

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Staff Report - Item 4

TO: Community Advisory Committee
FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst
SUBJECT: CAC October 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes
DATE: November 16, 2023

Recommendation

Receive, review and approve the attached October 26, 2023 meeting minutes.



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023
CITY OF DAVIS COMMUNITY CHAMBERS
23 RUSSELL BLVD., DAVIS, CA 95616**

Vice Chair Rahul Athalye established that there was a quorum present and opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, October 26, 2023 beginning at 5:00 p.m., held at City of Davis Community Chambers located at 23 Russell Blvd., Davis, California 95616.

Welcome and Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Rahul Athalye (Vice Chair), Marsha Baird, Lorenzo Kristov, Jennifer Rindahl, Keith Taylor, Diccon Westworth, Danielle Ballard, Davis Springer, Cynthia Rodriguez

Committee Members Absent: Mark Aulman (Chair), Jennifer Rindahl

Welcome

Vice Chair Athalye welcomed everyone. Chief Operating Officer Gordon Samuel informed those present that Carl Linvill resigned from the CAC due to his schedule. He reminded those present that VCE is currently seeking applicants to fill the City of Davis and the unincorporated Yolo County seats.

**Public Comment /
Introductions**

There were no verbal or written public comments on items not on the agenda and on Consent Agenda items.

**Brief Task Group
and VCE staff
Reports**

Task Group Reports:

Programs & Outreach: David Springer informed those present that the draft year-end report was prepared and will be presented to the CAC at the next meeting for review and comments.

Legislative / Regulatory: Lorenzo Kristov informed those present that he filed comments to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on the AgFIT expansion proceeding. VCE Executive Officer informed those present that VCE also filed comments and are preparing to submit additional comments. Mr. Sears also mentioned that the CPUC should have a Proposed Decision (PD) by the first of the year. If approved, the expansion of the AgFIT pilot program could be expanding into other rate classes, such as commercial and/or residential. Mr. Sears informed those present that he attended a Biomass



conference in Winters earlier in the month and was on a panel to discuss potential uses of biomass. Yolo County Supervisors Lucas Frerichs and Angel Barajas were also in attendance.

Staff Report / Summary of Board's October 12, 2023 meeting: Mr. Samuel informed those present that the Board at their October 12, 2023 meeting recognized past CAC members (Gerry Braun, Christine Shewmaker and Kristin Jacobs) with proclamations thanking them for their volunteer work; received an introduction of REACH Strategies who gave a presentation on outreach; received a Legislative End of Session update provided by Mark Fenstermaker of Pacific Policy Group, VCE's lobbyist consultant; received a 2024 Operating budget preview; and, received a 3-year programs plan update. Mr. Samuel announced a few events coming up that VCE will be partaking in and invited others to attend: 1) Halloween Treat Trail in downtown Davis on Tuesday, October 31st and 2) Salmon Festival in the City of Winters on Saturday, November 4th.

CAC Member Cynthia Rodriquez thanked VCE for being present at the Carnitas Festival held at the end of September in downtown Winters. She feels that the presence of VCE at the smalltown events make a difference within the community and is effective at familiarizing VCE with its customers/community. Mr. Sears informed those present that VCE was present at the EV National Electric Drive Week in downtown Davis. Mr. Sael announced that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors approved the permit for the Gibson Project (solar plus storage) to move forward.

Consent Items

There were no written or verbal comments as identified above.

Lorenzo Kristov made a motion to approve the Consent agenda, seconded by Marsha Baird. Motion passed with Mark Aulman and Jennifer Rindahl absent. The following items were:

4. approved September 28, 2023 meeting Minutes; and
5. received as an informational item a copy of Board Staff Report on VCE's Customer Participation update.

Item 6: Receive information on 2022 Power Content Label outreach.

Mr. Samuel reviewed California's regulations that require load serving entities to provide simple-to-understand information on the sources of energy, and the associated emission of greenhouse gases annually, through a requisite communications format termed the "Power Content Label" (PCL). He reminded those present that the Board adopted the strategy of ramping into VCE's long-term contracts rather than relying on short-term renewable energy



(Information/Discussion)

credits (RECs), which results in a lower renewable percentage in the early years of compliance period 4 and significantly higher in the later years. He reviewed the resource map, 2022 PCL, and the 2022 PCL Explainer. The CAC discussed the different types of renewable energy, battery length of storage of VCE's power projects, what resources are included in "unspecified" energy resource on the PCL, opting up to UltraGreen, and outreach. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Item 7: Seeking feedback and recommendation from CAC on draft VCE 2024

Legislative Platform. (Discussion/Action)

Ms. Hunter introduced the draft VCE 2024 Legislative Platform and provided highlights of the changes made to the draft 2024 Legislative Platform. The CAC and Staff discussed interconnection and the schedule of power purchase agreements going online. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Marsha Baird made a motion to recommend that the Board approve the proposed 2024 VCE Legislative Platform outlining policy, legislative and regulatory issues and position VCE would take on them, seconded by Diccon Westworth. Motion passed with Aulman and Rindahl absent.

Item 8: Review draft CAC Task Group Year-end Reports. (Discussion/Action)

The CAC reviewed the draft Legislative/Regulatory and draft Strategic Plan task group year-end reports. The CAC discussed challenges and opportunities that each task group outlined in their report and whether combining programs and outreach into one task group worked. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Rahul Athalye made a motion to finalize the year-end reports and send to the Board for their information at their December 2023 meeting, seconded by Marsha Baird. Motion passed with Aulman and Rindahl absent. As stated in Staff's report, the draft Programs & Outreach Task Group year-end report will be reviewed at the CAC's November meeting, with all year-end reports being provided to the Board in December.

Item 9: Introduction to and seeking feedback on VCE's approach to updating VCE's Net Energy Metering Policy in consideration of Net Bill Tariff

VCE Director of Finance and Internal Operations Edward Burnham summarized VCE's current Net Energy Metering (NEM) policy, background, and the reasons that VCE's NEM Policy, adopted in October 2019, needs to be updated in consideration of NBT or SBP adopted by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Mr. Burnham highlighted efforts to improve VCE's current NEM processes and the distribution of net billing credits to customers. The CAC reviewed the draft updates and discussed how the value of excess energy is calculated, whether or not battery storage is counted, and rollover credits. The CAC asked that the draft updated Policy reflect the distinction



**(NBT)/Solar Billing
Plan (SBP).
(Information/Discu
ssion)**

between NEM 2.0 and NEM 3.0. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Diccon Westworth made a motion that Staff update the draft updated NEM Policy to reflect the intent of the update and to reflect the distinction between NEM 2.0 and 3.0 customers; and, recommend that the Board move forward on adopting an updated NEM Policy, seconded by Lorenzo Kristov. Motion passed with Aulman and Rindahl absent.

**Item 10: Receive
2023 Long Range
Calendar.
(Information
/Discussion)**

Mr. Westworth informed those present that he will not be at the CAC's November 16th meeting. There were no written or verbal public comments.

**Item 11: Advisory
Committee
Member and Staff
Announcements.**

Mr. Kristov watched the movie "Common Ground" about regenerative agriculture and highly recommends watching it.

Mr. Sears informed those present that he attended the Biomass conference held in the City of Winters and CAC Member Danielle Ballard was also in attendance. VCE in conjunction with a few partners have submitted grant applications for 1) bidirectional charging for farm equipment and 2) the integration of electrified tractors into VCE's dynamic rates system. VCE continues to track the Esparto-Capy Microgrid Strategic Growth Council grant application.

**Adjournment to
Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 5 p.m. at Yolo County Community Services Department, Cache Creek Conference Room, located at 292 W. Beamer Street, Woodland, California 95695. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Alisa M. Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst