

# VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

## Staff Report - Item 5

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**TO:** Community Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

**SUBJECT:** CAC July 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** August 26, 2021

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### **Recommendation**

Receive, review and approve the attached July 22, 2021 meeting minutes.



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021  
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Chair Christine Shewmaker opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, July 22, 2021 beginning at 5:01 p.m. via videoconference pursuant to the Provisions of the Governor’s Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, which suspends certain provisions of the Brown Act and the Orders of the Public Health Officers with jurisdiction over Yolo County, to shelter in place and to provide for physical distancing.

**Welcome and Roll Call**

Committee Members Present: Christine Shewmaker (Chair), Cynthia Rodriguez (Vice Chair) Yvonne Hunter, Marsha Baird, Gerry Braun, Mark Aulman, Lorenzo Kristov, David Springer

Committee Members Absent: Jennifer Rindahl

**Welcome and Approval of Agenda**

Mark Aulman made a motion to approve the July 22, 2021 meeting Agenda, seconded by Yvonne Hunter. Motion passed with Jennifer Rindahl absent.

**Public Comment / Introductions**

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

**Brief task Group and VCE staff Reports**

**Task Group Reports**

Leg/Reg Task Group: Yvonne Hunter informed those present that they met last Friday and discussed a number of bills including: SB 612 (PCIA) - now a 2 year bill and AB 843 (Biomass) - moving along in the 2<sup>nd</sup> house with strong bipartisan support. The legislature will take their summer recess and will be back in late August. There was no regulatory update.

Outreach Task Group: Mark Aulman informed those present that the Task Group will meet this coming Monday. The Task Group will be discussing outbound messaging about the Power Content Label and opting up to UltraGreen. They are focusing on Strategic Plan goals of outreach activities with participating municipalities such as the City of Woodland, on getting



them to opt up to UltraGreen and on messaging information on electrification of new construction. He plans on providing an Outreach Task Group annual report to the CAC at the September meeting.

Programs Task Group: David Springer informed those present that they have been working on pending programs, OhmConnect and Polaris, which are moving forward. The Task Group is supporting VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles as much as possible while a replacement of the Community Outreach Analyst position is found. There are lots of projects in the works.

Rates Task Group: No report because an update will be provided during the regular agenda.

Carbon Neutral Task Group: Cynthia Rodriguez informed those present that the Task Group will be meeting with the contractor selected to prepare the 2030 100% carbon neutral portfolio study. At the Task Group's last meeting, Jennifer Archuleta from SMUD attended and presented information on how load is calculated, how it has changed over the last year, and the effects of the pandemic on the load.

6/10/2021 Special Board meeting summary: Interim General Manager Mitch Sears informed those present the Board approved the Energeia contract to prepare the carbon neutral portfolio study, and received updates on NEM 3.0 and the Strategic Plan.

Staff Report: Mr. Sears informed those present that there is an active recruitment for the Community Outreach Analyst position. Proposals were submitted in response to Yolo County's American Rescue Plan (ARP) solicitation, those proposals will be discussed during the Regular agenda. VCE is participating in PG&E's regionalization discussion; although VCE is not technically a party to this proceeding, Staff have been monitoring and participating when possible. VCE is part of the north valley and Sierra regionalization, disparate areas therefore Staff are providing feedback on this. but we are monitoring and participating when we can.

## Consent Items

Yvonne Hunter made a motion to approve the July 22, 2021 Consent agenda items, seconded by Cynthia Rodriguez. Motion passed with Aulman abstaining and Rindahl absent. The following items were:

5. approved June 24, 2021 meeting Minutes;
6. received customer enrollment update as of July 14, 2021; and,



7. received Board legislative updated dated July 8, 2021.

There were no written or verbal comments.

**Item 8 – Quarterly Power Procurement / Renewable Portfolio Standard update. (Informational)**

VCE Staff Gordon Samuels reviewed slides summarizing updates on 2021 power content targets; 2021 year to date comparison to those targets; and, a map of long term agreements under development. Several issues were briefly discussed: low water levels and power generation, budget concerns if additional power needs to be purchased, and Cache Creek having difficulty getting connected to the grid through PG&E.

Mr. Sears informed those present that a groundbreaking ceremony of Putah Creek Energy Farm, a local project located outside the City of Winters, in Yolo County, has been scheduled for August 10<sup>th</sup>. There were no written or verbal comments.

**Item 9: Rates Task Group report. (Informational)**

Mr. Sears introduced this item. He informed those present that there have been a series of discussions with the Task Group and recently, invited VCE’s consultant Don Dame to the group to facilitate a more robust discussion. Staff and the Task Group will be pursuing policies and rates in the near future. VCE Staff Edward Burnham provided a summary of the Rates Task Group activities by reviewing the Task Group’s “charge” and tasks. He provided the background on existing rate options, financial reserve policy, rate structure, dividend program guidelines, development of an updated financial model, key considerations within the financial model, and their investigation of rate policy options. Several items were discussed: status of request for proposals for a consultant, fluidity of financial model as resources come on-line, rate elasticity among the different customers (residential, agriculture, commercial, etc.), evaluation criteria of potential rate structure(s), rate option outreach plans, benefits to the customer and VCE of proposed rate structure(s), cost of local resources, and VCE’s role in the net energy metering (photovoltaic installation) movement. There were no written or verbal public comments.

**Item 10: Strategic Plan update. (Informational)**

Mr. Sears provided an update and a cadence overview on the Strategic Plan goals. Several topics were discussed: individual jurisdictions opting up to UltraGreen; how VCE can support building electrification, battery storage and net energy metering customers; the need for VCE to continue supporting decarbonization and grid innovation through regulatory and legislative activities; and, the role of interns assisting VCE Staff with Strategic Plan goals. There were no written or verbal public comments.



**Item 11: Update on VCE's application to Yolo County's American Rescue Plan (ARP) proposal solicitation. (Informational / Discussion)**

Chair Shewmaker informed those present that there are no slides for this item; however, the submitted proposals are clearing outlined in the staff report. Mr. Sears briefly reviewed Yolo County's American Rescue Plan and the proposals submitted. The CAC asked a few questions and reiterated to Staff that they are ready to assist vetting these proposals. Mr. Sears appreciates their offer and assistance. Once Yolo County makes a decision on which proposals will be funded, he anticipates that Staff will need assistance with the proposal details. There were no written or verbal public comments.

**Item 12: 2021 Long Range Calendar. (Informational)**

Chair Shewmaker highlighted a few items scheduled for upcoming meetings: 1) August 26, Carbon Neutral Task Group update/report; Fiscal Year 2021/2022 operating budget and renewable portfolio standard (RPS) update; and programs concept(s) (placeholder) and 2) September 23, Outreach Task Group update/report; and legislative end of session update. Board Clerk was asked to resend to the CAC the rescheduled November and December meeting dates. There were no written or verbal public comments.

**Advisory Committee Member and Announcements**

Ms. Hunter informed those present that VCE will be participating in the Cool Davis home heating and cooling on-line workshop, which will be recorded. She will send the information on this event to the Board Clerk for distribution to the CAC.

Chair Shewmaker informed those present that an initiative regarding recycling plastics and decreasing usage of plastics will be on the California ballot next year.

Mr. Sears reminded the CAC that there are changes in COVID requirements and that there will be a new structure to VCE meetings after September per the Governor's order. He also reminded those present that VCE continues to recruit for applications to seats on the CAC. Some applications have been received, but need applicants for the open City of Woodland and unincorporated Yolo County seats.

**Adjournment to Next Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m. The next regular CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 5 p.m. via videoconference.

Alisa M. Lembke  
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst