



**MEETING MINUTES
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025
1:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

(1:05 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:03:45)

Chair Morris called the meeting to order.

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

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Michael Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; Garth Salisbury, Chief Financial Officer; Scott Lawrence, Senior Commercial Accounts Manager; Leif Christiansen, Commercial Accounts Manager; Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs; Miles Horton, Legislative Policy & Community Engagement Manager; and Chris Golik, Revenue Manager

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR

(1:06 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:04:53)

1. Approve January 16, 2025, Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
2. Receive Generation Rates Effective February 1, 2025
3. Receive Monthly Investment Activity Report
4. Recommend the Board Approve and Authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his Designee to Execute an Amendment to the Legal Services Agreement with Keyes & Fox LLP, for Legal Services with a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$300,000 for a Term of 1 year

Public Comment: None

Motion to approve the February 20, 2025, Community Advisory Committee Consent Calendar by Member Dowd

Second: Member Nicholls

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

ABSENT: Heffler

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR

5. Nominate and Appoint a Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Advisory Committee for 2025

(1:08 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:06:28)

Chair Morris thanked the Committee for her time as Chair and opened nominations for Chair of the Community Advisory Committee by nominating Vice Chair Lipp. Vice Chair Lipp accepted the nomination.

Public Comment: None

Motion to appoint Vice Chair Lipp as the Chair of the Committee by Chair Morris

Second: Member Nicholls

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

ABSENT: Heffler

Member Morris passed the gavel to Chair Lipp. Chair Lipp then nominated Member Kelly to be Vice Chair of the Committee. Member Kelly accepted the nomination.

Public Comment: None

Motion to nominate and appoint Member Kelly as the Vice Chair of the Community Advisory Committee by Chair Lipp

Second: Member Nicholls

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

ABSENT: Heffler

Chair Lipp asked Geof Syphers, CEO, to discuss goals that were priorities for Community Advisory Committee (Committee) Members. CEO Syphers explained that the Committee Members shared a lot of goals in common including affordability, customer protections, program designs, the GeoZone, grid capacity, renewable storage, and workforce development. Chair Lipp stated he was impressed by the experience on the Committee.

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

(1:16 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:15:37)

CEO Syphers invited Scott Lawrence, Senior Commercial Accounts Manager and Leif Christiansen, Commercial Accounts Manager, to discuss the Climate Action Commission meeting they attended in Sonoma. Mr. Lawrence then discussed SCP's customer service, and he gave an update on the amount that Customer Service had saved SCP's small business customers, which was nearly \$172,000. CEO Syphers said that this is an example of how SCP is a ratepayer advocate.

Member Hollinshead asked how EverGreen provides 100% renewables in the winter and CEO Syphers explained that geothermal energy supplies most of the winter and nighttime energy. Member Wang asked what industries made up the savings and Mr. Lawrence said that they were from many different areas and added that SCP was continually looking for any customers who would want their rates and bills analyzed. Member Dowd asked if PG&E would transfer the savings to other customers and Mr. Lawrence said it would be spread over the entire base. Member Nicholls mentioned that PG&E has a rate tool. Chair Lipp added that the CPUC was going to look at affordability and when available he would like to see an analysis of the reports. Vice Chair Kelly said he would like to see an analysis of interest rates included and CEO Syphers said that SCP is beginning to do that.

Garth Salisbury, CFO, gave an update on SCP's financials and told the Committee that going forward there would be a new Financial and Investment

report item. Chair Lipp said that he is happy to see money invested in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF).

Public Comment: David Harris discussed the rate plan analysis.

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

(1:41 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:39:59)

Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair and discussed the CPUC addressing affordability in 2025. CEO Syphers added that lowering electricity costs is also a way of meeting climate objectives because it makes electric appliances more attractive. Miles Horton, Legislative Policy & Community Engagement Manager, gave an update. He stated that March 4, 2025, would be SCP's lobby day in Sacramento and SCP would be adding a second day. Mr. Horton mentioned that because California regulations make it hard to obtain permits, SCP would be focused on geothermal permitting this legislative session. He stated that the bills that SCP was focusing on were AB 526 (Papan) which would pave the way for offshore wind, AB 527 (Papan) which would create a permit exclusion for geothermal well drilling, and AB 531 (Rogers) which would create an opt in process with the California Energy Commission as the sole permitting agency for geothermal.

Member Hollinshead asked if the Trump Administration takes issue with geothermal and Mr. Horton answered that the current administration is favorable to geothermal. Member Hagen asked if the incoming head of the EPA will be favorable, and CEO Syphers answered that it is too soon to know. Vice Chair Kelly asked how other states participate and CEO Syphers explained that the 12 western states are part of the same grid and can purchase together but the constraint is transmission. Member Dowd stated that he was mad about what is happening at Sonoma State University, and he brought attention to SCP's letter regarding the funding cuts.

Public Comment: None

8. Receive Geothermal Opportunity Zone Update

(2:03 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:01:34)

Mr. Horton discussed the GeoZone Townhall that SCP held in Cloverdale in February. He stated that areas of focus included seismic activity and safety, water use, how the drilling for geothermal wells was different than oil and gas fracking, and the local impacts. CEO Syphers thanked the SCP team for their work on the GeoZone.

Chair Lipp said that thoughtful engagement was necessary, and Member Nicholls said he was impressed by the economic consideration that was given by Mayor Todd Lands of Cloverdale. Hollinshead asked what the heating time frame was for the heat storage project and Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning and Analytics answered that it had a 20-hour cycle but could heat quickly. Member Hollinshead asked what long-term storage SCP was looking at and Director Tracey answered that it would be part of this year's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).

Public Comment: None

9. Recommend the Board Approve Proposed Budget Adjustments for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

(2:17 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:25:37)

CFO Salisbury explained that this item comes from looking at financial information through December 2024 and he introduced Chris Golik, Revenue Manager, to explain the budget adjustments. Mr. Golik explained that the changes were already discussed in the November rate setting parameters. He said that SCP had an increase of \$56 million in its fund balance and costs were down \$38 million. CEO Syphers added that SCP would be switching to the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) as its billing provider.

Public Comment: None

Motion to recommend the Board Approve Proposed Budget Adjustments for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 by Member Dowd

Second: Vice Chair Kelly

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

ABSENT: Heffler

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

(2:26 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:25:18)

Member Soto announced that the Sonoma State Legislative Forum would be live streaming on February 21, 2025, and he encouraged attendance. Member Hagen recommended SCP purchasing closed landfills.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

(2:30 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:28:37)

Public Comment: David Harris discussed fixed electric charges.

ADJOURN

(2:32 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:30:39)

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darin A. Bartow". The signature is stylized and includes a horizontal line at the end.

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