

# AGENDA COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 1:00 P.M.

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EXCEPT AS PERMITTED BY GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(F), MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE SEMPTEMBER 18, 2025, MEETING AT THE LOCATION SHOWN BELOW.

#### SONOMA CLEAN POWER BUSINESS OFFICE 431 E STREET SANTA ROSA, CA 95404

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING AT THE ABOVE PHYSICAL LOCATION OR VIEW REMOTELY THROUGH:

• Webinar link: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89591222887">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89591222887</a>

Telephone number: 1 (669) 444-9171
Meeting ID: 895 9122 2887

#### How to Submit Public Comment:

Comments may be provided in person at the physical meeting location. Comments may be submitted in writing to <a href="meetings@sonomacleanpower.org">meetings@sonomacleanpower.org</a>. For detailed public comment instructions, <a href="please visit this page">please visit this page</a>. Please note that live remote public comment will not be taken unless required by Government Code section 54953(f). If required, it will be announced by the Chair. Members of the public should attend in person or provide written comment to ensure they can provide public comment.

For written comments, state the agenda item number that you are commenting on and limited to 300 words. Written comments received prior to the meeting and/or the agenda item you wish to comment on will be read into the record up to 300 words.

DISABLED ACCOMMODATION: If you have a disability which requires an accommodation or an alternative format, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (707) 757-9417, or by email at meetings@sonomacleanpower.org as soon as possible to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

For further clarification on any of the items listed please contact (855) 202-2139 and staff will be happy to assist.

Staff recommendations are guidelines to the Committee. On any item, the Committee may take action which varies from that recommended by staff.

## **CALL TO ORDER (Any private remote meeting attendance will be noticed or approved at this time)**

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

	1.	Approve July 17, 2025, Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (Staff Recommendation: Approve)	pg. 5
	2.	Receive Monthly Financial Report (Staff Recommendation: Receive and File)	pg. 11
	3.	Receive Geothermal Opportunity Zone Update (Staff Recommendation: Receive and File)	pg. 23
	4.	Recommend the Board of Directors Approve the Proposed Budget Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 to Allocate the Board-Approved \$500,000 Grant for The Economic Launchpad Hub to the Marketing & Communications Budget Line (Staff Recommendation: Approve)	pg. 27
	5.	Recommend the Board of Directors Approve and Delegate Authority to the CEO or Designee to Execute an Agreement for Professional Services with Maher Accountancy for an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$982,044, through June 30, 2028 (Staff Recommendation: Approve)	pg. 49
	6.	Recommend the Board of Directors Adopt Resolution 2025-05 Attesting to the Accuracy of Sonoma Clean Power Authority's 2024 Power Source Disclosure Annual Report (Staff Recommendation: Approve)	pg. 51
	7.	Approve Community Advisory Committee Meeting Dates for 2026 Calendar Year (Staff Recommendation: Approve)	pg. 53
	8.	Recommend the Board of Directors Adopt Resolution 2025-06 Delegating Investment Authority to the Treasurer (Staff Recommendation: Approve)	pg. 55
	9.	Recommend the Board of Directors Approve Adding Sonoma Clean Power Authority's Chief Financial Officer to the Authority's Energy Risk Management Policy (Staff Recommendation: Approve)	pg. 59
co	MN	MUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR	
	10	Receive Internal Operations Report and Provide Feedback as Appropriate (Staff Recommendation: Receive and File)	pg. 67
	11	Receive Legislative and Regulatory Updates and Provide Feedback as Appropriate (Staff Recommendation: Receive and File)	pg. 77
	12	Receive an Update on Sonoma Clean Power Authority's Internship Program Structure and Recent Developments (Staff Recommendation: Receive and File)	pg. 83

Staff recommendations are guidelines to the Committee. On any item, the Committee may take action which varies from that recommended by staff.

13. Recommend the Board of Directors Approve and Authorize the Chief Executive Officer or His Designee to Negotiate and Execute Professional Services Agreements with All In Heating and Cooling LLC (Not-To-Exceed \$130,000) and Synergy Companies, Inc. (Not-To-Exceed \$488,000) For Smart Thermostat Installations and Appliance Assessments, Both Through December 31, 2027 (Staff Recommendation: Approve)

pg. 91

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

(Comments are restricted to matters within the Committee's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to three minutes, or 300 words if written.)

#### **ADJOURN**

#### COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS AND TERMS

CAC Community Advisory Committee

CAISO California Independent Systems Operator - the grid operator

CCA Community Choice Aggregator - a community-owned public power provider

CEC California Energy Commission

CleanStart SCP's default power service

CPUC California Public Utilities Commission

DER Distributed Energy Resource

ERRA Energy Resource Recovery Account - one of PG&E's rate cases at the CPUC

EverGreen SCP's 100% renewable, 100% local energy service, and the first service in the United States

providing renewable power every hour of every day.

Geothermal A locally available, low-carbon baseload renewable resource

GHG Greenhouse gas

GRC General Rate Case - one of PG&E's rate cases at the CPUC

GridSavvy GridSavvy Rewards are available to SCP customers for reducing household energy use to

help California increase power reliability.

IOU Investor-Owned Utility - for-profit distribution utilities like PG&E

IRP Integrated Resource Plan - balancing energy needs with energy resources

JPA Joint Powers Authority

MW Megawatt is a unit of power and measures how fast energy is being used or produced at

one moment.

MWh Megawatt-hour is a unit of energy and measures how much energy is used or produced

over time.

NEM Net Energy Metering. NEM is a billing mechanism that credits solar energy system owners

for the electricity they add to the grid.

PCIA Power Charge Indifference Adjustment - a fee charged by PG&E to all electric customers

to ensure PG&E can pay for excess power supply contracts that it no longer needs.

RA Resource Adequacy - a required form of capacity that helps ensure there are sufficient

power resources available when needed.

RPS Renewables Portfolio Standard refers to certain kinds of renewable energy which qualify to

meet state requirements, including wind, solar, geothermal.

SCP Sonoma Clean Power

TOU Time of Use, used to refer to rates that differ by time of day



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

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#### **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)

- Approve June 12, 2025, Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
- 2. Receive Monthly Financial Report
- 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.



#### **Staff Report - Item 02**

To: Sonoma Clean Power Authority Community Advisory Committee

From: Garth Salisbury, Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer

**Chris Golik, Senior Finance Manager** 

**Issue: Receive Monthly Financial Report** 

Date: September 18, 2025

#### **Monthly Financial Report**

The Financial Report is to inform the Community Advisory Committee (Committee) of monthly financial results and investment activity. Additionally, the Monthly Financial Report will include an Investment Report which is a summary of investments and investment activity in SCP's portfolio. The Investment Report and associated attachments are to inform the Board pursuant to the requirements of SCP's Financial Policy B.5 Investments and Government Code Section 53607. This is an informational item only.

This report includes commentary for the June unaudited financial statements and budgetary comparison, which correspond to the end of Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Links to the April and May unaudited financial statements and budgetary comparisons, which have yet to be reviewed by the Committee, can be found in the Attachments section. The delay in reporting for these months was due to SCP's recent transition from Calpine to SMUD as our data provider as well as the cancellation of the August Committee meeting.

#### Monthly Compiled Financial Statements (June 30, 2025)

Relative to the amended budget, the year-to-date change in net position is more than projections by approximately \$26,589,000. Year-to-date revenue from electricity sales is below projections by less than 1% and cost of energy is under projections by approximately 10%. Year-to-date electricity sales reached \$259,803,000.

SCP maintains a balanced portfolio by procuring electricity from multiple sources. Net position reached a positive \$311,495,000. Approximately \$231,889,000 is set aside for operating reserves as of June 30, 2024.

Other operating expenses continued near or slightly below planned levels for the year.

#### **Budgetary Comparison Schedule (June 30, 2025)**

The accompanying budgetary comparison includes the amended 2024/25 budget approved by the Board of Directors. The budget is formatted to make comparisons for both the annual and the year-to-date perspective. The first column, 2024/25 YTD Amended Budget, allocates the Board approved annual budget at expected levels throughout the year with consideration for the timing of additional customers, usage volumes, staffing needs etc. This column represents our best estimates, and this granular approach was not part of the Board approved budget.

Revenue from electricity sales to customers was under the amended budget by less than 1% at the end of the reporting period.

The cost of electricity was less than the budget-to-date by approximately 10%. Variation in this account is typically due to fluctuating market cost of energy on open-position purchases.

Major operating categories of Data Management fees and PG&E Service fees are based on the customer account totals.

In addition to the items mentioned above, SCP continues its trend of remaining near or under budget for most of its operating expenses.

#### **Monthly Investment Report**

This report is to verify and report in writing to the Committee regarding the responsibilities designated to the SCP Treasurer pursuant to SCP Financial Policy B.5 Investments. The Investment Policy was amended in 2024 expanding the definition of Permitted Investments, adding several investment diversification requirements, best practices and requiring additional reporting requirements to the Board and stakeholders as follows.

Monthly Obligation to Report on New Investment Transactions

Government Code Section 53607 and SCP's Investment Policy require SCP to report to the Board and stakeholders any investment transactions (defined as purchases, sales or exchanges of securities) made during the month as soon as is practicable after the end of the month. Given the scheduling of the SCP's Committee meetings during the third week of the month, the investment report will indicate investment transactions that occurred

the prior month (August 2025). Note that this report also includes July 2025 transactions and investment holdings because the August Committee meeting was cancelled.

SCP currently maintains bank accounts and investments at River City Bank (RCB), Summit State Bank, the State of California Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) and USBank. Active individual securities are held at both RCB and USBank. Staff will provide Statements of Investments as required throughout the year.

#### **Reportable Activities**

#### **USBank**

In November of 2024, the Board approved amendments to SCP Investment Policy as recommended by SCP's investment advisor, Chandler Asset Management (CAM). As of July 31<sup>st</sup>, CAM managed about \$70 million of SCP's reserves. All investments directed by CAM are held at SCP's custodian, USBank. All investments held as of July 31, 2025, at USBank appear as Attachment 7 with new holdings purchased in July highlighted. USBank transaction details for the month of July, including sales and maturities of securities, are in Attachment 8.

Investments held as of August 31, 2025, at USBank remained around \$70 million and appear as Attachment 11 with new holdings purchased in August highlighted. USBank transaction details for the month of August, including sales and maturities of securities, are in Attachment 12.

#### River City Bank

A detailed statement of the investments held at River City Bank as of July 31, 2025, appears as Attachment 9. There were no investment transactions in the month of July at River City Bank.

Investments held at River City Bank as of August 31, 2025, appear as Attachment 13. River City Bank transaction details for the month of August, including sales and maturities of securities, are in Attachment 14.

#### State of California Local Agency Investment Fund

The LAIF investment balances as of July 31, 2025, and August 31, 2025, appear as Attachments 10 and 15, respectively.

#### **Attachments**

- Attachment 1 April 2025 Financial Statements, available at this link or by request to the Clerk of the Board
- Attachment 2 April 2025 Budgetary Statement, available at <u>this link</u> or by request to the Clerk of the Board
- Attachment 3 May 2025 Financial Statements, available at <u>this link</u> or by request to the Clerk of the Board
- ➤ Attachment 4 May 2025 Budgetary Statement, available at this link or by request to the Clerk of the Board
- > Attachment 5 June 2025 Financial Statements
- Attachment 6 June 2025 Budgetary Statement
- Attachment 7 July 2025 Statement of Investments Held at USBank, available at this link or by request to the Clerk of the Board
- ➤ Attachment 8 July 2025 Statement of Transactions at USBank, available at <a href="this link">this link</a> or by request to the Clerk of the Board
- ➤ Attachment 9 July 2025 Statement of Investments Held at River City Bank, available at <a href="this-link">this-link</a> or by request to the Clerk of the Board
- Attachment 10 July 2025 Statement of Investments Held at the Local Agency Investment Fund, available at this link or by request to the Clerk of the Board
- Attachment 11 August 2025 Statement of Investments Held at USBank, available at <a href="this-link">this link</a> or by request to the Clerk of the Board
- Attachment 12 August 2025 Statement of Transactions at USBank, available at this link or by request to the Clerk of the Board
- Attachment 13 August 2025 Statement of Investments Held at River City Bank, available at <a href="this link">this link</a> or by request to the Clerk of the Board
- Attachment 14 August 2025 Statement of Transactions at River City Bank, available at this link or by request to the Clerk of the Board
- Attachment 15 August 2025 Statement of Investments Held at the Local Agency Investment Fund, available at <a href="this link">this link</a> or by request to the Clerk of the Board



#### ACCOUNTANTS' COMPILATION REPORT

Management Sonoma Clean Power Authority

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial statements of Sonoma Clean Power Authority (a California Joint Powers Authority) which comprise the statement of net position as of June 30, 2025, and the related statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. We did not audit or review the accompanying statements nor were we required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion, conclusion, nor provide any assurance on these financial statements.

Management has elected to omit substantially all of the note disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America in these interim financial statements. Sonoma Clean Power Authority's annual audited financial statements include the note disclosures omitted from these interim statements. If the omitted disclosures were included in these financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the Authority's financial position, results of operations, and cash flows. Accordingly, these financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

We are not independent with respect to the Authority because we performed certain accounting services that impaired our independence.

Maher Accountancy

San Rafael, CA August 25, 2025

#### STATEMENT OF NET POSITION As of June 30, 2025

Current assets       \$ 176,915,966         Accounts receivable, net of allowance       14,712,068         Other receivables       6,487,283         Accrued revenue       12,629,965         Prepaid expenses       1,525,005         Deposits       6,245,890         Investments       71,115,825         Total current assets       289,632,002         Noncurrent assets       88,988,303         Other receivables       897,572         Deposits       16,000
Accounts receivable, net of allowance       14,712,068         Other receivables       6,487,283         Accrued revenue       12,629,965         Prepaid expenses       1,525,005         Deposits       6,245,890         Investments       71,115,825         Total current assets       289,632,002         Noncurrent assets       88,988,303         Other receivables       897,572         Deposits       16,000
Other receivables       6,487,283         Accrued revenue       12,629,965         Prepaid expenses       1,525,005         Deposits       6,245,890         Investments       71,115,825         Total current assets       289,632,002         Noncurrent assets       88,988,303         Other receivables       897,572         Deposits       16,000
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Deposits       6,245,890         Investments       71,115,825         Total current assets       289,632,002         Noncurrent assets       88,988,303         Other receivables       897,572         Deposits       16,000
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Total current assets       289,632,002         Noncurrent assets       88,988,303         Investments       88,988,303         Other receivables       897,572         Deposits       16,000
Noncurrent assets Investments Other receivables Deposits  88,988,303 897,572 16,000
Investments         88,988,303           Other receivables         897,572           Deposits         16,000
Other receivables 897,572 Deposits 16,000
Deposits 16,000
1
0 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
Capital assets, net of depreciation 17,530,123
Total noncurrent assets 107,431,998
Total assets 397,064,000
LIABILITIES
Current liabilities
Accrued cost of electricity 19,409,244
Accounts payable 1,645,094
Other accrued liabilities 2,091,804
User taxes and energy surcharges due to other governments 644,179
Supplier security deposits 4,446,353
Total current liabilities 28,236,674
Noncurrent liabilities
Supplier security deposits 1,332,121
Total liabilities 29,568,795
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES
Rate stabilization fund 56,000,000
NET POSITION
Investment in capital assets 17,530,123
Unrestricted 293,965,082
Total net position \$ 311,495,205

#### STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION Year Ended June 30, 2025

OPERATING REVENUES	
Electricity sales, net	\$ 256,682,974
Evergreen electricity premium	3,120,445
Miscellaneous income	6,538,000
Grant revenue	380,112
Total operating revenues	266,721,531
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Cost of electricity	172,915,153
Contract services	9,771,712
Staff compensation	11,060,408
Program rebates and incentives	2,389,667
Other operating expenses	2,489,640
Depreciation	1,432,943
Total operating expenses	200,059,523
Operating income	66,662,008
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)	
Investment income	15,314,580
Nonoperating revenues (expenses), net	15,314,580
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	81,976,588
Net position at beginning of year	229,518,617
Net position at end of period	\$ 311,495,205

#### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS Year Ended June 30, 2025

Receipts of security deposits Receipts of liquidated damages Receipts from wholesale sales and other operating activities Repayments for other goods and services Repayments for staff compensation Repayments for program rebates and incentives Repayments of taxes and surcharges to other governments Receipts from sales and surcharges to other governments Receipts from capital assets Receipts from sales and maturities Repayments for program redates and received Repayments for other governments Repayments for taxes and surcharges to other governments Receipts from capital assets Receipts from sales and maturities of investments Receipts from sales and sales and from from from from from from from from	CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Receipts of liquidated damages Receipts from wholesale sales and other operating activities Repayments for other goods and services Repayments for staff compensation Repayments for program rebates and incentives Repayments of taxes and surcharges to other governments Repayments of taxes an	Receipts from customers	\$ 272,975,842
Receipts from wholesale sales and other operating activities Payments to electricity suppliers (192,834,336) Payments for other goods and services (12,236,321) Payments for staff compensation (10,840,822) Payments for program rebates and incentives (2,354,384) Payments of taxes and surcharges to other governments Net cash provided (used) by operating activities  CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES Purchases of capital assets (380,007)  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES Investment income received Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments Purchase of investments (130,783,618) Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES	Receipts of security deposits	10,010,445
Payments to electricity suppliers  Payments for other goods and services  Payments for other goods and services  Payments for staff compensation  Payments for program rebates and incentives  Payments for program rebates and incentives  Payments of taxes and surcharges to other governments  Net cash provided (used) by operating activities  CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED  FINANCING ACTIVITIES  Purchases of capital assets  (380,007)  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES  Investment income received  Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments  Purchase of investments  Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents  Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year  Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES	Receipts of liquidated damages	4,175,618
Payments for other goods and services Payments for staff compensation (10,840,825) Payments for program rebates and incentives (2,354,384) Payments of taxes and surcharges to other governments Net cash provided (used) by operating activities  CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES Purchases of capital assets (380,007)  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES Investment income received Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments Purchase of investments Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES	Receipts from wholesale sales and other operating activities	10,885,868
Payments for staff compensation Payments for program rebates and incentives (2,354,384 Payments of taxes and surcharges to other governments Net cash provided (used) by operating activities  CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES Purchases of capital assets  (380,007  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES Investment income received Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments Purchase of investments Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES	Payments to electricity suppliers	(192,834,330)
Payments for program rebates and incentives  (2,354,384 Payments of taxes and surcharges to other governments Net cash provided (used) by operating activities  (3,424,461 76,357,452  CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES Purchases of capital assets  (380,007  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES Investment income received Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments Purchase of investments Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES	Payments for other goods and services	(12,236,321)
Payments of taxes and surcharges to other governments Net cash provided (used) by operating activities  CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES Purchases of capital assets  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES Investment income received Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments Purchase of investments Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES	Payments for staff compensation	(10,840,825)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities  CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES Purchases of capital assets  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES Investment income received Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments Purchase of investments Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES	Payments for program rebates and incentives	(2,354,384)
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES Purchases of capital assets  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES Investment income received Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments Purchase of investments Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES	Payments of taxes and surcharges to other governments	(3,424,461)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES Purchases of capital assets  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES Investment income received Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments Purchase of investments Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES	Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	76,357,452
Purchases of capital assets  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES  Investment income received Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments Purchase of investments (130,783,618 Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES		
Investment income received Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments Purchase of investments Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES		
Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments  Purchase of investments  Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents  Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year  Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES		(380,007)
Purchase of investments Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES  (130,783,618 31,255,396 107,232,841 69,683,125 69,683,125 176,915,966	Purchases of capital assets	(380,007)
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  107,232,841 Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  107,232,841 Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  107,232,841 Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  107,232,841 Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	Purchases of capital assets  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(380,007)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents  Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year  Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES	Purchases of capital assets  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES Investment income received	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES	Purchases of capital assets  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES  Investment income received  Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments	12,158,738
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES	Purchases of capital assets  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES  Investment income received  Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments  Purchase of investments	12,158,738 149,880,276
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITES  \$ 176,915,966	Purchases of capital assets  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES  Investment income received  Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments  Purchase of investments  Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	12,158,738 149,880,276 (130,783,618) 31,255,396
	Purchases of capital assets  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES  Investment income received  Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments  Purchase of investments  Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents	12,158,738 149,880,276 (130,783,618) 31,255,396 107,232,841
Change in fair value of investments \$ 3,155,842	Purchases of capital assets  CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES  Investment income received Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments Purchase of investments Net cash provided (used) by investing activities  Net change in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	12,158,738 149,880,276 (130,783,618) 31,255,396

#### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(Continued)

#### Year Ended June 30, 2025

## RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME (LOSS) TO NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Operating income (loss)	\$ 66,662,008
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net	
cash provided (used) by operating activities:	
Depreciation expense	1,432,943
(Increase) decrease in:	
Accounts receivable, net	7,458,479
Other receivables	(3,305,240)
Accrued revenue	2,344,654
Prepaid expenses	(632,999)
Deposits	(3,588,843)
Increase (decrease) in:	
Accrued cost of electricity	4,132,426
Accounts payable	590,921
Advances from grantors	(2,382,376)
Accrued liabilities	(493,702)
User taxes due to other governments	(55,172)
Supplier security deposits	 4,194,353
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	\$ 76,357,452



#### ACCOUNTANTS' COMPILATION REPORT

Board of Directors Sonoma Clean Power Authority

Management is responsible for the accompanying Budgetary Comparison Schedule for the Operating Fund of Sonoma Clean Power Authority (a California Joint Powers Authority) for the year ended June 30, 2025, and for determining that the budgetary basis of accounting is an acceptable financial reporting framework. We have performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. We did not audit or review the accompanying statement nor were we required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on this special purpose budgetary comparison statement.

The special purpose statement is prepared in accordance with the budgetary basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This report is intended for the information of the Board of Directors of Sonoma Clean Power Authority.

Management has elected to omit substantially all of the note disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America in these interim financial statements. Sonoma Clean Power Authority's annual audited financial statements include the note disclosures omitted from these interim statements. If the omitted disclosures were included in these financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the Authority's financial position, results of operations, and cash flows. Accordingly, these financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

We are not independent with respect to the Authority because we performed certain accounting services that impaired our independence.

Maker Accountancy

San Rafael, CA August 25, 2025

# SONOMA CLEAN POWER AUTHORITY BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - OPERATING FUND

Year Ended June 30, 2025

	2024/25 YTD Amended Budget	2024/25 YTD Actual	2024/25 YTD Amended Budget Variance (Under) Over	2024/25 YTD Actual / Amended Budget %	2024/25 Amended Budget	2024/25 Amended Budget Remaining
REVENUE AND OTHER SOURCES: Electricity (net of allowance) Evergreen Premium (net of allowance) Investment returns Miscellaneous Incor.	\$ 258,001,000 2,700,000 13,853,000 1,000,000	\$ 256,682,974 3,120,445 15,314,580 448,001	\$ (1,318,026) 420,445 1,461,580 (551,999)	99% 116% 111% 45%	\$ 258,001,000 2,700,000 13,853,000 1,000,000	\$ 1,318,026 (420,445) (1,461,580) 551,999
Total revenue and other sources	275,554,000	275,566,000	12,000	100%	275,554,000	(12,000)
EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES: CURRENT EXPENDITURES						
Cost of energy and scheduling	183,989,000	166,445,042	(17,543,958)	%66 %06	183,989,000	17,543,958
Service fees- PG&	000,066	988,018	(21,72) $(1,982)$	100%	000,066	1,982
Personn	11,490,000	11,060,408	(429,592)	%96	11,490,000	429,592
Marketing & communicatio	3,379,000	2,919,307	(459,693)	%98	3,379,000	459,693
Customer servic	220,000	120,685	(99,315)	25%	220,000	99,315
General and administration	1,832,000	1,717,126	(114,874)	94%	1,832,000	114,874
Leg Daniel	475,000	416,778	(58,222)	%88	475,000	58,222
Regulatory and complian	460,000	238,301	(221,699)	52% 103%	460,000	721,699
Accountil Legislati	220.000	320,900	(30.000)	103% 86%	220.000	30.000
Other consultar	535,000	383,644	(151,356)	72%	535,000	151,356
Industry memberships and du	888,000	772,514	(115,486)	87%	888,000	115,486
Program implementatic	10,135,964	2,965,508	(7,170,456)	29%	10,135,964	7,170,456
Total current expenditures	218,595,964	192,156,469	(26,439,495)	%88	218,595,964	26,439,495
OTHER USES Capital outl:	500,000	362,092	(137,908)	72%	500,000	137,908
Total expenditures, other	219,095,964	192,518,561	(26,577,403)	%88	219,095,964	26,577,403
Net increase (decrease) in available fund balance	\$ 56,458,036	\$ 83,047,439	\$ 26,589,403		\$ 56,458,036	\$ (26,589,403)
* Represents sales of approximately 2,085,000 MWh for 2024/25 YTD actual.	actual.					

Long-Terr	Targeted	00 \$ 255,203,000 91%
Balance - as	June 30, 202	keserve \$ 231,889,000
	RESERVES	Operating Reserve

# BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - OPERATING FUND (CONTINUED) RECONCILIATION OF NET INCREASE IN AVAILABLE FUND BALANCE TO CHANGE IN NET POSITION

Year Ended June 30, 2025

net increase (decrease) in available fund balance per budgetary comparison schedule:	\$ 83,047,439
Adjustments needed to reconcile to the	
changes in net position in the	
Statement of Revenues, Expenses	
and Changes in Net Position:	
Subtract depreciation expense	(1,432,943)

Add back capital asset acquisitions

Change in net position

362,092 81,976,588



#### Staff Report - Item 03

To: Sonoma Clean Power Authority Board of Directors

From: Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning & Analytics

**Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer** 

Miles Horton, Legislative Policy & Community Engagement Manager

Claudia Sisomphou, Public Affairs & Advocacy Manager

Issue: Receive Geothermal Opportunity Zone Update

Date: September 18, 2025

#### **Background**

The Geothermal Opportunity Zone (GeoZone) is SCP's initiative to secure affordable, reliable clean energy for our customers by building 600 megawatts of new geothermal power capacity in Sonoma and Mendocino Counites. This will eventually enable SCP to phase out its dependence on natural gas power plants for reliability. The Community Advisory Committee (Committee) meetings are a regularly scheduled public forum for the community to receive updates and provide input on the GeoZone. The updates provided to the Committee each month, and minutes from any discussion are posted on SCP's website at <a href="https://sonomacleanpower.org/geozone-public-updates">https://sonomacleanpower.org/geozone-public-updates</a>. Staff incorporate any feedback received from the Committee presentation into the monthly updates to the Board of Directors. Additional background on the GeoZone can be found on the GeoZone webpage at <a href="https://sonomacleanpower.org/geozone">https://sonomacleanpower.org/geozone</a>.

#### Clean Air Task Force Report: Unlocking California's Geothermal Potential

Clean Air Task Force (CATF), an environmental organization focused on technology and policy solutions that drive emissions reductions, released a report called "Unlocking California's Geothermal Potential" over the summer (linked here). The report included recommendations well aligned with SCP's current legislative and regulatory initiatives including setting a strategic plan for the State, improving permitting processes, modernizing regulations, providing more ability for geothermal projects to interconnect, and providing more public funding. CATF has

been a valuable thought partner to SCP in addressing key barriers to geothermal investment in California and the report, a webinar they hosted (linked here - SCP participated as a panelist), and advocacy in Sacramento on geothermal has broadened awareness of the opportunity next-generation geothermal could present for California.

#### The Climate Center: Advanced Geothermal in California

The Climate Center, an environmental organization that works to position California as a leader toward a climate-safe future, hosted a discussion on August 28th on advanced geothermal technologies (webinar recording linked here). The webinar included remarks by Assemblymember Diane Papan, the author of SCP's AB 1359 last year and co-author of SCP's AB 526, AB 527, and AB 531 this year. It also included a presentation by Claudia Sisomphou from SCP, Neil Ethier from Eavor (one of SCP's GeoZone partners), and Chris Snyder from the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 3. The Climate Center convened over 200 people on the call and allowed a forum for climate-motivated organizations and advocates to understand the role geothermal energy could play in decarbonizing California's grid.

#### **Geothermal Industry Updates**

In August, the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) held the first auction in nearly a decade for geothermal leases on federal land in California (link to LA Times article). The sale generated \$2.75 million in proceeds and although the leased acreage was outside the GeoZone (most was in Imperial County, with one parcel in Modoc/Lassen County), represents a large vote of confidence in the future for geothermal development in California. SCP has previously engaged the BLM on federal leasing opportunities in the GeoZone and identified collaboration between the state of California and BLM as an important component of a strategic plan for advancing geothermal power in California.

#### **Grant Funding & Research**

SCP is still awaiting news on whether Sonoma County will be selected to be awarded for its application to the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Geothermal Grant and Loan Program. SCP worked with Sonoma County in submitting an application in January to fund a pro-active planning project that includes subsurface modeling by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), coordination with Mendocino County's planning department, and geospatial and biological field work to identify

prospective geothermal sites in the region and augment the skills and experience of local permitting staff. SCP understands the announcement for an award is imminent.

In August, SCP submitted a research concept proposal to the CEC for the next round of it's Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) program (link to submission). In the submission, SCP asks the CEC to dedicate EPIC funds to fund drilling an initial set of higher-risk calibration wells to collect subsurface data and operational learnings to advance next-generation geothermal development in the state. SCP will continue advocacy at the CEC and other forums for a dedicated stream of funding for attracting in-state geothermal development.

SCP has also been in early discussions with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNLL) on applying cutting edge techniques and large datasets to evaluate siting suitability for geothermal development in the GeoZone. Although a specific funding opportunity has not yet been identified for the partnership, PNNL could be a potential partner in future grant opportunities.

#### **Partner Updates**

There are no major updates to share on SCP's GeoZone partners. Eavor continues to be focused on finishing its project in Geretsreid, Germany—which will be online later this year and deliver 8.2 MW of electric power and 64 MW of thermal energy to the neighboring community. Eavor will be better positioned to rededicate resources to progressing its GeoZone project following startup in Geretsreid. SCP staff hosted Chevron at SCP's headquarters in August and are actively discussing contractual options given the expectation that Chevron will not meet its cooperation agreement milestones by their due date in March 2026. Staff anticipate providing the Committee a recommendation on SCP's partnership with Chevron in the October meeting.

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#### Staff Report - Item 04

To: Sonoma Clean Power Authority Community Advisory Committee

From: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer

**Garth Salisbury, Chief Financial Officer Chris Golik, Senior Finance Manager** 

Issue: Recommend the Board of Directors Approve the Proposed Budget

Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 to Allocate the Board-Approved \$500,000 Grant for The Economic Launchpad Hub to the Marketing &

**Communications Budget Line** 

Date: September 18, 2025

#### **Requested Action**

Recommend that the Board of Directors (Board) approve the proposed budget adjustment for fiscal year 2025-2026 to allocate the Board-approved \$500,000 grant for The Economic Launchpad Hub to the Marketing & Communications budget line.

#### **Background**

At the August 7, 2025, meeting of the Board of Directors, the Board discussed and voted on a proposal to enter a funding partnership and secured loan opportunity to support small business owners. This innovative opportunity is made in partnership with Nexo Media Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit, doing business as The Economic Launchpad Hub, also known as The Hub.

The Board approved the proposal, which will provide The Hub with funding in two ways. The first is a \$500,000 grant, released in 4 milestone-based tranches. The second is a secured loan for up to \$4 million to purchase a building where it will serve a broad range of local entrepreneurs with a "one-stop shop" offering of co-located small business-related services.

#### **Discussion**

The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget was approved by the Community Advisory Committee and Board of Directors at their April 2025 and May 2025 meetings, respectively, prior to becoming aware of this innovative partnership opportunity.

While the Board has already approved both the \$500,000 grant and secured loan not to exceed \$4 million, these amounts were not previously included in the budget strategy.

#### Fiscal Impact

This action has no fiscal impact, since the expenditures were already approved by the Board of Directors at its August 2025 meeting.

For transparency, the Board's August 2025 decision has a definite expense of up to \$500,000 in initial dollars and an estimated worst-case cost of an additional \$800,000, based on presuming that SCP absorbs a 20% loss on the resale of any secured property from the loan.

#### **Agency Goals**

The partnership and funding for The Hub aligns with SCP's 2025 goals of supporting our community, scaling up local resource development, and developing local resilience.

#### **Attachments**

- > Attachment 1 August 7, 2025 Staff Report to the Board of Directors
- > Attachment 2 Draft Funding Agreement Term Sheet
- > Attachment 3 Proposal on the Economic Launchpad Hub
- Attachment 4 Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Revised Budget



#### **Staff Report - Item 11**

To: Sonoma Clean Power Authority Board of Directors

From: Sylvia Lemus, Director and Ad Hoc Member

Stephen Zollman, Director and Ad Hoc Member Patricia Farrar-Rivas, Director and Ad Hoc Member Lynda Hopkins, Director and Ad Hoc Member

**Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer** 

Issue: Receive Presentation on Funding Partnership and Loan Opportunity for

Local Small Business Support Hub; Approve \$500,000 Funding
Partnership and Delegate Authority to the Chief Executive Officer to
Negotiate and Finalize Details on a Secured Loan to Nexo Media

Foundation 501(c)3 Not to Exceed \$4 Million

**Date:** August 7, 2025

#### **Requested Action**

Approve a funding agreement of not to exceed \$500,000 to the Nexo Media Foundation a 501(c)3 non-profit dba The Economic Launchpad Hub subject to the terms further described in this staff report; delegate authority to the CEO to negotiate a secured loan to the Nexo Media Foundation not to exceed \$4,000,000 for the purpose of purchasing a building to house the Economic Launchpad Hub.

#### **Background**

Over the past two years, the Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) Board has pursued innovative strategies to support the local economy, recognizing that long-term climate and energy goals are closely tied to economic resilience. In particular, the Board has prioritized investments that strengthen access to opportunity across all communities—including small business owners who may face unique barriers due to income, language, or past exclusion from traditional support systems.

Many local nonprofits that assist entrepreneurs operate with limited coordination and resources. As a result, navigating services can be burdensome, especially for business owners who don't already have strong networks or prior experience.

In November 2023, the Board created the Local Project Investment Fund to generate long-term revenue for customer rate relief through infrastructure investments. In March 2025, the Board expanded this vision by forming an ad hoc committee to explore investing a portion of that fund into a local small business support hub. In April 2025, Hector Velazquez, Founder of the non-profit and Executive Director of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Sonoma County, presented a compelling concept modeled after a successful Oakland initiative.

Today's proposal builds on that momentum.

#### **Discussion**

Nexo Media Foundation (Recipient) has proposed the Economic Launchpad Hub (Hub) a centralized, physical space and online platform that provides hands-on, culturally fluent support to a broad range of local entrepreneurs. Services would include one-on-one advising, workshops, licensing help, media production, coworking space, and access to capital partners.

By co-locating services in one place, the Hub reduces duplication and increases efficiency—especially for smaller or newer businesses that often struggle to navigate public and nonprofit systems.

The Hub plans to launch with active participation by the State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce while expanding partnerships with other Chambers, the Economic Development Collaborative (EDC), and business-focused organizations across the county.

The staff recommendation includes both a funding partnership and a secured loan, structured to minimize SCP's financial risk while providing direct, lasting value to SCP's mission—including enhanced outreach to hard-to-reach customers, storytelling opportunities that highlight SCP's community impact, and dedicated access to teach energy-saving strategies to local businesses.

Sonoma County is home to over 14,600 businesses, and more than 95% employ fewer than 50 people. Small businesses are the foundation of our local economy. Yet many lack access to startup tools and trusted support–particularly those without existing networks or fluency in navigating traditional systems. The Economic Launchpad Hub aims to serve all entrepreneurs while also removing common access barriers that disproportionately affect low-income, Latino, BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and immigrant business owners.

The EDC describes small businesses as a "critical piece" of the regional economy. Sonoma County's Latino population, now nearly 29% of residents, represents a growing share of local business formation. The Hub addresses a service gap by offering business support that is easy to access, relevant to diverse communities, and tailored to today's digital and in-person needs.

#### Services will include:

- One-on-one multilingual advising and community-led workshops
- Help navigating business licenses, EINs, and startup processes
- Access to coworking and media tools for branding and marketing
- Outreach in partnership with groups like the Economic Development
   Collaborative, Hispanic Chamber, Black Chamber of Commerce, Asian American
   Pacific Islander Coalition of the North Bay, Creative Sonoma, and Sonoma SBDC

The Economic Launchpad Hub fills practical gaps that existing services (like the SBDC) do not currently meet—especially physical shared space, hands-on media support and access to technology.

This proposal supports SCP's goals in four key ways:

#### 1. Access to Hard-to-Reach Customers

Many of SCP's customers who run or plan to start small businesses are unaware of the tools and programs SCP offers. By partnering with the Hub, SCP can reach more of these customers—especially those who might not otherwise engage with traditional outreach.

#### 2. Marketing and Visibility

SCP will gain a regular stream of real-world success stories, co-hosted events, and positive visibility. Hub participants will be encouraged to share how they've grown—and how SCP's support helped—providing an authentic narrative about our community impact.

#### 3. Ongoing Energy Education

The Hub will allow SCP to provide classes and one-on-one support in its facility for high electric bills, energy efficiency, and related energy topics.

#### 4. Long-Term Mission

Strengthening the small business economy helps SCP in multiple ways: by building more resilient communities, helping customers manage high bills

through education, and offering a visible and inclusive model of economic transformation aligned with climate goals.

#### **Proposed Launch Grant**

Staff propose the initial funding be released in four tranches, with further details on reporting and partnership obligations included in the first attachment.

- **Tranche 1:** \$100,000 upon full execution of this agreement and initial program setup.
- **Tranche 2:** \$150,000 upon SCP's issuance of a secured loan to Recipient and execution of a real estate purchase contract for the Hub facility.
- **Tranche 3:** \$100,000 upon verified opening of the Hub for business operations.
- **Tranche 4:** \$150,000 upon Recipient securing at least \$150,000 in matching funding (from donations, leases, or grants from other entities).

In addition to quarterly reporting obligations described in the attachment, starting in Year 2 and continuing for the duration of Hub operations, Recipient would be obligated to share:

- Success stories showcasing entrepreneurs or organizations helped by the Hub
- Annual impact statistics (e.g., number of businesses served, partnerships formed)
- Updates on Hub infrastructure and community activities

In addition, to support SCP's clean energy and community mission, Recipient would agree to:

- Provide SCP with priority scheduling rights to host up to four educational workshops per year at the Hub focused on energy savings, bill assistance, or related topics.
- Provide ongoing access to the Hub's media room (including green screen, lighting, and recording equipment) at no cost for up to 30 hours/year, with scheduling coordinated in advance.
- Recognize SCP as a Founding Partner on all major signage and digital media related to the Hub.

#### Proposed Delegation to Negotiate and Finalize a Secured Loan

Given that the exact building for the Hub has not been identified, staff recommend the Board delegate authority to the CEO to work with SCP's Special Counsel to finalize a loan agreement with the following parameters:

- Secured by the building with no other creditors. SCP would obtain full ownership of the Hub's building if the Recipient were to default on the loan.
- Amount not to exceed \$4 million.
- Loan is financial only and carry no ownership rights beyond security in the event of default. This means that the Recipient is solely responsible for all building maintenance, insurance, improvements, liabilities, etc.
- Standard commercial terms, including an interest rate that is within the normal range for local banks.

In addition, the loan agreement shall mirror the funding agreement in all public benefit requirements, including:

- Priority access for SCP to participating businesses and clients
- Opportunities for SCP to deliver energy and climate workshops
- Support with managing high bills and energy education
- Ongoing communication with clients and storytelling partnerships to highlight local success

#### **Fiscal Impact**

This item has a definite expense of up to \$500,000 in initial dollars and an estimated worst-case cost of an additional \$800,000, based on presuming that SCP absorbs a 20% loss on the resale of any secured property from the loan. Actual losses—even in a circumstance where the borrower defaults—are unlikely to be this large. While the upside financial benefit to the region is presumed to be considerable, staff do not try to estimate its value here.

#### **Attachments**

- Attachment 1 Draft Funding Agreement Term Sheet
- Attachment 2 Proposal on the Economic Launchpad Hub

#### **DRAFT FUNDING AGREEMENT TERMS**

### Between Sonoma Clean Power Authority and NexoMedia Foundation (The "Economic Launchpad Hub")

Date: August 7, 2025

**Total Amount:** Maximum of \$500,000.00

Term: September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026, with continuing obligations afterward

Funder: Sonoma Clean Power Authority ("SCP")

**Recipient:** Nexo Media Foundation Inc. dba The Economic Launchpad Hub ("Recipient")

#### **Purpose of Agreement**

The purpose of this funding agreement is to help launch and operate the Economic Launchpad Hub—an inclusive small business support center focused on underserved entrepreneurs in Sonoma County, with a goal of supporting the formation of similar services to Mendocino County, and also to Lake County if that region chooses to join SCP in the future. The funding supports a mix of facility costs, staff, consultants, equipment and supplies. The funding serves a public purpose of SCP including for the following reasons:

#### 1. Access to Hard-to-Reach Customers

Many of SCP's customers who run or plan to start small businesses are unaware of the tools and programs SCP offers. By partnering with the Hub, SCP can reach more of these customers—especially those who might not otherwise engage with traditional outreach.

#### 2. Marketing and Visibility

SCP will gain a regular stream of real-world success stories, co-hosted events, and positive visibility. Hub participants will be encouraged to share how they've grown—and how SCP's support helped—providing an authentic narrative about our community impact.

#### 3. Ongoing Energy Education

The Hub will allow SCP to provide classes and one-on-one support in its facility for high electric bills, energy efficiency, and related energy topics.

#### 4. Long-Term Mission

Strengthening the small business economy helps SCP in multiple ways: by building more resilient communities, helping customers manage high bills through education, and offering a visible and inclusive model of economic transformation aligned with climate goals.

#### **Funding Disbursement Schedule**

Disbursement of the \$500,000 in funds shall follow these milestone-based releases:

- **Tranche 1:** \$100,000 upon full execution of this agreement and initial program setup.
- Tranche 2: \$150,000 upon SCP's issuance of a secured loan to Grantee and execution of a real estate purchase contract for the Hub facility.
- **Tranche 3:** \$100,000 upon verified opening of the Hub for business operations.
- **Tranche 4:** \$150,000 upon Grantee securing at least \$150,000 in matching funding (from donations, leases, or grants from other entities).

All disbursements require SCP's written approval confirming milestone completion.

Importantly, this funding agreement should not be construed as an on-going commitment to providing further funding in the future.

#### **Reporting Requirements**

#### **Year 1: Quarterly Reports**

Recipient will submit simple quarterly reports for the first 12 months from agreement execution. Each report (max 3 pages) shall include:

- A brief update on progress toward milestones
- · Approximate number of entrepreneurs or community members served
- Notable stories or challenges
- Summary of expenditures to date
- Upcoming events or activities

#### **Ongoing: Annual Reporting**

Starting in Year 2 and continuing for the duration of Hub operations, Recipient shall submit one annual summary including:

2 or more success stories showcasing entrepreneurs or organizations helped by the
 Hub

- Basic annual impact statistics (e.g., number of businesses served, partnerships formed)
- Updates on Hub infrastructure and community activities

#### **SCP Partnership Provisions**

To support SCP's clean energy and community mission, Recipient agrees to:

- Provide SCP with priority scheduling rights to host up to four educational workshops per year at the Hub focused on energy savings, bill assistance, or related topics.
- Provide ongoing access to the Hub's media room (including green screen, lighting, and recording equipment) at no cost for up to 40 hours/year, with scheduling coordinated in advance.
- Provide priority access to SCP in outreach to Hub participants for education opportunities on high bills, energy education, or other topics as reasonably requested by SCP.
- Recognize SCP as a Founding Partner on all major signage and digital media related to the Hub.
- Allow SCP early access to success stories that may be jointly promoted or featured in SCP communications, with participant consent.

#### **Use of Funds**

Funds may be used for personnel, equipment, supplies, facility costs, and consulting services directly related to establishing and operating the Hub. SCP reserves the right to review use of funds at any time.

#### Compliance and Clawback

If Recipient fails to meet agreed-upon milestones or uses funds for unrelated purposes, SCP may withhold future payments and/or seek repayment.





"The Flores family had spent over a year trying to obtain an EIN without success. As part of our very first cohort, they learned how to apply in just five minutes. By the end of the workshop series, they landed

their first commercial cleaning contract. A true breakthrough

moment."



Purpose of the Proposal

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a brief yet powerful introduction to our Economic Launchpad Hub, a community-centered initiative built to support entrepreneurs, strengthen local organizations, and drive meaningful and lasting economic change through collaboration and impact where it's needed most.

It is a glimpse into a dynamic Hub where entrepreneurs rise, communities connect, and collaborative action ignites real economic transformation.

# THE PROBLEM WORTH SOLVING

Currently, small business support in our region is fragmented, difficult to access, and often ineffective particularly for Latino, Black, LGBTQ+, and other underserved or underrepresented entrepreneurs. Resources are siloed across numerous government agencies and nonprofits that not only compete for the same limited funding but also lack the infrastructure to serve business owners effectively. Many are operating without basic essentials like meeting rooms, workspaces, reception staff, or media production tools. As a result, entrepreneurs are forced to navigate a confusing maze of disconnected services, wasting valuable time, energy, and momentum. Too often, they abandon their journey before realizing their potential.

This disjointed landscape creates unnecessary barriers to launching, sustaining, and scaling small businesses, particularly for underrepresented and resource-constrained entrepreneurs. There is a pressing need for an *Economic Launchpad*Hub—a one-stop shop that brings together the physical space, tools, training, community, and capital access entrepreneurs need to thrive in today's competitive economy.



# THE PROPOSED SOLUTION

The *Economic Launchpad Hub* is a centralized, one-stop destination designed to empower entrepreneurs and small businesses by providing integrated access to professional services, business infrastructure, and growth-oriented programming. By combining physical space with wraparound support and community connection, the Hub eliminates fragmentation and provides a streamlined, inclusive pathway to launch, sustain, and scale businesses, especially for those historically left out of traditional business ecosystems.



#### Comprehensive Business Infrastructure & Resources

The Hub offers modern, professional amenities, private cubicles, open seating, high-speed internet, printing/scanning, media and podcast studios, and fully equipped conference rooms. Entrepreneurs gain access to the tools they need to run and grow their business with confidence and credibility.



# Integrated Support Services & Skill Development

Through workshops, coaching, peer cohorts, and emotional intelligence training, the Hub delivers critical services that build business capacity, from financial planning and branding to decision-making under pressure and executive leadership. Business owners can access the same level of support typically reserved for larger enterprises.



#### Community Connectivity & Capital Access

The Hub serves as a bridge to local chambers of commerce, investors, capital providers, and economic development partners. It fosters collaborative networking, promotes visibility, and increases access to funding opportunities that help small businesses move from survival to sustainable success.

# **CORE COMPETENCIES**

The *Economic Launchpad Hub* specializes in hands-on, high-touch support that meets entrepreneurs where they are and moves them forward with clarity and confidence. Our core strength lies in delivering personalized guidance, strategic insight, and actionable planning that transforms business potential into measurable growth. By providing deeply engaged, solutions-driven support, we help small business owners build strong foundations and scale with purpose.



- One-on-One Business Advising
- Strategic Planning Sessions



- Marketing& Sales
- Brand Building Support



- · Access to Capital Guidance
- · Financial Planning
- Budgeting Assistance









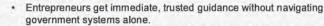




# **HUB BENEFITS, IMPACT,**

# & OPPORTUNITY

## Key Benefi



- Centralized access to advising, workshops, legal/tax clinics, and startup tools saves time and confusion.
- Collaborative workspaces and peer learning foster stronger networks and accountability.
- Ongoing access to advisors, funding prep, and tailored programs strengthens long-term success
- Local chambers of commerce and nonprofit partners co-locate, reducing overhead and increasing their capacity to serve by sharing office and meeting space



#### **Impact on Businesses**

- Entrepreneurs from Latino, Black, LGBTQ+, and other underrepresented communities receive culturally competent and accessible support tailored to their unique needs
- · Businesses launch faster and with greater confidence.
- Owners report increased clarity on licensing, capital, and growth strategy.
- Many transition from informal to formally registered operations (LLCs, EINs, FBNs).
- Participants secure funding, contracts, and new partnerships more effectively.
- The Hub ecosystem boosts visibility, legitimacy, and community trust for entrepreneurs.

# ONLINE RESOURCE HUB: Empowering Entrepreneurs at Their Fingertips



At the Economic Launchpad, powerful business-building tools are just a click away. Our Online Hub Resources are designed to eliminate guesswork and give entrepreneurs the clarity, confidence, and structure they need to take dominion in their space. From day one to growth mode, everything they need to become and thrive as a business owner is right at their fingertips. No more feeling stuck, confused, or overwhelmed, this is where entrepreneurship becomes accessible, strategic, and empowering. The Online Hub is the digital launchpad, helping entrepreneurs not just start a business, but own their lane with boldness, excellence, and direction.

# **HUB DEVELOPMENT & DEPLOYMENT**

#### Hub Development 1-2 MONTHS

- Define the Hub's purpose and anchor it in community needs.
- Secure a space, partners, and a roadmap grounded in collaboration.
- Build trust with future funders, advisors, and cultural leaders.

#### Pre Launch Phase 2 MONTHS

- Prepare the space, systems, and staff for activation.
- Formalize partner roles and train team members to deliver tailored support.
- Generate buzz through soft openings, previews, and partner-led outreach.

#### **Launch Phase**

#### 3 Months

- Open doors with high visibility: ribbon cutting, media, and community presence.
- Begin delivering services intakes, orientations, workshops, and advising.
- Share early success stories and user feedback to build credibility.

#### Full Deployment 6 Months

- Operate as a thriving ecosystem with layered services and daily activity.
- Expand access: microgrants, pop-up markets, digital tools, and evening hours.
- Measure growth, impact, and relationships — and keep evolving.

# **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

#### **Align & Identify**

- Align mission, goals, and partners around a shared vision.
- Identify facility, staffing needs, and core services to launch.
- Map timelines, milestones, and early success metrics.

#### **Prepare & Build**

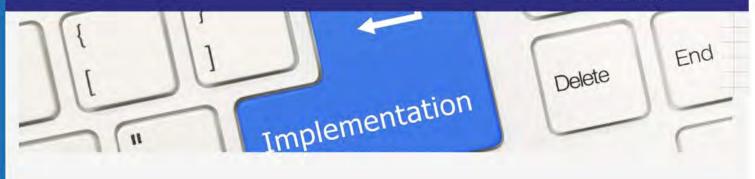
- Prepare the physical space, branding, and tech systems.
- Build out intake forms, CRM (done), and program delivery processes.
- Finalize MOUs and onboard key collaborators and advisors.

#### **Host & Enroll**

- Host an energizing grand opening with media, funders, and community leaders.
- Begin enrolling entrepreneurs, delivering workshops, and scheduling advising sessions.
- Collect early feedback and highlight quick wins.

#### **Expand & Measure**

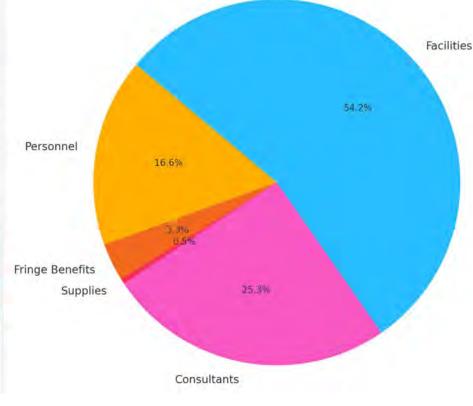
- Expand services, adjust based on demand, and strengthen the referral network.
- Launch additional offerings like grant programs or evening access.
- Measure impact, report outcomes, and plan for sustainable scale.



# PROJECT

The Economic Launchpad's 2025 annual budget of \$500,000 strategically prioritizes infrastructure, expert consulting, and lean staffing to maximize impact and efficiency. Over half the budget (54%) is allocated to facilities to ensure a stable and professional environment, while 25% supports specialized consulting services critical to program delivery. Personnel and fringe benefits account for 20%, reflecting a streamlined internal team supported by external expertise. This balanced approach enables the Launchpad to operate as a high-impact, resource-efficient hub for economic development.

Category	Amount (S)	Percentage (%)
Personnel	83,200	16.64%
Fringe Benefits	16,640	3.33%
Supplies	2,400	0.48%
Consultants	126,600	25.32%
Facilities	271,160	54.23%



Annual Budget Year 2025 Breakdown

# PROGRAM LOGIC MODEL



#### **INPUTS**

These inputs fuel the Hub's infrastructure and programs to provide equitable access to business support services.

Resources that enable the Hub to function and deliver its mission. Funding, staffing, strategic partnerships, community goodwill, volunteer expertise, facilities, technology, and access to local business and economic networks.



#### **ACTIVITIES**

These activities are designed to build small business capacity, connect communities, and support business growth.

Core actions and engagements driven by the Hub to serve entrepreneurs and partners. Business advising, workshops, training sessions, peer cohorts, orientation tours, partner onboarding, technical assistance, marketing support, and capital readiness programs.

#### **OUTPUTS**

Outputs reflect the immediate reach and productivity of the Hub's efforts.

Tangible, trackable results of program delivery.

#### Examples:

- Number of workshops held
- Number of entrepreneurs receiving one-onone advising
- Number of businesses connected to capital or resources
- · Number of partnerships formalized
- Number of online tools accessed/downloaded

#### **OUTCOMES**

Outcomes reflect the lasting impact of the Hub in driving equity, economic mobility, and business sustainability.

Measured changes and results experienced by clients and communities as a result of the Hub's activities.

#### Short-Term Outcomes:

- Increased awareness of business support services
- Improved confidence and clarity in business decision-making
- Formal business registrations (EIN, FBN, LLCs)

#### Intermediate Outcomes:

- · Access to funding and contracts
- Strengthened business systems (financials, marketing, operations)
- Growth in formal partnerships and referral pipelines

#### Long-Term Outcomes:

- · Sustainable small business growth
- Increased job creation and community economic stability
- Expanded representation of underrepresented entrepreneurs in local economies

#### THE ECONOMIC LAUNCHPAD HUB

Nexo Media Foundation LEADERSHIP TEAM











#### Hector Velaquez

#### FOUNDER/CEO

Bio: A dedicated community advocate and media entrepreneur, Hector Velazquez leads Nexo Media Inc. and Nexo Radio while championing underserved communities through his nonprofit, Red LatinX The HUB, which builds bridges between businesses, CBOs, government, and the LatinX community.

#### Fernando J. Carrillo

#### INTERIM CHAIR

Bio: Femando joined
Memill Lynch Wealth
Management in 2016 and
brings decades of
experience helping
individuals, families, and
small businesses develop
tailored wealth
management plans since
1998 across both for-profit
and non-profit sectors.

#### Veronica Garcia

#### veronica Garon

Board Member
Bio: Veronica Garcia is a
Treasury Management
Associate at Bank of
Marin with nearly 20 years
of financial services
experience. She is also an
active community leader
in Sonoma County and is
pursuing a degree in
Human Resources
Administration.

# Hugo Mata

Bio: With over 20 years of experience in bilingual environmental outreach and community-based marketing, Hugo Mata is a leader in environmental education and waste diversion. He holds a B.A. in Radio and Television from San Francisco State University and hosts *Nuestra Tierra*, a weekly environmental radio show on KBBF 89.1FM.

# Jose Antonio Trejo TREASURER

Bio: Jose is the owner of Trejo
Insurance Services, with over 20 years
of experience helping individuals and
businesses protect what matters most.
Jose has guided clients through
everything from everyday policies to
major natural disasters with
professionalism and heart. Passionate
about community, he brings a personal
touch to insurance—treating every
client like family.

# **Our Value to the Community**

#### **Distinctive Impact Statement**

The Economic Launchpad Hub is a one-stop destination for aspiring and established entrepreneurs to access the tools, services, and relationships they need to thrive, regardless of background, identity, or belief. As a fully integrated ecosystem, the Hub brings together business advisors, community partners, training programs, and capital resources under one roof, eliminating the fragmentation that holds many back. Rooted in cultural sensitivity and radical inclusivity, the Hub ensures every entrepreneur, whether navigating their first business license or scaling for growth, receives personalized, respectful, and high-quality support that reflects the diversity of the communities it serves.

Radical inclusivity means creating a welcoming, respectful, and equitable space where everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, income, identity, religion, or lived experience is valued, supported, and empowered to succeed. It goes beyond basic access to ensure that services, language, resources, and engagement reflect the diverse realities of all people, without exclusion or favoritism. At the Hub, radical inclusivity means no one is left out whether you're a firstgeneration entrepreneur, a retired veteran starting a new venture, a suburban consultant, or a creative professional from any walk of life. Everyone deserves a seat at the table and the support to thrive.

# **FUNDING REQUEST**

#### Why SCP

SCP is already deeply engaged. As a key member of the *Celebrate Communities* partnership, SCP seen firsthand how the demand for more efficient and accessible small business services surfaces year after year. Supporting strategic community giving and sustainable infrastructure is central to SCP's mission and this initiative directly aligns with those priorities.

here.

**Call to Action** 

Join us in shaping the future of small business success. Whether you're an entrepreneur ready to grow, a partner ready to serve, or a stakeholder ready to invest. The Hub is your platform to make lasting impact.

Let's build it together. Your next step starts

GRANT FUNDING REQUEST \$500,000



# **CONTACT US**

NexoMedia Foundation is a 501c3, Tax ID # 85-2706759



#### **Phone**

707.266.7276



#### Email

hector@redlatinx.com



#### Website

https://redlatinx.com



#### Location

2455 Bennett Valley Rd. Ste. B314

# Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Revised Budget

	Adopted	Proposed	Revised	
	Budget FY25-26	Adjustment FY25-26	Budget FY25-26	Comments
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES				
Electricity Sales (net of allowance)	\$228,694,000	↔	- \$228,694,000	
EverGreen Premium (net of allowance)	3,150,000		- 3,150,000	
CEC Grant Proceeds	863,000		- 863,000	
Investment Returns	12,000,000		- 12,000,000	
Total Revenues	244,707,000	1	244,707,000	
EXPENDITURES				
Product				
Cost of Energy & Scheduling	234,986,000		- 234,986,000	
Data Management	3,359,000		- 3,359,000	
Service Fees to PG&E	000'066		- 990,000	
Product Subtotal	239,335,000	1	239,335,000	
Personnel	12,781,000	•	12,781,000	
Marketing & Communications	3,915,000	500,000	4,415,000	Partnership with The Economic Launchpad Hub
Customer Service	220,000	•	220,000	
General & Administration	2,309,000	•	2,309,000	
Other Professional Services				
Legal	525,000		- 525,000	
Regulatory & Compliance	360,000		360,000	
Accounting	340,000		- 340,000	
Legislative	220,000		- 220,000	
Other Consultants	535,000		- 535,000	
Other Professional Services Subtotal	1,980,000	ı	1,980,000	

# Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Revised Budget

	Adopted	Proposed	Revised	
	Budget	Adjustment	Budget	
	FY 25-26	F1 25-20	F125-26	FT25-26 Comments
EXPENDITURES - continued				
Industry Memberships & Dues	888,000	ı	888,000	
Program Implementation	6,481,000	1	6,481,000	
Total Expenditures	267,909,000	500,000	268,409,000	
Revenues Less Expenditures	(23,202,000)	(200,000)	(23,702,000)	
ОТНЕR USES Capital Outlay	7,022,000	,	7,022,000	
Total Expenditures, Other Uses	274,931,000	200,000	275,431,000	
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Fund Balance	\$ (30,224,000) \$	- 1 - 1	(500,000) \$ (30,724,000)	



#### Staff Report - Item 05

To: Sonoma Clean Power Community Advisory Committee

From: Garth Salisbury, Chief Financial Officer

Issue: Recommend the Board of Directors Approve and Delegate Authority to

the CEO or Designee to Execute an Agreement for Professional Services with Maher Accountancy for an Amount Not-to-Exceed

\$982,044, through June 30, 2028

Date: September 18, 2025

#### Recommendation

Recommend that the Board of Directors (Board) approve and delegate authority to the CEO or designee to execute a two-year and eight month agreement for professional services with Maher Accountancy (Maher), for general accounting services with a not-to-exceed amount of \$982,044, effective November 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.

#### **Background**

Maher Accountancy has been SCP's primary accountant since 2013, with several prior contracts and extension amendments for services.

Maher has been a key partner in SCP's operations since our formation. They perform general accounting services and have been instrumental in financial risk management, budgeting, contract tracking, payroll, invoice processing and other operational processes. SCP contracts with a separate accounting firm for our annual fiscal-year independent audits.

#### Discussion

As the accounting services specific to CCAs are critical to a successful organization, staff recommend continuation of our working relationship with Maher. Maher has expanded their team over the last several years to provide services to several CCAs across the state and are familiar with the scope and breadth of the accounting needs

of SCP. They work well with our team and have achieved clean outside audits every year since 2013.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

The costs for accounting services, including annual audits, are included in the approved 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget. Costs for future fiscal years will be built into the budget for those years.

#### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 - Draft Agreement for Professional Services between SCP and Maher Accountancy (expires 6/30/2028), available at <a href="this link">this link</a> or by request to the Clerk of the Board



#### Staff Report - Item 06

To: Sonoma Clean Power Authority Board of Directors

From: Darin Bartow, Compliance Manager

**Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs** 

Issue: Recommend the Board of Directors Adopt Resolution 2025-05

Attesting to the Accuracy of Sonoma Clean Power Authority's 2024

**Power Source Disclosure Annual Report** 

Date: September 18, 2025

#### Recommendation

Staff request that the Sonoma Clean Power Authority (SCP) Community Advisory Committee recommend the Board of Directors (Board) adopt a resolution approving the 2024 Power Source Disclosure Annual Report and attest to its veracity. The Resolution is attached to this staff report as Attachment 1, the 2024 PSD Annual Reports are attached as Exhibit 1 to the Resolution.

#### **Background**

The California Public Utilities Code requires all retail sellers of electric energy, including SCP, to disclose "accurate, reliable, and simple-to-understand information on the sources of energy" that are delivered to their respective customers each year. SCP submitted its 2023 PSD Annual Reports on June 3, 2024. The PSD Annual Reports include SCP's specified power purchases, resales, and self-consumption of energy by fuel type. Information from SCP's 2023 PSD Annual Reports is included in SCP's 2023 Power Content Label (PCL). The Power Content Label is mailed to SCP customers and posted on both SCP's and the California Energy Commission's (CEC) websites.

Under the amended program regulations, the audit requirements have changed slightly for public agencies. In the past, public agencies that chose to obtain board approval in lieu of completing an audit, would need to take both their annual reports

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> PUC § 398.1(a).

and Power Content Label to their board for approval. The new regulations eliminated the requirement for the PCL to be approved as per the California Code of <u>Regulations Section 1394.2.</u>

#### **Discussion**

The Resolution will approve SCP's 2024 PSD Annual Report and attest to the veracity of the data in the PSD Annual Reports. Adoption of the attached resolution as recommended by staff enables SCP to comply with the CEC regulation implementing SB 1305.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Fiscal Impact**

Adoption of the Resolution will not result in any financial impact to SCP.

#### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 - Resolution Approving SCP 2024 Power Source Disclosure Annual Report with Exhibit 1 - SCP 2024 Power Source Disclosure Annual Report, which can be found at <a href="mailto:this link">this link</a> or by request to the Clerk of the Board.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 20 CRR § 1390-1394.



#### Staff Report - Item 07

To: Sonoma Clean Power Authority Community Advisory Committee

From: Karen Flores, Clerk of the Board

Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations

**Issue: Approve Community Advisory Committee Meeting Dates for 2026** 

**Calendar Year** 

Date: September 18, 2025

#### Recommendation

Approve Community Advisory Committee Meeting Dates for 2026 Calendar Year.

#### **Background**

As prescribed in Sonoma Clean Power's (SCP) Joint Powers Agreement, the Community Advisory Committee (Committee) is required to meet a minimum of six times per year. Prior to 2021, staff historically scheduled meetings on an as-needed basis. Since 2021, meetings have been held on a regular schedule to aid with planning and preparation.

#### **Discussion**

The proposed schedule, included as an attachment, would continue to schedule the Committee meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Planning the dates in advance would not prohibit the Chair or Vice Chair from cancelling a meeting should there be a light agenda and/or a lack of a quorum on the pre-determined meeting date. Over the past several years, the August meeting has usually been cancelled when possible. The decision whether to cancel the August meeting will be made in June or July of 2026. Staff anticipate continuing to conduct hybrid meetings under AB 2449 rules barring changes to legislation that would affect public meetings.

#### **Attachment**

> Attachment 1 - 2026 SCPA Community Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule



# Sonoma Clean Power Authority Community Advisory Committee Schedule of Meetings January - December 2026 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(The CAC normally meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month)

January 15, 2026

February 19, 2026

March 19, 2026

April 16, 2026

May 21, 2026

June 18, 2026

July 16, 2026

August 20, 2026 (tentative)

September 17, 2026

October 15, 2026

November 19, 2026

December 17, 2026



#### Staff Report - Item 08

To: Sonoma Clean Power Authority Community Advisory Committee

From: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer

**Garth Salisbury, Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer** 

Issue: Recommend the Boad of Directors Approve Resolution 2025-06

**Delegating Investment Authority to the Treasurer** 

Date: September 18, 2025

#### Recommendation

Staff request the Community Advisory Committee recommend the Board of Directors adopt proposed Resolution No. 2025-06 (Attachment 1) delegating investment and similar authority to Garth Salisbury, Chief Financial Officer, as the Treasurer of Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) in accordance with Government Code 53607.

#### **Background**

When SCP was formed, its Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) named the Sonoma County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector as the Treasurer for SCP. Per Section 4.9.3 of SCP's JPA, "The Board may transfer the responsibilities of Treasurer to any person or entity as the law may provide at the time." On October 3, 2024, the Board passed Resolution 2025-01 naming Garth Salisbury Treasurer of SCP.

#### **Discussion**

Garth Salisbury, SCP's Current Chief Financial Officer, has served in the role of Treasurer since October 2024. As Treasurer, Garth has overseen the cash management of the organization and the investments of SCP's reserves. This includes amending and updating SCP's Investment Policy to require more diversification of investments, eliminating more risky investment categories and hiring a professional investment advisor to manage SCP's 3-5 year fixed income investment portfolio.

Pursuant to Government Code section 53607, Board may delegate the authority to the Treasurer to invest or to reinvest funds of the Authority, or to sell or exchange securities so purchased. This delegation must be made on an annual basis. This resolution would delegate this authority for another year through October of 2026.

#### **Attachments**

➤ Attachment 1 - Draft Resolution No. 2025-06 Delegating Investment Authority to the Treasurer

#### [NOT YET ADOPTED]

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06**

# RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SONOMA CLEAN POWER AUTHORITY DELEGATING INVESTMENT AUTHORITY TO THE TREASURER

**WHEREAS**, Sonoma Clean Power Authority is a joint powers authority organized under the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Government Code Section 6500 et seg.); and

**WHEREAS,** the Board of Directors ("Board") of the Sonoma Clean Power Authority ("Authority"), pursuant to Government Code Section 6505.6 and Section 4.9.3 of the Authority's Joint Power Agreement, as amended, ("JPA"), may appoint one of its officers or employees to the position of Treasurer, and such person or persons shall comply with the duties and responsibilities of the office or officers as set forth in subdivisions (a) to (e), inclusive, of Government Code Section 6505.5; and

**WHEREAS,** that the Board previously appointed Garth Salisbury, the Chief Financial Officer of the Authority, as Treasurer; and

**WHEREAS,** Government Code section 53607 allows the Board to delegate authority to the Treasurer to invest or to reinvest funds of the Authority, or to sell or exchange securities so purchased on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to make this delegation.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Board of Directors of the Sonoma Clean Power Authority:

- Section 1. <u>Recitals</u>. That the foregoing recitals are true and correct and a substantive part of this Resolution.
- Section 2. <u>Surplus Funds</u>. Pursuant to Government Code section 53607, the Board delegates authority to the Treasurer to invest or to reinvest funds of the Authority and to sell or exchange securities so purchased from such funds. The Treasurer shall report such actions to the Board as required by law.
- Section 3. <u>Term</u>. This Resolution shall remain in full force and effect until rescinded by the Board by resolution.
- Section 4. <u>Certification</u>. The Board Clerk shall certify the adoption of this Resolution.

### **DULY ADOPTED** this $2^{nd}$ day of October, 2025

JURISDICTION	NAME	AYE	NO	ABSTAIN/ ABSENT
Cloverdale	Director Laskey			
Cotati	Director Lemus			
Fort Bragg	Director Albin-Smith			
Petaluma	Director Barnacle			
Rohnert Park	Director Elward			
Santa Rosa	Director Flemming			
Sebastopol	Director Zollman			
Sonoma	Director Farrar-Rivas			
Windsor	Director Potter			
County of Mendocino	Director Haschak			
County of Sonoma	Director Hopkins			

In alphabetical order by jurisdiction

	Brian Barnacle Chair, Sonoma Clean Power Authority
Authority Attest:	
Karen Flores, Clerk of the Board	



#### **Staff Report - Item 09**

To: Sonoma Clean Power Authority Board of Directors

From: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer

Issue: Recommend the Board of Directors Approve Adding Sonoma Clean

Power Authority's Chief Financial Officer to the Authority's Energy Risk

**Management Policy** 

Date: September 18, 2025

#### Recommendation

Review and recommend that the Board adopt the attached edits to SCP's Energy Risk Management Policy, adding the role of Chief Financial Officer.

#### **Background**

For SCP's first ten years of operations, the organization operated without a Chief Financial Officer. Since adding that role, the agency's Energy Risk Management Policy now needs to reflect that the CFO has a role in energy transactions. Additionally, with the addition of a CFO, SCP has improved front/mid/back-office protocols to minimize risk and improve transparency in energy procurement procedures and day-to-day operations. Certain minor clarifications were also added to the policy.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

None.

#### **Attachment**

Attachment 1 - Redlines to the SCPA Energy Risk Management Policy

### SCPA Energy Risk Management Policy

#### 1. Introduction

It is the policy of the Sonoma Clean Power Authority ("SCPA") to operate Sonoma Clean Power ("SCP") to provide electric energy and energy-related programs to customers consistent with our Board-approved IRP. SCPA also has a duty to make financially sound and timely investments, and to safeguard the Authority against adverse conditions.

This Energy Risk Management Policy ("Policy") recognizes that there are risks inherent in participating in energy markets, and establishes the key control structures and policies to prudently manage risk:

- Clearly defined segregation of duties and delegation of authority
- Organizational structure for risk management controls
- Policies setting acceptable risk parameters and risk limits
- Procedures for risk reporting
- Permitted transactions and product types

The scope of this Policy addresses SCPA's electric supply and participation in energy markets. It does not address operational details such as the prudent handling of data, deal entry, settlement validation, accuracy of load and generation forecasts, and myriad other detailed tasks. It also does not address general business risks, insurance, legislative or policy risks.

SCPA recognizes that risks are inherent in the electric energy business. SCPA therefore seeks to use the prudent management of energy market transactions to minimize the risks to SCPA and its customers.

#### 2. Energy Risk Management Objectives

The primary objectives of energy risk management activities are to balance the business objectives of (1) providing stable electric rates to customers, (2) maintaining the on-going financial viability of the agency, and (3) managing business processes to allow the staff of SCPA to work efficiently and cost effectively while achieving standards in our Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP").

#### 2.1. Retail Rate Stability

Stable rates are of high value to the citizens and businesses in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, and yet energy commodity market prices are extremely volatile. Therefore, a key objective is to manage the risks inherent in the energy commodity markets to limit customer exposure to large swings in rates. This is done by mitigating both market risk and credit risk. Reserve balances maintained by SCPA per Financial Policy B.2 provide financial credit for entering into long-term contracts and financial liquidity for entering into shorter-term contracts and purchases of energy in the spot and forward market as needed to meet the projected load.

#### 2.2. Maintain Financial Viability of the Agency

SCPA seeks to: (a) reduce exposure to potential adverse energy price movements; (b) control costs by optimizing SCPA contracts; and (c) offering commodity products that address customer needs and recover costs through rate setting Board adopted financial policies.

#### 2.3. Efficient and Cost-Effective Business Processes

SCPA staff will utilize business practices and controls that are sufficient to identify, evaluate, and manage risks, and are designed to streamline recording, analysis and reporting requirements. Staff will strive to improve the risk management procedures to enhance productivity, reduce the cost of conducting risk management activities, and maintain transparency and value of the risk management process.

#### 3. General Transacting Policy

#### 3.1. Anti-speculation

Speculative buying and selling of energy products are prohibited. SCPA will not speculate in the energy market. Purchases of power products are only allowed where there is expectation of receiving delivery/utilizing the financial product. Selling of products is only allowed when SCPA owns the underlying products. Financial transactions that financially protect SCPA from major swings in market pricing are allowed.

#### 3.2. Consistency with Integrated Resource Plan

Any transaction that is not consistent with the Board's most recently adopted Integrated Resource Plan must be reported by the CEO at the next Board meeting together with the reasons for the transaction.

#### 3.3. Open and Competitive Process

Whenever possible, SCPA will seek to obtain multiple bids when making a purchase or sale transaction and select the best value transaction consistent with SCPA's Board-adopted IRP.

#### 3.4. Adherence to all Required Registrations and Certifications

Note: The following may be updated by staff periodically to reflect changing requirements:

SCPA aims to comply with all applicable compliance regulations. For instances where SCPA does not meet compliance obligations, other than minor administrative deficiencies, the nature of the action will be presented to the Board along with any resulting penalties or consequences.

#### a) California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

SCPA shall maintain its certification to operate a CCA through an Implementation Plan and maintain a functional relationship for customer billing with a CPUC-certified Service Agreement between SCPA and the investor-owned utility.

b) California Independent System Operator (CAISO)

SCPA is a Market Participant in the CAISO Federal Energy Regulatory Commission filed tariff, which includes Scheduling Coordination, energy imbalance settlement, congestion revenue rights, settlements and other rights and responsibilities as determined by CAISO. SCPA's market participation shall strictly comply with the laws, rules and regulations governing CAISO operation, including but not limited to, the FERC approved CAISO Tariff, CAISO Business Practice Manuals, and any successors; be consistent with SCPA Board adopted Policies; and continuously seek the lowest cost, least risk impact to SCPA customers.

c) Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS)

SCPA is a WREGIS account holder where SCPA has the right to purchase, transfer and retire certificates. WREGIS certificates are required for compliance with state requirements for renewable energy.

d) California Energy Commission (CEC)

SCPA engages with the California Energy Commission to ensure compliance in areas including adhering to renewable energy mandates, Resource Adequacy load forecasting, Integrated Energy Policy Report and power content reporting.

e) California Air Resources Board (CARB)

SCPA engages with CARB to ensure compliance in areas including Low Carbon Fuel Credits.

#### 3.5. Operational Risk Assessment

The Board has directed staff to ensure that standard procedures are maintained to address portfolio valuation risk, counterparty credit and default risk, risks associated with forecasting error, risks of overconcentration on technologies, location or specific counterparties, and other related market risks as determined by the Risk Oversight Committee ("ROC").

#### 4. Oversight Bodies

#### 4.1. Sonoma Clean Power Authority Board of Directors

The SCPA Board of Directors has the primary oversight responsibility, governing SCPA's preferred resources through the Integrated Resource Plan, selecting customer programs, establishing customer rates and ensuring SCPA is responsibly managed by hiring, reviewing and potentially terminating its CEO. The Board receives advice from its Community Advisory Committee and the public. The Board also establishes and reviews this policy from time to time and reviews staff reports on risk.

#### 4.2. Chief Executive Officer

The CEO has responsibility for executing and ensuring compliance with policies adopted by the Board of Directors. The CEO shall establish a staff "ROC" which shall consist of the CEO, COO, CFO, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Managing Director of Power Procurement and Senior Risk Officer. The CEO shall report annually to the Board regarding energy risk management activities. The CEO shall maintain clear

delegations of energy market contracting authority for each type of transaction and each staff position within SCPA.

#### 4.3. Risk Oversight Committee (ROC)

The ROC shall advise the CEO on prudent risk management and aid in ensuring compliance with this and other Board policies. Any transaction or activity requiring the approval of the CEO or SCPA's Board Chair or Vice Chair shall first be reviewed by the ROC.

The ROC shall serve in an oversight and advisory role which governs and ensures adherence to the Policy. The ROC is responsible for making recommendations to approve or reject transactions based on the Policy, reviewing hedge tolerance bands, seeking input on recommended transactions prior to seeking Board approval to execute, reviewing PPA and long-term transactions including seeking input on RFOs prior to issuance, reviewing RFOs, verifying term sheets details and confirming final contracts prior to execution.

The ROC will define internal controls, strategies and processes for managing market risks such as those incurred through wholesale trading, retail marketing, long-term contracting, Congestion Revenue Rights ("CRR") trading and load and generation scheduling.

In addition to the above-mentioned responsibilities, the ROC will evaluate energy market transactions for consistency with SCPA's procurement strategy and targets (i.e. Renewable Portfolio Standard ("RPS"), Greenhouse Gas ("GHG"), Resource Adequacy ("RA"), energy storage) and established counterparty concentration and credit risk tolerances. The ROC will also validate that risk management controls and practices are sufficient to monitor and manage SCPA's risk exposure.

The ROC also approves counterparties based on Section 5 of this Policy.

The ROC reviews risk management reports provided by the Power Services Team's Middle Office including SCPA's Net Open Position ("NOP"), market exposure, credit exposure, counterparty credit ratings, transaction compliance, and other relevant market data and portfolio parameters.

The ROC shall recommend updates to the Board for this Policy as needed. At a minimum, this Policy will be reviewed and updated by the ROC at least every two years.

#### 4.4. Management Responsibility

Risk management oversight is accomplished through supervisory review and approval and appropriate separation of duties as follows:

f) Front Office – Planning and Procurement

The Front Office is primarily responsible for resource planning and procuring energy supplies and services. The Front Office management responsibility is accomplished through supervisory review and using appropriate transaction approval processes.

#### g) Middle Office/Risk – Controls and Reporting

The Middle Office/Risk provides the primary independent management responsibility. The Middle Office oversees all risk management activities including portfolio exposure, credit and counterparty exposure, and compliance. The Middle Office/Risk responsibilities provides checks and balances while monitoring SCPA's risk exposures and ensuring compliance with policies, guidelines, and procedures. The functions of the Middle Office can be broadly defined as risk analysis, compliance tracking and review, credit analysis, and management reporting.

#### i. Risk Analysis

The Middle Office performs rigorous risk analysis to evaluate the risk exposure on both a transaction and portfolio basis.

#### ii. Confirmations

Confirmations ensure transactions have gone through appropriate approval, legal review and proper signing authority for execution.

#### iii. Compliance Tracking and Review

The Middle Office monitors all compliance obligations and transactions to ensure compliance of transactions with SCPA policies and state regulations.

#### iv. Credit Analytics

The Middle Office monitors and analyzes counterparty creditworthiness. The Middle Office objectively measures and monitors credit limits and credit histories, and may temporarily or permanently halt trading, upon recommendation of the ROC. Credit will provide guidelines and transaction limitations and actively monitor counterparty risk to minimize the potential adverse financial impacts on SCPA in the event of a defaulting counterparty. Credit will implement a mechanism to monitor and report on supply portfolio related counterparty credit exposures. Counterparty credit exposures and transaction volumes relative to the established limits are to be monitored on an ongoing basis and reported to the ROC by the Middle Office. Credit will also analyze and track exposure to margin call, collateral tracking, Letters of Credit and anything related to SCPA's financial exposure for credit purposes.

#### v. Management Reporting

The Middle Office administers reports to the ROC related to risk management.

#### h) Back Office – Settlement and Recording

The Back Office is primarily responsible for counterparty checkouts, settlement of invoices, bookkeeping and accounting, and contract administration. The Back Office roles in oversight are ensuring that invoices reflect purchases or sales, independently monitoring transactions in the tracking database, and verifying and reporting on compliance with procedures. Back Office is

responsible for compliance reporting functions including but not limited to WREGIS retirement, RPS retirement reporting, retail sales, and LCFS.

#### 5. Authorized Forms of Agreement

The Board authorizes the CEO to develop and maintain such standard forms of agreement necessary to fulfill SCPA's compliance obligations and generally supply all of SCPA's energy and energy-related services. The CEO shall utilize legal counsel with specific expertise ("expert counsel") in each type of agreement in the development of the standard forms and in reviewing any potential exceptions. The Middle Office and SCPA's General Counsel maintains the authorized forms of agreement and ensures that exceptions are reviewed by expert counsel prior to execution.

#### 6. Authorized Transacting Products

Products allowed for electric transactions include energy, capacity, transmission, financial hedges and ancillary services. All transactions must:

- 1. be committed to by authorized transacting personnel;
- 2. be with approved counterparties;
- 3. use an authorized form of agreement;
- 4. be committed over recorded phone lines, via electronic mail or in writing;
- 5. be recorded into SCPA's deal book within 24 hours of execution; and
- 6. be consistent with this Policy.

Failure to observe the above minimum requirements when executing energy transactions is a violation of this Policy and is subject to disciplinary action.

#### 7. Transacting Authority

The CEO is authorized to make all necessary energy product expenditures which meet all of the following criteria:

- 1. In the best interest of SCPA's customers;
- 2. Consistent with this Policy and all other Board policies;
- 3. Less than 10 years in duration;
- 4. Less than \$250 million in notional value.

The table below shows further details for specific categories of procurement, and the individuals who are authorized to execute agreements, confirmations, and other documents relating to power

procurement. All transaction structures listed below have had counsel review and additional counsel review noted is for specific transaction negotiations.

PROCUREMENT CATEGORY	SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS	COUNSEL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS
Spot Transactions	The Managing Director of Power Procurement and one additional staff member in Power Procurement as designated by the CEO or CFO.	None
Non-Spot Transactions of Duration Less Than 3 Years and Having Notional Value Equal to or Less Than \$5,000,000	The Managing Director of Power Procurement and either the CEO or COOCFO. A staff member in Power Procurement may be designated by the CEO or CFO in the absence of the Managing Director.	Outside Counsel
Transactions Less Than 10 Years and Notional Value of Equal to or less than \$250,000,000	The Managing Director of Power Procurement and the CEO or CFO. A staff member in Power Procurement may be designated by the CEO or CFO in the absence of the Managing Director.	Outside Counsel
Transactions of 10 Years or More Duration or Having Notional Value Greater Than \$250,000,000	The Managing Director of Power Procurement, the CEO, and Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. A staff member in Power Procurement may be designated by the CEO in the absence of the Managing Director.	Outside Counsel

#### 8. Conflict of Interest

In accordance with the Municipal Code and California law, personnel involved in transacting and oversight of SCPA's supply resources may not engage in financial conflicts of interest, unless SCPA is duly informed, and it elects to waive such conflicts. Certain conflicts cannot be waived, including conflicts related to the Political Reform Act and Government Code Section 1090. All personnel in procuring or selecting counterparties for contracting or transacting are required to complete, on an annual basis, the Form 700 Disclosure forms and submit these forms to the Clerk.



#### **Staff Report - Item 10**

To: Sonoma Clean Power Authority Community Advisory Committee

From: Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations

Mike Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer

Issue: Receive Internal Operations Report and Provide Feedback as

**Appropriate** 

Date: September 18, 2025

#### **UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AT THE CUSTOMER CENTER**

- Wednesday September 10th & 24th: Emergency Prep Help for Seniors (2-part workshop) 10:00 AM 12:00 PM (Customer Center Free, hosted by Emergency Prep Help for Seniors). This is a comprehensive 2-part workshop, geared for older adults, on how to prepare for natural disasters and other emergencies.
- Saturday September 20th: Low Acid Pressure Canning Class w/ the Master Food Preservers 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (Customer Center - \$25, hosted by Master Food Preservers Sonoma County). Ready to conquer pressure canning? This essential workshop takes the fear out of safely preserving low-acid foods like soups, meats, fish, and vegetables at home.
- Saturday September 27th: Week Without Driving Kickoff Party 2:00 PM 4:00 PM (Customer Center Free, Hosted by North Bay Transit Riders No Registration Required). This will be a kick-off to the Sonoma County implementation of the Week Without Driving, a national event. We will invite elected leaders and members of the public, give specific instructions about how to participate and brainstorm ways to get around Sonoma County without a car.
- Saturday October 18th: Preserving through Freezing Workshop w/ the Master Food Preservers 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (Customer Center - \$45, hosted by Master Food Preservers Sonoma County). Discover how easy and effective home freezing can be in this fun, hands-on workshop focused on preparing and preserving a delicious pasta dinner from scratch.

• Saturday October 25th: Art @ SCP: Ghosts of Electricity Exhibit Closing Reception 1:00pm - 4:00pm (Business Center). SCP is hosting an exhibit of 34 works by 5 local artists at our all-electric, "grid optimal" business office. The exhibit will remain on display through a closing reception on Saturday, October 25th.

#### **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECRUITMENT FOR 2026**

The Community Advisory Committee (Committee) Members are appointed by the Board of Directors to serve set terms of 4 years. Our formation document, the Third Amended Joint Powers Agreement, states the Committee shall consist of a minimum of seven members and a maximum of eleven members. Six of our current members have terms expiring in December.

At the August Board of Directors Meeting, Chair Barnacle appointed four of the directors to an ad hoc committee to review and assist with the recruitment process and make a recommendation of new appointments to the Board. The new ad hoc committee consists of Directors Zollman, Lemus, Farrar-Rivas, and Albin-Smith. Staff are currently working on a recruitment timeline and updated recruitment materials for the ad hoc members to review. We anticipate the recruitment to open in September.

#### **SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 RATE CHANGE**

Background and Purpose

At the August 7, 2025, Board of Directors (Board) meeting, the Board approved new generation rates effective September 1, 2025. These rates are now structured to target customer total bills at approximately 0.5% below PG&E's bundled service total bills. This adjustment was made as a proactive measure to enhance SCP's ability to offer competitive customer rates in 2026 while maintaining the Agency's long-term financial stability.

Market and Regulatory Context

Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) throughout Northern California are facing significant financial and regulatory headwinds. Notably:

- An unusually large forecasted increase in PG&E's Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) beginning in January 2026.
- An expected reduction in PG&E's generation rates, which could narrow or eliminate the savings gap for CCA customers.

- Market volatility in energy procurement and pricing.
- Regulatory delays at the CPUC and other agencies affecting cost recovery and forecasting.

These combined pressures could have increased the likelihood of SCP customers paying more than PG&E customers in 2026 if no proactive action had been taken.

Strategic Rate Adjustment

By reducing customer savings relative to PG&E from September through December 2025, SCP is taking a forward-looking approach:

- Preserving financial reserves during a period of relative stability in order to weather anticipated 2026 challenges.
- Improving the likelihood that SCP will continue offering competitive rates compared to PG&E's throughout the 2026 calendar year.
- Demonstrating responsible financial stewardship by aligning short-term customer expectations with long-term competitiveness.

#### Conclusion

This strategic adjustment positions SCP to continue fulfilling its mission of delivering clean, affordable energy to our communities. While near-term savings have been reduced, these changes are necessary to sustain customer value in the face of unprecedented regulatory and market uncertainties.

#### **PROGRAMS UPDATES**

Electric Vehicle Tax Credit Workshop

On August 23, SCP - in partnership with the North Bay Electric Vehicle Association and Redwood Credit Union (RCU) - hosted an informational workshop on EVs and the tax credit termination. Attendees learned about tax credit requirements, deadlines, and incentive information. In addition, SCP's co-hosts discussed misconceptions of battery degradation and charging access and learned about car purchasing services through RCU. The workshop will be available on SCP's <u>Virtual Learning Hub.</u>

Electric Vehicle Detection

The Department of Motor Vehicles provides Sonoma Clean Power with an annual report on vehicle registrations, including the total number of electric vehicles (EVs) and

plug-in hybrids (PHEVs). SCP's service area has roughly 17,400 EVs and 7,800 PHEVs, however only 1/3 are on an EV rate and therefore easy to identify. To better serve these customers, SCP has been undergoing an EV detection exercise to learn where these vehicles are, their charging habits, and how to better serve those customers. Early findings indicate that most EV owners do not rely on a timer for charging and nearly half are located on solar net energy meter accounts, which represents a big opportunity for charging optimization.

#### **SMALL COMMERCIAL CUSTOMER OUTREACH**

This is an ongoing proactive effort by staff to identify customers who might be paying unnecessary charges on their total power bill.

At the request of Chair Barnacle, staff are providing the following common scenarios in which small businesses pay unnecessarily large power bills.

- Customers with rarely used large water pumps, paying high fixed charges.
- Customers who reconfigured their circuits and no longer need as much or any of the power through an auxiliary meter.
- Customers with automatic pressure tests on fire suppression systems that get triggered by water pressure drops which are beyond their control.
- Customers who unnecessarily power equipment longer than necessary, which causes them to exceed a rate-qualifying threshold. (When a small-usage customer exceeds 75 kW of demand three months in a row, they are no longer eligible for the small commercial rate.)
- Customers with underutilized expansion.

The following are some of our customer case stories with successful results. Per CPUC rules, SCP is not sharing the specific customer information.

**Senior care center:** SCP found a small not-for-profit senior care center that rarely ran a pump powered through a dedicated meter billed on a large commercial rate. For the 87 kWh used annually to power the pump the customer paid \$4,000 in unnecessary customer charges. SCP successfully helped the customer avoid those charges in the future.

**Empty warehouse:** A warehouse operator knew of demand charges related to a required pump test for their fire suppression system. However, they were unaware that

the pumps ran longer than necessary and more frequently due to automatic triggers when the water pressure dropped. SCP showed them when this occurred and how to address the issue so that they would no longer be required to pay \$20,000 in demand charges to PG&E.

**Manufacturer:** A processor of raw materials infrequently ran an arc welder on a dedicated circuit during their manufacturing process, drawing a considerable amount of power for just over fifteen minutes, triggering a threshold requirement that makes the meter mandatorily charged on a large-commercial rate. SCP showed them that if they were more strategic in their use of the welder's timing, they would qualify to drop to a small commercial rate, saving \$12,000 annually for the same amount of usage.

**Retail:** PG&E mandated that an established retail store with moderate electrical consumption pay maximum demand charges because the store had exceeded the 75 kW threshold three months in a row. This meant the customer paid about five times as much for their power than necessary. By showing this customer, partially powered by their solar array, that the meter's usage-detail indicated their staff turned up the air conditioning after the store closed on the few hottest evenings in three summer months, while also running motors and lights during cleanup, they just barely exceeded the 75 kW threshold. By educating their staff on power consumption, this customer will save \$17,000 annually.

**Treatment Plant:** A government built a wastewater treatment plant to support new development. Due to changes in planned use, the treatment plant was utilized less than anticipated. However, the electricity rate was not adjusted to reflect the decreased operations. By helping the government to optimize their rate, they are now saving over \$60,000 annually.

**Project Summary:** By advising our affected customers directly that they are better served by changing their accounts from larger-commercial rates to small-commercial rates, they collectively reduced their expected annual power bills by \$352,000. These were charges predominantly paid to PG&E for transmission and delivery. The impact on generation by changing rates means that the SCP's annual revenue will be reduced by \$37,200.

#### MENDOCINO COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

We are excited to announce Avery Edmunds as our Mendocino College Sonoma Clean Power scholarship recipient! This 36-year-old Willits resident is maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA in Mathematics and Science for Transfer while juggling 14 credits, full-time work, and a daily commute from north of Willits.

Avery's clean energy roots run deep. After working as an electrician in New York, he moved to California and trained as a solar installer at the Real Goods Solar Living Center in Hopland. He then transitioned into agriculture, but now he's making another shift - going from farm to foundation. Through the TAG program, he plans to transfer to UC Davis and return to Mendocino County as a licensed structural engineer.

Mendocino County faces a severe housing crisis with a documented shortage of structural engineers, often forcing contractors to outsource this critical work. Avery's goal? Develop mixed-use income-qualifying residential projects right here in our community.

His story perfectly aligns with SCP's values of community partnerships and local innovation. Avery served two years on the Willits Community Services and Food Bank Board, distributed food during COVID-19, and speaks at local schools about recovery. He's the kind of local talent we love investing in.



# **PARTICIPATION RATES BY TOT (Town or Territory)**

# **Clean Start**

COUNTY	Town or Territory	Eligible	SCP	% Part.	% Opt Out
MENDOCINO	Total	38,268	30,366	79.4%	20.6%
	FORT BRAGG INC	4,094	3,439	84.0%	16.0%
	POINT ARENA INC	343	296	86.3%	13.7%
	UNINC MENDOCINO CO	31,088	24,460	78.7%	21.3%
	WILLITSINC	2,743	2,171	79.1%	20.9%
SONOMA	Total	232,274	204,708	88.1%	11.9%
	CLOVERDALE INC	3,918	3,239	82.7%	17.3%
	COTATI INC	3,928	3,531	89.9%	10.1%
	PETALUMA INC	27,838	24,811	89.1%	10.9%
	ROHNERT PARK INC	19,937	17,592	88.2%	11.8%
	SANTA ROSA INC	81,043	71,948	88.8%	11.2%
	SEBASTOPOL INC	4,512	4,109	91.1%	8.9%
	SONOMA INC	6,450	5,677	88.0%	12.0%
	UNINC SONOMA CO	74,446	64,877	87.1%	12.9%
	WINDSORINC	10,202	8,924	87.5%	12.5%
Total		270,542	235,074	86.9%	13.1%

# **Evergreen Enrollment**

COUNTY	Town or Territory	SCP Meter	EverGreen	EverGreen
MENDOCINO	Total	30,366	441	1.45%
	FORT BRAGG INC	3,439	41	1.19%
	POINT ARENA INC	296	30	10.14%
	UNINC MENDOCINO CO	24,460	352	1.44%
	WILLITSINC	2,171	18	0.83%
SONOMA	Total	204,708	3,723	1.82%
	CLOVERDALE INC	3,239	25	0.77%
	COTATI INC	3,531	126	3.57%
	PETALUMA INC	24,811	630	2.54%
	ROHNERT PARK INC	17,592	231	1.31%
	SANTA ROSA INC	71,948	1,193	1.66%
	SEBASTOPOL INC	4,109	171	4.16%
	SONOMA INC	5,677	86	1.51%
	UNINC SONOMA CO	64,877	998	1.54%
	WINDSORINC	8,924	263	2.95%
Total		235,074	4,164	1.77%

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- ➤ Board of Directors October 2, 2025
- Community Advisory Committee October 16, 2025
- ➤ Board of Directors November 6, 2025
- Community Advisory Committee November 20, 2025
- ➤ Board of Directors December 4, 2025
- Community Advisory Committee December 18, 2025

## **Attachment**

> Attachment 1 - Community Advisory Committee 2025 Members and Terms



Community Advisory Committee 2025 Members and Terms

	NAME	TERM ENDS
1.	Spencer Lipp	End of 2027
2.	Jeff Kelly	<b>End of 2025</b>
3.	Michael Heffler	<b>End of 2025</b>
4.	Daniel Soto	End of 2027
5.	Crispin Hollinshead	<b>End of 2025</b>
6.	Jana Wang	End of 2027
7.	Mike Nicholls	End of 2027
8	Patricia Morris	End of 2027
<b>6</b>	Dick Dowd	<b>End of 2025</b>
10.	Liz Hagen	End of 2027
11.	Vacant	

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## Staff Report - Item 11

To: Sonoma Clean Power Authority Board of Directors

From: Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs

**Adam Jorge, Senior Decarbonization Policy Manager** 

Miles Horton, Legislative Policy & Community Engagement Manager

**Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer** 

Issue: Receive Legislative and Regulatory Updates and Provide Feedback as

**Appropriate** 

Date: September 18, 2025

## **Requested Action**

Receive legislative and regulatory updates.

# **Regulatory Updates**

County of Sonoma Submits Public Records Act Request to California Public Utilities

Commission Regarding Power Charge Indifference Adjustment Impact

As previously discussed, the CPUC recently adopted a proposal to delay financial credits PG&E owes to CCA customers by up to 4 years. This means that SCP customers will be required to loan millions of dollars to PG&E interest free in 2026. This decision will create more volatility in electric bills, increasing the risk of years with higher total bills.

Specifically, this Decision modified how the Resource Adequacy (RA) – a product required to support grid reliability – credit is calculated. There were five modifications introduced by CPUC staff. The stated goal of the modifications was to increase the number of transactions included and to increase the accuracy of the result. Sonoma Clean Power staff, working in conjunction with CalCCA, supported 4 of these: removing affiliate transactions, removing sleeve transactions, combining all RA into the calculation, and calculating monthly values. The Decision adopted those except for calculating monthly values.

However, it also adopted the modification CalCCA and SCP were most strongly opposed to using historical RA prices instead of the current prices to determine market value. Most problematically, it did so retroactively. In practice, this means the elevated RA prices observed in 2024 would not be fully granted to our customers but would instead be blended with transactions from 2021-2024. As the earlier years had lower prices, the blended value is depressed which results in a lower credit for our customers and higher PCIA charge. We still do not have the underlying data from the earlier transactions to calculate the impact on our customers. However, we estimate the impact will be in the millions of dollars.

This rushed, retroactive change to rates without clear data on the impact is troubling. However, blending the higher 2024 RA prices into years 2025-2027 would be beneficial for customers' PCIA credit in the case that future prices do not remain as high. Ultimately, the most significant risk is that there is no guarantee this methodology – using four years instead of one – will stay in place. If the CPUC were to later adjust the credit calculation back to using one year of cost data in the future, the effect would be to transfer costs from one group of customers to another. Such an outcome would violate the CPUC's obligation to maintain cost indifference, so SCP staff will be watching closely for any indication that the CPUC might be considering this type of future action.

The Decision implements these rapid changes to the methodology by this Fall and grants utilities the ability to apply them immediately. SCP staff, joined by Supervisor Hopkins, met with four Commissioner Offices on this topic. In addition, staff submitted opening comments on this proposal outlining the need for transparency and rate stability. Despite working to educate them on the negative impacts and dangerous precedent this sets, the Decision was adopted.

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, CalCCA submitted an Application for Rehearing of the Decision. This Application highlights how the CPUC engaged in retroactive ratemaking and relied on a limited procedural record. The CPUC now has 120 days to act on this Application. If they fail to do so, it is considered denied. Such a denial would provide for CalCCA to take this to the Appellate Court.

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, the County of Sonoma submitted a Public Records Act ("PRA") request seeking information on the impact of this decision on ratepayers. The PRA, Request 25-516, will be posted on the CPUC website. It is included as an attachment to this report.

Sonoma Clean Power and Joint CCA Group Advocacy Earns Key Wins in SB 1221 Neighborhood Decarbonization Pilot Program Proceeding at the CPUC

On March 11th, a Joint CCA group submitted comments in a new CPUC proceeding (R.24-09-012) tasked with establishing policies and rules to ensure safe and reliable planning of the gas system. This proceeding, following the passage of SB 1221, directs the utilities to begin planning for targeted decarbonization of specific neighborhoods by replacing gas infrastructure with increased electrical capacity. Specifically, the legislation requires the utilities to identify and propose 30 pilot projects by 2026. Each pilot intends to gain customer buy-in and *voluntarily* transition 67% of customer accounts within the project area from gas to all-electric service. Reaching this benchmark relieves the Gas Utility of its "obligation to serve" natural gas to the participating region in the future. This does not mean that gas is shut off to the neighborhood, but instead that gas service can legally and permanently end when gas infrastructure reaches its end of useful life.

To do this, they will begin by establishing criteria and processes by which to evaluate potential neighborhoods. CPUC staff issued a proposal for stakeholder comment which outlined their vision of how this process should proceed.

Sonoma Clean Power is leading efforts at the CPUC to coordinate a Joint CCA group advocating for a fair, data-driven, and customer-led SB 1221 Pilot Program. Sonoma Clean Power and the Joint CCAs have been largely supportive of the intent of SB 1221 and how CPUC staff envision implementation.

Recent months of coordinated advocacy have yielded several key successes in this proceeding, including:

- The public version of Gas Utilities' SB 1221 maps include several critical data layers that confirm which regions include planned near-term gas line replacements. While not perfect, these maps have offered insights into potential pilot zones within SCP's service area. These maps are interactive and will be refined further at the direction of the Commission.
- Overly restrictive non-disclosure agreement (NDA) requirements have been removed from the CPUC-approved NDA, making it easier for CCAs and other key government partners to access the confidential versions of the gas system maps without excessive gatekeeping from the Gas Utilities. This allows partnership while also ensuring the protection of sensitive data.
- The Joint CCAs have fostered agreement between utilities, environmental advocates, and other parties to the proceeding, with multiple parties citing

- the specific value that CCAs bring to consensus building and pilot zone identification.
- The Joint CCAs and other parties have emphasized the need for the CPUC
  to stand up a pilot zone identification process specifically for local
  government and CCA partners with unique insights into the electric system
  and customer willingness to participate in a pilot. This point will be
  reiterated as the proceeding continues to ensure that CCAs create an
  effective pathway to participate in SB 1221 pilots as appropriate for
  customers.

The Commission is currently gathering additional feedback from parties to the proceeding and from members of the public. The next suite of decisions will: (1) further direct the Gas Utilities to refine the data made available to the public; (2) determine which organizations are able to support the Gas Utilities in efforts to identify priority zones; (3) begin defining the programmatic criteria for SB 1221 pilot implementation. The Commission intends to define an initial set of priority neighborhood decarbonization zones by January 1, 2026, with additional zones defined every year thereafter. By July 1, 2026, the Commission aims to identify the first set of SB 1221 pilots.

# **Legislative Updates**

Sonoma Clean Power is sponsoring two bills in the California Legislature this year aimed at improving the state's ability to deploy geothermal power, in partnership with the International Union of Operating Engineers, Fervo Energy, and others:

- Assembly Bill 527 (Papan) would mirror federal policy by exempting geothermal exploration wells meeting a high standard of environmental stewardship from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), so long as the projects use a skilled and trained workforce that is paid at least the prevailing wage. The subsequent buildout phase would still be subject to CEQA. The bill continues to be opposed by a small group of environmental organizations. Amendments added by the Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee now also require that the state update its regulations around geothermal power to reflect the rise of new technologies.
- Assembly Bill 531 (Rogers) would allow proposed geothermal power plants to be approved through an existing "one-stop shop" process at the California Energy Commission, known as the "opt-in" process (because a renewable energy

developer can voluntarily opt in to using it). While geothermal power plants can theoretically use this process today, there is a 50 MW minimum project size that functionally excludes most geothermal development (which is typically more like 20, 30, or 40 MW in size). Given the value of geothermal power to the grid and the capital-intensive nature of even "small" geothermal projects, this bill aims to ensure that all proposed geothermal power plants have this option available.

Both bills have moved forward out of the Senate Appropriations Committee, thanks in large part to the leadership of State Senate leader Mike McGuire. At the time of writing, they now await final votes by the full Legislature before proceeding to the Governor's desk. The Governor has until mid-October to sign or veto all pending legislation.

Also at the time of writing, the Legislature is considering a wide range of energy- and climate-related issues for inclusion in a sweeping climate and ratepayer affordability package, including but not limiting to renewal of the state's cap-and-trade program, public financing of transmission lines, new rules governing oil drilling and refining, and much more. All of these issues will be settled and on the Governor's desk by Friday, September 12, when the legislative year wraps up. Some issues, such as cap-and-trade, may roll over into future years.

## **Attachment**

Attachment 1 - Public Records Act Request to the CPUC from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors COUNTY OF SONOMA

#### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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JAMES GORE

September 8, 2025

Public Records Act Request to the California Public Utilities Commission Legal Division, Public Records Office California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102

Pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 6250 et seq.), the County of Sonoma hereby requests access to and copies of all records and analyses pertaining to the impact of Decision D.25-06-049 in the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment Proceeding (R. 25-02-005).

To assist in identifying the responsive documents, the requested records pertain to those created or shared since the initiation of the Rulemaking R. 25-02-005 to the present date. The scope of this request includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 1. Any documents showing the estimated financial impact in PG&E territory of adopting the new methodology for calculating Resource Adequacy Market Price Benchmarks in for implementation in 2026, when compared with the original methodology.
- 2. Any documents showing how PG&E bundled customers will be impacted by the Decision.
- 3. Any documents showing how Sonoma Clean Power customers will be impacted by the Decision.
- 4. Any documents showing how the Commission's adoption of the new methodology for calculating the Resource Adequacy Market Price Benchmark impact credits paid to CCA customers from the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, when compared with the original methodology.

In accordance with Government Code section 6253(c), please respond to this request within ten days. I look forward to your response and am happy to discuss as necessary.

Sincerely,

Lynda Hopkins, Chair

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors



## Staff Report - Item 12

To: Sonoma Clean Power Authority Community Advisory Committee

From: Danielle McCants, Customer Operations Manager

Issue: Receive an Update on Sonoma Clean Power Authority's Internship

**Program Structure and Recent Developments** 

Date: September 18, 2025

#### Recommendation

Receive a presentation on the structure, goals, and recent developments of Sonoma Clean Power's (SCP) Internship Program, including highlights from the current cycle and future planning efforts.

# **Background**

Since its formation, Sonoma Clean Power has supported student development through internships, recognizing the mutual benefit of investing in future professionals while advancing SCP's mission. What began as an informal arrangement has evolved into a structured, multi-phase program that offers meaningful learning experiences for students and valuable contributions to SCP's operations. This report provides an overview of that evolution, the current program structure, and the impact the internship program continues to have both within the organization and in the broader community.

## **Discussion**

Since its formation, Sonoma Clean Power has supported student development through internships, recognizing the mutual benefit of investing in future professionals while advancing SCP's mission. What began as an informal arrangement has evolved into a structured, multi-phase program that delivers meaningful learning experiences for students and valuable contributions to SCP operations.

# **Program History**

SCP's earliest interns came through Sonoma Water and helped support outreach efforts. In the early years, interns were placed within individual departments to meet immediate team needs, but the approach lacked consistency and development opportunities. With the opening of the Customer Center in 2021, leadership envisioned a more structured internship model. While operational demands initially took priority, feedback from interns and staff laid the foundation for the current three-phase framework.

## **Recruitment Strategy**

In 2024, SCP launched its three-phase model alongside an expanded recruitment strategy. Interns are primarily sourced through local colleges such as Santa Rosa Junior College, Mendocino College, and Sonoma State University, as well as the Sonoma Corps program led by the Career Technical Education Foundation of Sonoma County. Sonoma Corps provides high school seniors with a pathway into the workforce through post-graduation internships and scholarship funding. SCP's participation supports regional workforce development and offers exposure to clean energy careers.

# **Program Structure**

The internship program is a one-year program with a total of four interns per year. Two Sonoma Corps interns begin in July, and two college interns start in January. This staggered schedule ensures that at any given time, at least two interns are familiar with SCP operations, have completed customer service training, participated in events and tabling, and gained exposure to all SCP programs.

SCP's internship includes three phases:

- **Phase 1**: Onboarding & Customer Center Interns begin with structured onboarding and learn about SCP's services through frontline customer engagement.
- Phase 2: Department Rotations Interns rotate through departments such as Customer Service, Programs, Internal Operations, and Marketing.
- **Phase 3**: Career Preparation Interns receive support with resumes, mock interviews, and informational interviews to support their next steps.

# **Program Impact**

SCP has hosted 29 interns to date, with 8 hired into permanent roles. Many others have continued into sustainability-related careers or higher education, including positions at Tesla, Calpine, County of Napa, and other CCAs. Interns have contributed to high-value projects, such as:

- Estimating financial impacts of missing usage data
- Analyzing drop rates and late payments to inform collections strategies
- Modeling housing sector emissions scenarios for long-term planning
- Evaluating rate policy impacts for NEM customer transitions
- Recommending improvements to customer-facing content

Interns also support internal culture by fostering cross-departmental collaboration, fresh insights, and stronger mentoring capacity among staff.

#### **Lessons Learned**

Earlier internship efforts lacked structure and professional development focus. In response, SCP introduced onboarding processes, SMART goals, and broader rotations. The addition of HR has strengthened the career prep phase, including mock interviews, resume help, and guidance on benefits and job classifications.

#### **Future Plans**

SCP will continue refining the program with an emphasis on onboarding, project alignment, and intern evaluation. Some departments have unique intern needs that don't always fit the current model, so adjustments are being explored to better support those variations.

SCP plans to continue recruiting locally and stay involved with CTE's evolving Path to Purpose program. If that pipeline becomes less viable, SCP will pivot to open recruitment to maintain program continuity.

#### **Attachments**

- Attachment 1 Presentation on Internship Program
- Attachment 2 SCP Internship Program Summary, which can be found at this <u>link</u> or by request to the Clerk of the Board.

# **Internship Program Update**

From Early Intern Support to a Structured Talent Pipeline



Danielle McCants, Customer Operations Manager



# **Program Overview**

- 29 interns hosted since program launch
- Originally informal, department-based roles
- Evolved into a structured, three phase model in 2024
- Recruited from SRJC, SSU, Mendocino College, and local high schools
- Focused on developing local talent

# Why the Change

- Interns wanted structure and development
- Lack of onboarding and mentorship
- Feedback from staff and interns aligned
- Shift to a cross-department model

Looking back, how do you think the new three phase structure could have benefitted you?

66

The added structure would have elevated the internship. While independent exploration was valuable, having formal mentorship and guided opportunities would have provided additional direction and helped me grow more intentionally within the agency.

– Bridget A. (SCP Program Specialist  $\ensuremath{\mathcal{C}}$  former SCP Intern)

99



# **Program Structure**

- Phase 1: Onboarding and Customer Center
- Phase 2: Department rotations
- Phase 3: Career preparation
  - Includes: resume building, KPI development, job offer literacy, mock interviews

# How did the internship affect your career goals or confidence?

66

I felt that the internship really helped me visualize my strengths, through projects and professional interactions. It really made it easier to find things I enjoy and excel at when I knew what I could do.

- Elena M.

"



# **Intern Impact**

- 8 interns hired as full-time SCP staff
- · Alumni placed at Tesla, Calpine, CCAs
- · Key projects:
  - NEM cash out analysis
  - Smart Thermostat webpage feedback
  - Housing emissions model





PCE - Sr. Analyst, Account Services





# **Organizational Value**

Interns bring fresh perspective

Staff gain mentoring experience

Enhances cross-team collaboration

How has mentoring interns contributed to your own professional growth?

66

Mentoring has pushed me to be better and to model strong, positive behavior. I wanted to show them that it's possible to work hard and still have a good time.

- April V. (SCP Brand Manager)

10

Why do you believe SCP's internship program is valuable to the organization?



When SCP helps grow the professional energy/environmental/sustainability professional workforce, we cultivate our institutional knowledge, values, and perspectives in that young professional - that carries forward in the work we do, and, hopefully, they continue to educate others and propagate our messages/ethics in the future work they do.

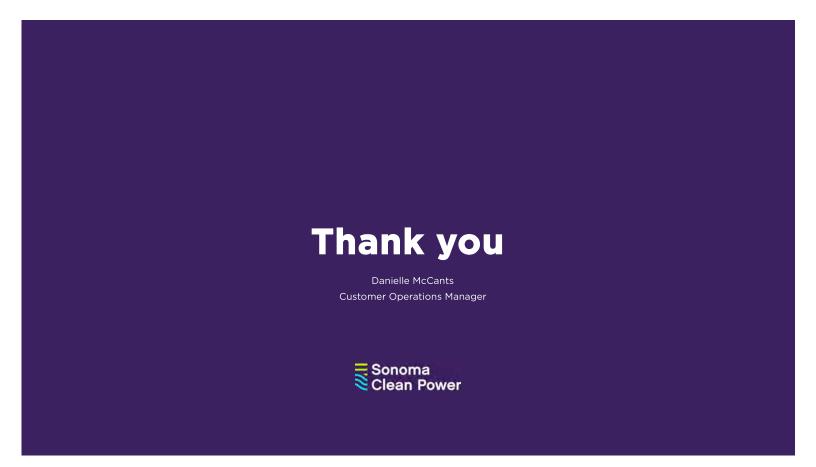
- Adam J. (SCP Sr Decarbonization Policy Manager)



# **Looking Ahead**

- Continue refining 3-phase model
- Adjust to Path to Purpose changes
- Explore open recruitment as needed
- Assess department-specific intern needs and how they align with the existing internship structure
- Next recruitment anticipated for Fall 2025 for a January 2026 start date





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## Staff Report - Item 13

To: Sonoma Clean Power Authority Community Advisory Committee

From: Carolyn Glanton, Programs Operations Manager

**Felicia Smith, Director of Customer Energy Solutions** 

Issue: Recommend the Board of Directors Approve and Authorize the Chief

**Executive Officer or His Designee to Negotiate and Execute** 

Professional Services Agreements with All In Heating and Cooling LLC (Not-To-Exceed \$130,000) and Synergy Companies, Inc. (Not-To-Exceed \$488,000) For Smart Thermostat Installations and Appliance

Assessments, Both Through December 31, 2027

Date: September 18, 2025

## Recommendation

Recommend the Board of Directors approve and authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to negotiate and execute Professional Services Agreements with All In Heating and Cooling LLC (not-to-exceed \$130,000) and Synergy Companies, Inc. (not-to-exceed \$488,000) for smart thermostat installations and appliance assessments, both through December 31, 2027.

# **Background**

This item relates to the GridSavvy Rewards Virtual Power Plant (VPP) project funded by the California Energy Commission (CEC) under grant agreement EPC-24-039. The objective of the GridSavvy Rewards VPP project is to expand automated smart devices participation in low-income and disadvantaged communities (DACs).

On December 5, 2024, the Board approved the contract with the CEC, accepting the grant award of \$4,995,640 for the GridSavvy Rewards VPP Project and SCP's match budget of \$1,091,000 over four years. Due to the CEC's docket timeline, SCP staff were unable to bring the draft agreement to the Committee. On January 16, 2025, the Committee received a staff report with the grant contract.

These two agreements with Synergy Companies, Inc. and All In Heating and Cooling LLC will implement Task 3 of the grant agreement, which focuses on the direct installation of smart thermostats for low-income customers.

## **Discussion**

#### Overview

These proposed agreements will support direct installation of smart thermostats and conduct appliance assessments at no cost to customers with functioning central air conditioning that are enrolled in CARE/FERA energy bill discount programs. The smart thermostats will be enrolled in GridSavvy Rewards, allowing the customers to support load flexibility while receiving incentives for ongoing participation. This initiative addresses upfront cost and installation barriers that have traditionally prevented customers from participating in load flexibility incentives with smart devices.

## **Vendor Selection Process**

Initially, SCP released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify potential installation partners. The RFP process did not yield any qualified vendors that met all our requirements for this specialized work. Following this outcome, SCP staff directly approached several vendors with known expertise in utility installations, as well as local contractors with strong ties to the communities we serve.

#### Selected Partners

Through this targeted outreach, All In Heating and Cooling and Synergy were selected. All In Heating and Cooling was identified as a well-suited partner based on their established presence in Mendocino County, deep knowledge of local housing stock, ability to serve rural communities effectively and commitment to high-quality customer service. All In Heating and Cooling will serve Mendocino County with approximately 200 homes. Synergy Companies was identified as a well-suited partner based on their extensive experience working with utilities, installing water and energy measures in residential properties and robust methods for ensuring quality installations and customer support. Synergy will serve Sonoma County with approximately 800 homes and may supplement coverage in Mendocino County if needed.

## Scope of Work

The scope of work includes two distinct components:

- 1. Smart Thermostat Installation
  - Installation of smart thermostats in eligible low-income households
  - Smart thermostat enrollment in GridSavvy Rewards
  - Customer education on optimal thermostat use and GridSavvy Rewards participation
- 2. Appliance Assessment
  - Collection of data on existing appliances, their age, condition, and potential for electrification
  - Documentation of panel capacity and other infrastructure considerations

The scope includes prevailing wage compensation for workers performing the installations and assessments.

# <u>Funding</u>

SCP expanded the grant scope by adding appliance assessments, leveraging the contractor's presence in customer homes to gather valuable data. This data will inform future SCP energy efficiency opportunities specifically designed for low-income households. This strategic approach creates efficiencies in outreach and implementation while maximizing benefits to customers. While the CEC grant will fund the smart thermostat installations and administration, SCP will fund the complementary appliance assessments.

# Fiscal Impact

Funding for these agreements with a total not-to-exceed amount of \$618,000 comes from two sources: the CEC grant and SCP. The CEC grant will cover \$333,000 for smart thermostat installation and project management. The remaining \$285,000 for appliance assessments will be spread over multiple fiscal years, with \$40,000 allocated in the current fiscal year budget, and remaining costs requiring approval in future fiscal year budgets.

# **Agency Goals**

This initiative directly supports several of SCP's agency goals. By creating a virtual power plant with dispatchable load, this program could help reduce electricity procurement costs during high-cost periods, which could contribute to rate stabilization efforts (Goal 1). This program specifically targets low-income customers, providing them with no-cost smart thermostats and valuable energy management tools they might otherwise be unable to access (Goal 2). The installation of smart thermostats through this program directly contributes to building SCP's capacity to dispatch customer loads, helping reach the 7 MW target while reducing supply resource costs and cutting emissions (Goal 9).

#### **Attachments**

- Attachment 1 Draft Agreement with All In Heating and Cooling, LLC, which can be found at this link or by request to the Clerk of the Board.
- Attachment 2 Draft Agreement with Synergy Companies, Inc., which can be found at this link or by request to the Clerk of the Board.