

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Staff Report - Item 4

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: CAC August 27, 2026 Meeting Minutes

DATE: October 22, 2026

Recommendation

Receive, review and approve the attached August 27, 2026 CAC meeting Minutes.

Attachment: August 27, 2026 CAC meeting Minutes



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Yolo County Department of Community Services
Cache Creek Room
292 West Beamer Street, Woodland, California 95695**

Acting Chair Mark Aulman established that there was a quorum present and opened the Community Advisory Committee of Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2026 beginning at 5:02 p.m., held at the Yolo County Department of Community Services, Cache Creek Room, 292 West Beamer Street, Woodland, California 95695.

Welcome and Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Mark Aulman (Acting Chair), Lorenzo Kristov, Mark Murray, David Springer, Cynthia Rodriguez, Danielle Ballard (departed at 6:35 p.m.), Jennifer Rindahl

Committee Members Absent: Keith Taylor (Chair), Rahul Athalye (Vice Chair), Ari Halberstadt, Diccon Westworth

Welcome Acting Chair Aulman welcomed everyone.

Public Comment There were no verbal or written public comments on items not on the agenda nor on Consent Agenda items.

Agenda

Consent Items Lorenzo Kristov made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items, seconded by David Springer. Motion passed with Taylor, Athalye, Halberstadt, and Westworth absent. The following items were:

3. Approved June 25, 2026 Meeting Minutes;
4. Received 2026 Long Range Calendar;
5. Received Customer Participation update (2nd Quarter); and,
6. Received 2026 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) filed with CPUC.

Item 7: Receive, provide feedback on, and recommend approval to Board of draft Power Project Selection VCE Staff Chad Curran reviewed highlights of the draft Power Project Selection Criteria Guidelines. Staff and the CAC discussed several aspects of the draft and suggested additional language to be added to the draft prior to it going to the Board for approval.

VCE's Board Secretary and Clerk Alisa Lembke informed those present that written public comment was received from Leslie Austin, Co-Director of CCA



**Criteria Guidelines.
(Discussion/Action)**

Workforce & EJ Alliance on August 26, 2026 on this item. Ms. Lembke informed those present that the letter was distributed via email to the CAC Members and VCE Staff on August 26, 2026 and after the Board meeting the letter will be posted to VCE's website. Typically, written public comment would be read into the Minutes; however, Ms. Lembke informed those present that Leslie Austin was attending remotely and they would be providing verbal public comment summarizing their written public comment.

Verbal Public Comment: Leslie Austin informed those present that CCA Workforce & EJ Alliance support the draft Guidelines' core elements and the Committee moving forward with recommending the Board approve the draft with eight (8) refinements to the draft. Leslie Austin provided more detail on one of the refinements suggested, specifically, the draft Guideline criteria of "can be applied" and projects "may be evaluated", which leaves them optional. Leslie Austin suggested that this criteria be changed to "shall be applied".

The CAC and VCE Staff further discussed the draft Guidelines and made further recommendations to the draft Guidelines.

Jennifer Rindahl made a motion to recommend to the Board to adopt Power Project Selection Criteria Guidelines with the incorporation of language: 1) to enhance the location criteria to include prioritization of projects that are within the CAISO balancing area but connected to the distribution system; and 2) to apply the guidelines to potential VCE-owned projects as well. This motion was seconded by David Springer. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Kristov, Murray, Springer, Rodriguez, Ballard, Rindahl, Aulman

NOES: None

ABSENT: Taylor, Athalye, Westworth, Halberstadt

ABSTAIN: None

**Item 8: Receive
update from VCE
Intern on
Distributed Energy
Resources
Management
System (DERMS).
(Information)**

VCE Staff Rebecca Kuczynski introduced VCE's Summer Intern Finn Smith, and the work that Mr. Smith has been working on. Mr. Smith provided a comprehensive review of Distributed Energy Resources Management System (DERMS), including defining what DERMS are, the different types, what DERMS do, DERMS load shape, financial and non-financial value, residential opportunities and challenges, and what other CCA's are doing. The CAC and Staff briefly discussed capacity, load shifting, the potential to pair DERMS with grant monies, and Resource Adequacy (RA) obligation. There were no written or verbal public comments.



Item 9: Receive an informational overview of VCE's pending efforts related to customer engagement focus groups. (Information)

Ms. Kuczynski provided an overview of pending efforts related to customer engagement focus groups. The CAC made suggestions on what information would be helpful to the CAC as a result of the focus groups.

(Danielle Ballard departed at 6:35 p.m.)

There were no written or verbal public comments.

Item 10: Task Group Reports and Staff Reports

Task Group reports:

Legislative & Regulatory: Lorenzo Kristov informed those present that the Task Group continues to meet biweekly. At their last meeting, a wide variety of legislation was discussed. Mr. Kristov provided a brief regulatory update. VCE Staff Yvonne Hunter provided the status of numerous legislative bills.

Local Energy Group: Mr. Kristov informed those present that this Task Group at their last meeting was provided an informative presentation on DERMS from VCE's Intern Finn Smith. In addition, VCE Staff Sierra Huffman supplemented the DERMS conversation with DERMS information within VCE's territory. Ms. Huffman also presented financial aspects of procurement and the procurement process. Mr. Kristov mentioned that the Task Group is in learning mode and anticipates that within the next several months, information will be brought back to the CAC. The CAC briefly discussed community resiliency centers, microgrid capability, frequent PG&E outages in the Capay Valley, and potential upcoming grant opportunities.

Programs & Outreach: Mark Aulman informed those present that the Task Group at their last meeting discussed Focus Groups and the upcoming release of an Request for Proposal for a marketing/focus group consultant. David Springer informed those present that the City of Winters is experiencing development growth of residential units, which may provide some opportunities for the Climate Action Committee.

Staff report: VCE Staff Edward Burnham informed those present that the VCE Board did not have a meeting in August. VCE issued two (2) Request for Proposals (RFP) on Banking Services and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) services with a third RFP on Investment Advisor. VCE hired a Policy Analyst who will be performing regulatory and legislative work. He announced that there are several events coming up, and VCE is always looking for volunteers.



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

Acting Chair Mark Aulman announced the passing of John Mott-Smith, who was a long time public servant and community activist in the area, and he would like to end the meeting in his honor.

**Adjournment to
Next Meeting**

The CAC's next scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 24, 2026 at the City of Woodland Council Chambers, located at 300 First Street, Woodland, California 95695. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Alisa M. Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst