be changed. Member Lipp added that customers do struggle with costs and Chair Morris stated that smoothing rates should be a priority.

Motion to approve the October 19, 2023, Community Advisory Committee Consent Calendar Items 1 through 3 with the changes to Item 1 included by Member Dowd

Second: Member Nicholls

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

ABSENT: Quinlan, Fenichel

Public Comment Item 4: No additional comments

Motion to Recommend the Board Approve the Proposed Customer Rate Reductions which would Establish Parameters Following Changes to Distribution Utility Rates and Fees on or After January 1, 2024, and Amendments to Financial Policy B2 to allow Local Investments with Excess Reserve Funds and include Committee comments in the Board staff report by Member Wells

Second: Member Nicholls

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

ABSENT: Quinlan, Fenichel

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR**

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

(1:30 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:31:23)

Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations, discussed the Committee recruitment, mentioning that it had closed, the ad hoc was deliberating and will make recommendations to the Board. CEO Syphers discussed the CalCCA retreat that was held at SCP at the end of September. Michael Koszalka, COO, discussed the "duck curve" challenge in schools which SCP will be offering again this year.

Member Wells discussed SCP's power sources. Member Hollinshead asked what some of the creative solutions to the duck curve challenge were and Carolyn Glanton, Programs Operations Manager, highlighted some of last year's submissions.

Public Comment: Jenny Blaker discussed biomass and submitted a written comment on the same.

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

(1:44 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:45:37)

Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, discussed the California Public Utility Commission's General Rate Case and stated that the CPUC would most

likely decide by the end of the year. Member Hollinshead asked what the downsides are to covered conductors and Director Reardon stated that there would still be a need for vegetation management whereas undergrounding power lines would not.

CEO Syphers gave a legislative update and mentioned that the Legislative Session had ended in September and that the Budget Trailer Energy Bill had passed and was signed by the Governor.

Chair Morris asked about 3 bills which were signed regarding connectivity and the grid and CEO Syphers responded that PG&E had fought hard against them so what was signed lacked much enforcement. Member Hollinshead then asked what was causing a reluctance to interconnect and CEO Syphers responded that he didn't believe there was a reluctance to interconnect but rather thinks it could be related to the costs required to do it. Member Nicholls stated that Graton Rancheria was doubling in size and questioned if this would create a capacity problem.

Public Comment: Michael Heffler asked if there was a potential for microgrids for businesses and CEO Syphers responded there was.

#### 7. Recommend the Board of Directors Approve the Solar Billing Plan Tariff

(2:10 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:12:54)

Danielle McCants, Customer Operations Manager, gave a presentation on the Solar billing Plan Tariff and CEO Syphers mentioned that as SCP learns more, there will be additional presentations to the Committee and the Board.

Member Booth asked if there were any additional restrictions that would affect sizing of solar arrays and CEO Syphers responded that he didn't think so, to which Erica Torgerson, Managing Director of Customer Service, agreed. Member Wells asked if daily, monthly, and hourly rates would be made available, and Director Torgerson expected they would. Member Booth asked if a customer on NEM 2.0 would be asked to switch, and Director Torgerson responded that they would not. Member Hollinshead asked if there were technological changes required and Director Torgerson responded that SCP was looking into that along with PG&E.

Public Comment: None

Motion to Recommend the Board of Directors Approve the Solar Billing Plan Tariff by Member Wells

Second: Member Dowd

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

ABSENT: Quinlan, Fenichel

8. Receive Geothermal Opportunity Zone Update

(2:40 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:41:57)

Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning and Analytics, discussed the Geothermal Opportunity Zone (GeoZone). He mentioned the Community Stakeholder meeting that was held in Cloverdale on September 18<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the Department of Energy did not award SCP and Cirq Energy a grant for the Long Duration Energy Storage application, and he discussed the upcoming Geothermal Rising Conference.

Member Wells asked if questions from the residents got answered at the stakeholder meeting and Director Tracey responded that SCP is going to wait and see which Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) project is selected for the GeoZone and then SCP's partners can answer resident's concerns. Member Hollinshead asked if EGS is different than GeoZone and Director Tracey responded that EGS is one of the technologies being explored in the GeoZone.

Public Comment: None

9. Discuss Stipends and Youth Members for the Community Advisory Committee

(2:56 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:57:26)

CEO Syphers opened the stipend and youth member discussion and turned it over to the Committee to discuss.

Member Lipp stated that members of subcommittees for the CPUC are given stipends, and these helped areas of concern for the members. Member Booth stated that she agrees with expanding youth membership to age 24 and a shorter term; she added that 4 years is a long term and maybe should be shorter for all members. Member Wells said that if SCP can get rid of barriers for service by giving a stipend, then it should be done, and he added that SCP should investigate the youth position receiving college credits. Chair Morris reiterated that it is important for SCP not to delineate which members take the stipend and which do not. Member Nicholls discussed a former youth member the CAC had in the past.

3:05 p.m. Member Lipp exited the meeting.

Member Dowd stated that there is value in having younger members and reminded the Committee that meetings are usually held when young people have class. He added that SCP should look at other organizations that have stipends.

Public Comment: None

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(3:08 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 02:08:24)

None

### **ADJOURN**

(3:08 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 02:08:45)

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



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