



**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025  
1:00 P.M.**

---

**CALL TO ORDER**

(1:01 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:00:05)

Chair Lipp called the meeting to order.

Committee Members present: Chair Lipp, Vice Chair Kelly, Members Hollinshead, Soto, Dowd, Wang, Hagen, Morris, Heffler and Nicholls.

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Michael Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations; Adam Jorge, Senior Decarbonization Policy Manager; Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs; Miles Horton, Legislative Policy & Community Engagement Manager; Bryan Wolfe, Marketing Specialist; Chris Golik, Senior Finance Manager; Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning & Analytics

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR**

(1:02 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:02:26)

1. Approve June 12, 2025, Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
2. Receive Monthly Financial Report
3. Receive Geothermal Opportunity Zone Update

Public Comment: None

Motion to approve June 12, 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, Heffler, Morris, Nicholls

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR**

### **4. Receive Internal Operations Report and Provide Feedback as Appropriate**

(1:05 p.m. – Video Time Stamp: 00:04:40)

Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations, provided program updates and introduced Bryan Wolfe, Marketing Specialist, who reported on door-to-door solicitors falsely claiming to represent or partner with Sonoma Clean Power or PG&E. He clarified that Sonoma Clean Power does not conduct door-to-door solicitations and urged residents not to share personal information, sign documents, or allow solicitors into their homes. Director Reynolds announced cancellation of the August 21, 2025 Community Advisory Committee meeting. Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer, introduced new art on display at the office by Peter Spencer and Viola Weinberg. CEO Syphers noted PG&E's forecasted increase to the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) and reduction in generation rates for January 2026. He announced that to address this, the August Board Meeting will include a proposed September rate increase to build reserves and stabilize bills.

Member Nicholls asked about ratepayers paying about \$300/year for the California Climate Credit. Adam Jorge, Senior Decarbonization Policy Manager, explained the Climate Credit comes from cap-and-trade auction revenue indirectly funded by ratepayers. He stated that he will review the changes Member Nicholls referenced and report back to the CAC. Vice Chair Kelly suggested that SCP explain to the public that it has been preparing for this scenario by building funds to smooth out rate increases.

Public Comment: None

### **5. Receive Legislative and Regulatory Updates and Provide Feedback as Appropriate**

(1:22 p.m. – Video Time Stamp: 00:22:15)

Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, stated that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted the decision to revise the credit that SCP customers are granted through the PCIA. Director Reardon explained that SCP

has submitted comments opposing the decision, which sets part of the PCIA fee based on an average of the prior four years of market prices rather than just the prior year. Member Nicholls asked if there is a legislative option to address the CPUC's decision and Director Reardon explained that there are potential ways for legislators to address this issue. CEO Syphers shared that SCP is reviewing how other states have handled the fees CCA customers owe back to the legacy utilities.. Member Heffler asked for the CPUC's rationale for this decision. CEO Syphers explained that this is essentially an interest-free loan from CCAs to other customers, which could reverse under different market conditions. Vice Chair Kelly asked for the CPUC's mission to which Director Reardon answered that their mission is to provide affordable, reliable, clean accessible power to customers.

Miles Horton, Legislative Policy & Community Engagement Manager, provided updates on SCP-sponsored bills: AB 527 (Papan) passed unanimously; AB 531 (Rogers) passed 6-1. Director Lipp asked for the dissenter's rationale and lessons learned. Mr. Horton described several opposition concerns and how they were addressed. Member Hollinshead asked about geothermal impacts. CEO Syphers said the risks of developing geothermal resources in California remain high despite these bills and suggested that federal investment into early projects here could be valuable in further reducing those risks. Member Nicholls asked if SCP has worked with Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) to support AB 531 (Rogers). Mr. Horton explained that the RCRC opposes AB 205's opt-in permitting, which AB 531 relies on.

Member Heffler asked if SCP has learned anything from Calpine's new geothermal plant and their experience. CEO Syphers said SCP is monitoring Calpine's progress but also noted Calpine's technology is a bit different than those that SCP is pursuing. Vice Chair Kelly asked about balancing geothermal development and community involvement. CEO Syphers replied that SCP's GeoZone project aims to do just that by guiding responsible development and influencing policy with community involvement. Member Hagen asked if Calpine is willing to work with us on the GeoZone project. CEO Syphers explained that we are actively communicating with Calpine about opportunities, but no formal partnership has been established yet.

Public Comment: None

7. Recommend the Board of Directors Adopt a Resolution Offering Participation in Sonoma Clean Power to Unincorporated Lake County, the City of Clearlake, and the City of Lakeport

Item taken out of order at the direction of Chair Lipp.

(1:58 p.m. – Video Time Stamp: 00:58:35)

CEO Syphers reported on the potential Lake County expansion. SCP's Board will vote on August 7, 2025, to extend service. CEO Syphers explained that a key challenge is the potential scenario where only one or two jurisdictions join, but not all three, which would result in SCP running two enrollment rounds when the remaining jurisdiction chose to join later, thus doubling costs and effort. He shared that both jurisdictions had questions regarding GeoZone participation being tied to SCP membership and clarified that finding strong alignment on constructing new geothermal energy across Sonoma, Mendocino and Lake Counties is important.

Chair Lipp asked what happens if not all jurisdictions join and CEO Syphers replied that he would recommend to the Board that any remaining ones must wait a year to reapply—similar to the approach taken during SCP's initial launch. Member Dowd suggested higher stipends for CAC members to cover costs and attract Lake County talent. Chair Lipp agreed. Vice Chair Kelly asked how a high PCIA affects expansion timing. CEO Syphers replied that the earliest service is May 2027, and we can't predict what the PCIA will be then. Vice Chair Kelly stated that he believes that participating in SCP and the GeoZone should go hand in hand.

Member Wang asked about opt-outs. CEO Syphers replied that they are unpredictable. Member Wang commented that greener options are often assumed to be more expensive. Chair Lipp supported the idea of SCP servicing Lake County and requiring GeoZone participation. Member Soto asked if there can be assurances made that renewable projects in Lake County would not be extractive. CEO Syphers explained that having someone from Lake County on SCP's board would mean that they could help steer that and ensure sensitivity to the needs of Lake County. Member Dowd asked if there will be additional members on the advisory committee. CEO Syphers confirmed that two additional seats for Lake County would be added to SCP's Board of Directors, and that SCP would keep an eleven-member Community Advisory Committee, with Lake County members joining that committee.

Public Comment: None

Motion to recommend the Board of Directors Adopt a Resolution Offering Participation in Sonoma Clean Power to Unincorporated Lake County, the City of Clearlake, and the City of Lakeport by Member Dowd.

Chair Lipp made a friendly amendment on the motion to include a formal agreement to join the GeoZone as part of the SCP participation. Member Dowd supported this addition.

Second: Member Hollinshead

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

6. Receive Update on Sponsored Research at Princeton University for Transmission Planning Under Uncertainty

(3:10 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:41:18)

Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning and Analytics, provided background on Princeton University's "capacity expansion model," which projects California's future resource mix and transmission needs. Chair Lipp asked about CAISO's (California Independent System Operator) role. Director Tracey explained CAISO uses the CPUC's deterministic model for grid planning. Member Morris asked who pays transmission costs. Director Tracey replied that ratepayers do via the "transmission access charge." Member Morris then asked about CPUC/PG&E response. Director Tracey replied that CPUC staff were engaged but had limited resources. Member Soto asked about downside risk. Director Tracey clarified that it falls on ratepayers. Member Hagen asked if the model is ongoing. Director Tracey said it is open-source and adaptable for future use. Member Hollinshead asked what increased transmission capacity looks like. Director Tracey said the model identifies specific investments needed. Vice Chair Kelly raised concerns about additional pressures from hotter summers, AI, and EV growth and whether they are fully considered.

Public Comment: None

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(3:10 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 02:10:00)

Member Soto shared that he will be teaching his Energy Technology and Society class at Sonoma State University this fall. He is looking for any community case studies around energy which students could help with.

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

(3:11 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 02:11:16)

Public Comment: None

## **ADJOURN**

(3:11 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 02:11:41)

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Karen Flores**  
**Clerk of the Board**