

# MEETING MINUTES COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025 1:00 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_

# **CALL TO ORDER**

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

Chair Morris called the meeting to order.

Committee Members present: Chair Morris, and Members Hollinshead, Soto, Dowd, Wang, Hagen, Heffler, and Nicholls. Vice Chair Lipp and Member Kelly were absent with prior notice.

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Michael Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; Garth Salisbury, Chief Financial Officer; Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations; Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs; Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning and Analytics; Rebecca Simonson, Director of Capital Projects and Engineering; Miles Horton, Legislative Policy & Community Engagement Manager; and Kimberly Beltran, Technical Programs Manager.

### **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR**

(1:03 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:03:21)

- Approve November 21, 2024, Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
- Receive Scope of Work and Terms and Conditions with the California Energy Commission for Virtual Power Plant Approaches for Flexibility Grant Committing \$1,091,000 in Sonoma Clean Power Match Funds Over Four Years

Public Comment: None

Motion to approve the January 16, 2025, Community Advisory Committee Consent Calendar by Member Nicholls

Second: Member Heffler

Motion passed by roll call vote.

AYES: Morris, Hollinshead, Soto, Dowd, Wang, Hagen, Heffler, Nicholls

ABSENT: Lipp, Kelly

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

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

(1:05 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:05:28)

1:06 p.m. Member Kelly entered the meeting.

Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations, congratulated the new members of the Board of Directors (Board) who had been seated and thanked outgoing Board members for their service. Director Reynolds discussed the December 5, 2025, Earthquake response and she requested that the Community Advisory Committee (Committee) submit their 2025 member statements for inclusion in the next month's agenda packet. Kimberly Beltran, Technical Programs Manager, gave an update on the Juice Box charging station program and explained the outreach and transition that SCP is planning. Director Reynolds discussed SCP's audited financials.

Member Heffler asked what can be done with his charger at this point and Ms. Beltran explained that there is a new pilot program in the works but recommended that people check online with their daily power management in the program. Member Hollinshead asked what the total customer base for the Juicebox program was and Ms. Beltran answered that it was about 220,000 meters. Geof Syphers, CEO, mentioned that there would be an upcoming item discussing strategies for EV charging. CEO Syphers then thanked Member Heffler for the invitation to the Sonoma Rotary meeting. Geof mentioned that Constellation is buying Calpine and that Calpine's call center for SCP customers is being transitioned to the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District. Member Hollinshead asked if the purchase of Calpine will affect GeoZone projects, and CEO Syphers responded that it is too early to tell. Chair Morris encouraged all members to think about taking on a leadership role in the Committee.

Public Comment: None

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

(1:29 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:29:27)

Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, discussed the California State University Monterey Bay Campus which PG&E had announced would be all electric, then recently submitted a motion to pull out of the agreement because of difficulty in completing the project. Director Reardon also discussed how SCP will be leading advocacy at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for CCA pilot programs throughout the state.

Member Soto asked if there was any insight regarding decommissioning or upgrades from PG&E and Director Reardon said that SCP is trying to get data from PG&E regarding their plans for decommissioning. Member Hollinshead asked what portion of Sonoma County was plumbed for natural gas and CEO Syphers responded that a majority of Sonoma County is and all incorporated cities in Sonoma County are plumbed.

Miles Horton, Legislative Policy & Community Engagement Manager, announced that the legislative season was kicking off and that SCP was going to attend the CalCCA Lobby Day in Sacramento on January 29, 2025. Mr. Horton also let the Committee know that SCP would be having its own lobby day in March.

Public Comment: None

5. Receive Geothermal Opportunity Zone Update

(1:41 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:41:35)

Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning and Analytics, announced that Chevron had disclosed its site in the GeoZone as Pocket Ranch, but at the same time Chevron made an internal decision to defer their decision on drilling an exploration well on the site. Director Tracey explained that delays are to be expected but this is still disappointing because Chevron would be unable to receive the Department of Energy's geothermal grant. Director Tracey also announced that there will be a GeoZone Town Hall meeting on February 6, 2025. CEO Syphers added that it is difficult for our partners in the GeoZone to permit in California so one of SCP's goals is to look for strategies to streamline the permitting process.

Member Hollinshead asked if this was pushing completion back and CEO Syphers responded that it was hard to know at this point. Member Soto asked if the uniqueness of the GeoZone is a drawback to many companies and CEO Syphers responded that he didn't think so but there are drilling challenges for every different type of rock. Member Hollinshead asked if awareness was growing for the need to enhance the permitting process because of climate change and CEO Syphers responded that the conversation is growing in Sacramento and Washinton, D.C. CEO Syphers added that SCP is working with Chevron to understand how to improve the process and what would be helpful in the future. Member Kelly asked how the Geysers are depleted and Director Tracey answered that whenever you extract water and heat from a traditional hydrothermal system, the water level lowers, but the water recharge program helped to stabilize the Geysers. Chair Morris asked how large Chevron's property is west of the Geysers and Director Tracey answered that it was over 1,000 acres.

Public Comment: None

6. Recommend the Board Adopt Purchasing Policy for Local Energy Projects

(2:01 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:00:58)

Rebecca Simonson, Director of Capital Projects and Engineering, gave a presentation on the Draft Purchasing Policy for Local Energy Projects for SCP. Director Simonson stated that SCP currently has a local investment fund, and the funds would be used for SCP to own and operate its own energy projects with the goal of lowering customer rates. CEO Syphers added that SCP will see purchasing opportunities in the future and want the funds to be ready when they arise.

Chair Morris said that the parameters of the policy look good, and Member Dowd said that the policy allows SCP to be nimble.

Public Comment: Ben Peters discussed the Petaluma Climate Action Commission and SCP's technical review process.

Motion to recommend the Board adopt purchasing policy for local energy projects by Member Hollinshead

Second: Member Nicholls

Motion passed by roll call vote.

AYES: Morris, Hollinshead, Soto, Dowd, Wang, Kelly, Hagen, Heffler, Nicholls

ABSENT: Lipp

# **COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(2:16 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:16:48)

None

# PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

(2:17 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:17:23)

Public Comment: None

### **ADJOURN**

(2:17 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:17:46)

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted

Darin A. Bartow, JD Clerk of the Board