



**SONOMA CLEAN POWER AUTHORITY  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, November 30, 2016**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00A.M. by Chair Dowd.

Committee Members Present: Chair Dowd, Vice Chair Deicke, Peter Renfro, Ken Wells, Mike Nicholls, Bill Mattinson, Joe Como, Bob Williamson, George Beeler, Paul Brophy

Staff present: CEO Geof Syphers, General Counsel Steve Shupe, Internal Operations Manager Stephanie Reynolds

Committee Members sworn in by General Counsel Shupe.

Chair Dowd asked the members to give a brief background of themselves.

Committee Member Anita Fenichel arrived at 9:03A.M.

Counsel Shupe swore in Committee Member Anita Fenichel.

**II. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR**

1. Review the September 12, 2016 meeting minutes of the Business Operations Committee.

No vote taken. Chair Dowd asked if members had comments and if so to report to Stephanie Reynolds. CEO Syphers thanked the committee for volunteering.

2. Receive report on operations, financial performance and audited financial statements for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

CEO Syphers stated that the audited financials are finished and there were no adjustments by the auditors. He stated that SCP has made good progress and is over halfway to agency's goal of \$50 million in reserves.

CEO Syphers asked Director of Programs, Jan McFarland to give an update on the EV Program. Director McFarland stated that SCP deployed 85 electric vehicles. 68 were leased and 14 were purchased as of 11/23/16. She stated that 140 orders for chargers had been received and 133 households signed up for demand response. She stated that the availability of cars is an issue and dealers are trying to get more cars. The CARE/FERA mailer goes out next week. CEO Syphers stated that overall the program has been successful and the process is working.

Committee Member Mattinson asked how far we are into budgeted funds and for a general update. Director McFarland stated that funds will not run out but we would like to get close and not go over budget.

Committee Member Williamson asked if we expect anything from Mendocino. CEO Syphers stated this program is Sonoma County only. Committee Member Beeler asked if anybody with an existing charger asked for adapter plug. CEO Syphers stated we don't have exact data. Committee member Wells asked about a goal for demand response. CEO Syphers stated the goal is getting revised and that we are aiming for 300 units and learning charging locations are far more valuable in today's market. Committee Member Williamson stated he was happy to see program is not permanent and there is flexibility.

General Counsel Shupe and Regulatory Affairs Manager Neal Reardon have spent a lot of time meeting with the PCIA workgroup. General Counsel Shupe stated that the good news is that SCP is becoming better informed about PCIA issues and the utilities have started to realize with the expansion of community choice in CA, they are looking at potentially half their load departing within 5-7 years. He also stated that past contracts of PG&E are way over market. He stated that the work group is thinking of ways to address the price difference. General Counsel Shupe stated that the goal is to try to go back to the CPUC with specific ways to try to improve the transparency of the PCIA. Committee Member Fenichel asked if this is a pass through and if there is no oversight. General Counsel Shupe stated there may be an institutional failure.

Committee Member Mattinson stated the EV program is going great and asked about the questionnaire and where we were with that. Project Specialist Nelson Lomeli explained SCP is working with ICF International and reviewing the guidebook right now. Lomeli stated that we had received over 300 responses back from the mailing and should have final responses by December. Committee Member Brophy asked about the budget comparison schedule on page 15. CEO Syphers stated that by the end of December SCP will end up with a lower than expected loss due to a correction on invoicing for payment. Committee Member Williamson asked about the ProFIT Program and if there is a thematic problem. CEO Syphers stated that people who are developing small systems tend to be less experienced and these are on County land which may need adjustments in zoning. Committee Member Brophy asked about

increasing the contributions to reserves when expanding service to Mendocino County. CEO Syphers stated that it would make sense to re-visit that topic within the next year. Chair Dowd commented that our legislative program has to improve and to modify the gas tax we need to be on board with maintaining our roads.

Public comment: none

### 3. Legislative Report

SCP Lobbyist Kate Brandenburg updated the committee on current legislation. She stated that the CalCCA was in the process of setting up meetings with elected officials in the near future. Legislature returns on Dec. 5. She stated that there are seventeen initiatives and all but four were approved. CEO Syphers stated that the EPA Clean Power Plan has been directly threatened by the new president and it is predicted the plan will be suspended. He also stated that the CalCCA Trade Association brought up the opportunity of a pooling authority. Chair Dowd asked as more CCAs are formed around the state what do we see in terms of power with lobbying. CEO Syphers said a majority of the state will be represented by CalCCA soon and he thinks we can tap our local elected officials to speak on behalf of our rights.

Public Comment:

Donna Boysen asked for clarification on PCIA fairness and equity.  
Jay Golden asked about PCIA numbers, past, present and future.

### 4. Review and provide recommendation on proposed budget and rates adjustment.

CEO Syphers stated PG&E's rate increase goes into effect January 1, 2017. He stated that increases in fees that would affect SCP customers were seen and that he wanted to bring the option to the Board and the Committee to consider an earlier rate adjustment before July 1. He stated that staff has looked at all of the adjustments needed to make mid-year rate change. He stated that staff is aiming for a 2% savings and have come fairly close. He also stated that our customers will tend to see their bills drop per kilowatt-hour but because it is winter their bills are going to go up significantly due to higher usage. The risk is PG&E's actual charges will not be known until late December. CEO Syphers referred the Committee to page 56 of the packet and the scenarios for possible rate changes. He stated that another factor is the Mendocino rollout, and that first notices go out in April. PG&E is currently forecasting another rate adjustment for March 2017.

Chair Dowd stated we need to carefully consider this and be sure we don't abandon these goals and support our customers.

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Chair Dowd asked if the math can be simplified and commented on the impacts of the rates in the table on page 56. He also asked for clarity on how customers will perceive adjustments in rates. CEO Syphers stated that the residential customers won't notice the changes until February, based on a January meter read. More opt-outs are from winter bill spikes based on higher usage, not rates. He stated that he hopes to get the story out about SCP doing something to protect its customers. Committee Member Como stressed the need to maintain the SCP brand, limit opt-outs and show what we do for the community with additional services.

Committee Member Mattinson asked how the rate adjustment would look like. CEO Syphers recommendation would be the Board adopt tables without a formula at the January 5 meeting. Committee Member Mattinson asked about leaving the rates unchanged. CEO Syphers gave some examples of other options.

Committee Member Fenichel asked when people opt-out will we let them know of rate increase. CEO Syphers stated we would get an adopted change soon and most calls after January 5 can be explained.

Public Comment:

Jake Olden asked about the PCIA discussions and if these will double over the next years and if this a reactive cycle.

Tor Allen stated he comes to SCP for inspiration and that the programs will define success for SCP. He asked for definition of what a clean energy future looks like.

Andy Ferguson stated that we need to look at how the Committee works and form a subcommittee to deal with specifics.

Chair Dowd stated that he thinks we will have higher quality of resolutions and recommendations to the Board since the committees have been combined. He stated that SCP is in a position to take this action because SCP has performed well and we are in a place where this does not damage any programs or goals to build reserves.

Motion to recommend to the Board at the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, following staff's recommended 1% reduction in rates implemented in March with minor modifications as needed.

Second: Committee Member Nichols

Motion approved: 10-0-1 (Deicke)

CEO Syphers requested a separate vote on the budget changes presented.

Motion to recommend proposed budget adjustments to the Board of Directors by Committee Member Wells

Second: Committee Member Nichols

Motion approved: 10-0-1 (Deicke)

### III. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee Member Nichols thanked staff for the comprehensive outreach in West County. He also stated that the Cazadero street lights are being converted to 29 watt LED bulbs.

Committee Member Williamson stated it would be nice if we had direct customer feedback.

Committee Member Deicke stated that the County of Sonoma is proposing a requirement provision for 100% renewable energy for cannabis growers.

Committee Member Mattinson stated that MCE and Marin County Transit contracted for two electric transit buses.

Chair Dowd stated that we need to carefully think about the messages we send out to our customers and the public at large.

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

None

### V. ADJOURN (11:41A.M.)

Respectfully submitted,

*Braiden Gugel*

Braiden Gugel  
Executive Assistant