



**MEETING MINUTES  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY,  
MAY 15, 2025  
1:00 P.M.**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

(1:02 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:02:21)

Chair Lipp called the meeting to order.

Committee Members present: Chair Lipp, Members Hollinshead, Soto, Dowd, Wang, Hagen, Morris, and Nicholls. Vice Chair Kelly and Member Heffler were absent without prior notice.

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Michael Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning and Analytics; and Adam Jorge, Senior Decarbonization Policy Manager.

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR**

(1:03 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:03:28)

1. Approve April 17, 2025, Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
2. Receive Monthly Financial Report
3. Receive Legislative and Regulatory Updates and Provide Feedback as Appropriate
4. Recommend the Board of Directors Delegate Authority to the Chief Executive Officer or his Designee to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with S2 Advertising for Comprehensive Media Consulting Services with a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$2,100,000 over a Three-Year Term
5. Recommend the Board of Directors Approve and Authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his Designee to Execute a New Contract with Sonoma Water for the Continuation of the Energy and Environment Education Program

through June 30, 2027, with an Annual Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$300,000 and Aggregate Contract Value of \$600,000

6. Receive Internal Operations Report and Provide Feedback as Appropriate

*1:03 Vice Chair Kelly entered the meeting.*

Public Comment: None

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

Second: Member Dowd

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

ABSENT: Heffler

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR**

7. Receive Geothermal Opportunity Zone Update and Recommend the Board Approve the Delegated Authority to the Chief Executive Officer or his Designee to Execute Amendment #1 to the Geothermal Opportunity Zone Cooperation Agreement with Eavor Inc.

(1:05 p.m. – Video Time Stamp: 00:05:02)

Geof Syphers, CEO, introduced the item by giving background on SCP's legislative efforts regarding geothermal energy and introduced Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning and Analytics. Director Tracey reported that SCP's GeoZone partners are not meeting original deadlines, and that SCP has ended its agreement with Cyrq Energy. Director Tracey explained that Eavor also faces delays due to difficulties securing a project site, and he stated that SCP proposes amending the agreement to retain Eavor as a partner and keep the project moving. Director Tracey mentioned that Eavor may bring in a third-party investor to provide capital and expertise.

Member Morris asked how third-party involvement would affect the project and Director Tracey explained the third party would offer financial, development, and technical support. Member Hollinshead inquired about geothermal equipment lifespan and costs and Director Tracey mentioned that

initial costs are high, but long-term operational costs are low, and that SCP will likely purchase power from GeoZone projects via a 20-year fixed-price agreement, and he mentioned that Eavor's technology generates both electricity and heat, which could be used for heating and cooling nearby buildings. Member Hollinshead asked if the closed-loop system requires hot rock and Director Tracey clarified that while hot rock may be preferred, it is not required.

Public Comment: None

Motion to recommend the Board Approve the Delegated Authority to the Chief Executive Officer or his Designee to Execute Amendment #1 to the Geothermal Opportunity Zone Cooperation Agreement with Eavor Inc. by Member Hollinshead

Second: Member Nicholls

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

ABSENT: Heffler

8. Recommend the Board of Directors Approve Revised Environmental Performance Targets for the Sonoma Clean Power Portfolio to Improve Rate Competitiveness

(1:18 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:18:05)

Director Tracey stated that in 2022 SCP created an ambitious environmental target of building a portfolio that by 2026 SCP would be delivering as much clean energy to the grid on an hourly basis as its load was incurring. Director Tracey explained that due to regulatory and market shifts, the cost of meeting this target has increased significantly and staff now recommend adjusting the voluntary target to 85% mitigation.

Chair Lipp asked if other CCAs have similar goals and Director Tracey noted that Peninsula Clean Power had a comparable target but has since scaled back, and some CCAs have no voluntary goals. Member Hollinshead questioned why economic collapse isn't factored into cost projections and CEO Syphers responded that while there's no perfect answer, SCP's role includes helping customers manage energy costs to maintain public support

for emissions reduction. Member Soto emphasized balancing economic concerns with SCP's leadership role and asked about differences between the 85% and 100% targets. CEO Syphers explained that the 85% goal still exceeds the standards of other California providers while reducing the cost burden on ratepayers. Vice Chair Kelly stressed the importance of price stability, while Member Hagen asked about nuclear power's role. Director Tracey said nuclear procurement has helped SCP reach its current mitigation level. Member Morris supported the 85% target as a balanced approach, though noted it doesn't account for the benefits of avoided CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and she underscored the importance of hourly emissions tracking and urged continued progress toward 100%, especially as national emissions may rise in the future.

Public Comment: None

Motion to recommend the Board of Directors Approve Revised Environmental Performance Targets for the Sonoma Clean Power Portfolio to Improve Rate Competitiveness by Member Morris

Second: Member Dowd

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

ABSENT: Heffler

9. Recommend the Board of Directors Determine that Expansion to Unincorporated Lake County, the City of Clearlake, and the City of Lakeport is Consistent with Policy D-4 and Begin Consideration of Proposed Expansion with an Intent to Offer Service After 60-Day Waiting Period

(1:43 P.M. - Video Time Stamp: 00:43:48)

CEO Syphers expressed support for expanding SCP service to Lake County, citing potential benefits for both Lake County and SCP's existing customers. He emphasized the need to consider expansion carefully because it is difficult to exit a CCA once it is joined. Director Ryan Tracey noted the expansion is projected to generate savings, which could be used for ratepayer relief or reserves.

Chair Lipp highlighted the importance of aligning expansion with key SCP priorities like the GeoZone. Member Dowd supported expansion, pointing to

Lake County's proximity to SCP's service area and geothermal fields, as well as limited future expansion opportunities. Vice Chair Kelly asked about future savings from utility debt repayments, and CEO Syphers responded that significant savings are unlikely, as aging fossil fuel resources are still in use. Member Hagen asked how Lake County compares to Mendocino County regarding risk and CEO Syphers said Lake County carries slightly higher non-payment risk, which could be mitigated through small rate adjustments. Member Morris asked about the cost of propane vs. electricity and CEO Syphers explained propane is more expensive than natural gas and roughly comparable to electricity. Member Morris asked if SCP might issue bonds to fund reserve gaps and CEO Syphers responded it's uncertain but possible. Member Morris then asked whether opt-out rates in Lake County would likely match those seen in Mendocino, and CEO Syphers said opt-out rates are difficult to predict due to various factors. Member Wang asked if Lake could join another CCA, and CEO Syphers said nearby CCAs are unlikely to serve the area. Member Hagen inquired about the cost of switching from propane to electricity.

Public Comment: None

Motion to recommend the Board of Directors Determine that Expansion to Unincorporated Lake County, the City of Clearlake, and the City of Lakeport is Consistent with Policy D-4 and Begin Consideration of Proposed Expansion with an Intent to Offer Service After 60-Day Waiting Period by Member Dowd

Second: Member Kelly

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

ABSENT: Heffler

#### 10. Receive a Presentation on Energy Sector Regulatory Agencies

(2:39 P.M. - Video Time Stamp: 01:39:14)

CEO Syphers introduced Adam Jorge, Senior Decarbonization Policy Manager, who gave a presentation on policy development, key energy regulatory agencies, and SCP's progress in this area.

Vice Chair Kelly asked how customer interests are represented in California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) general rate cases, and Mr. Jorge explained that advocacy is primarily handled through CalCCA and other trade groups. CEO Syphers added that, despite 25 active CCAs, their influence on rates remains limited, as the CPUC is evaluated more on policy implementation than on rate outcomes. Member Morris asked if regulatory agency board members are appointed by the governor, and Mr. Jorge said they are with confirmation from the State Senate. Chair Kelly asked how CCAs collaborate in the regulatory process, and Mr. Jorge said SCP handles local issues in-house and works with CalCCA on statewide efforts.

Public Comment: None

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(3:13 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 02:13:32)

Member Hagen announced she is now a grandmother.

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

(3:15 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 02:15:03)

Public Comment: None

### **ADJOURN**

(3:15 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 02:15:21)

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



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