

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

Staff Report - Item 5

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: CAC August 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes

DATE: September 22, 2022

Recommendation

Receive, review and approve the attached August 25, 2022 meeting minutes.



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Chair David Springer opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, August 25, 2022 beginning at 5:04 p.m. via videoconference pursuant to the Brown Act and Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361). The Board of Directors found that the local health official recommended measures to promote social distancing and authorized the continuation of remote meetings for the foreseeable future.

Welcome and Roll Call

Committee Members Present: David Springer (Chair), Marsha Baird (Vice Chair), Christine Shewmaker, Mark Aulman, Lorenzo Kristov, Gerry Braun (departed at approximately 6:35 p.m.), Kristin Jacobs, Rahul Athalye (departed at approximately 6:08 p.m.), Cynthia Rodriguez (arrived at approximately 5:12 p.m.)

Committee Members Absent: Keith Taylor, Jennifer Rindahl

Welcome and Approval of Agenda

Executive Officer Mitch Sears introduced Yvonne Hunter who is working part time for VCE as the Legislative and Project Specialist. Chair Springer introduced the CAC's newest member Rahul Athalye. Mr. Athalye introduced himself.

(Cynthia Rodriguez arrived at approximately 5:12 p.m.)

Motion made by Mark Aulman to approve the August 25, 2022 meeting agenda, seconded by Christine Shewmaker. Motion passed with Keith Taylor and Jennifer Rindahl absent.

Public Comment / Introductions

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: Lorenzo Kristov informed those present that the Legislative Session is about to close at the end of August. He reported that SB 833 got held in Assembly appropriations. Mr. Sears reported that Staff and many others have been following the legislative proceeding on the proposed extension of Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in order to fill potential shortfalls in capacity. The proposal is to extend it beyond its 2025 ending date to 2030. Some analysis has been done around the proposed extension. VCE is tracking this bill along with a few others,



including CalCCA. VCE Staff Yvonne Hunter reported that there is an unauthored Assembly Bill, which proposes alternative actions to the Diablo Canyon extension bill, such as energy funding and resource allocation. This is a bill separate from the budget trailer bills.

Outreach: Mark Aulman informed those present that the Task Group met in July. He had reached out to Yolo County Supervisor Angel Barajas and to the Coordinator at the Sierra Club to get their suggestions and feedback on how to improve Spanish outreach efforts to VCE's customers. He will provide their suggestions and feedback to VCE Staff. The Task Group welcomes additional CAC members to the Task Group and any and all suggestions on how to improve outreach efforts. The Task Group discussed the launch of the Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebates Program and the possible usage of focus groups. Mr. Aulman announced upcoming events: Davis Farmers Market this Saturday, August 27th, Woodland Farmers Market on September 10th, Carnitas Festival in Winters on September 24th, and a Drive Electric Week event in Davis on September 25th. CAC members are welcome to attend.

Energy Resilience: Mr. Kristov solicited suggestions from the other Members on who to contact at the schools within VCE's jurisdictions to discuss partnering with them for a community resiliency center. If anyone has suggestions or contacts within the schools to please reach out to VCE Staff Gordon Samuel or Board Clerk Alisa Lembke.

Programs: Marsha Baird informed those present that Rahul Athalye will be joining the Programs Task Group. The Task Group had a couple of meetings and discussed the launch of the EV Rebates Program, AgFIT (Agricultural Flexible Irrigation Technology) program which will have its "second" launch very soon, 2023 programs, and the evaluation of VCE's current programs.

July 14, 2022 Board meeting update: Assistant General Manager Gordon Samuel provided highlights of the Board's July 14, 2022 meeting: approved participation in two CC Power geothermal projects, approved a 3rd rate option, called Base Green, and received a financials update.

Consent Items

Christine Shewmaker commented that on the 2022 Long Range Calendar, the discussion on carbon neutral by 2030 has moved from the 3rd Quarter to the 4th Quarter. She would like to see this item come to the CAC first so that a final report could be presented to the Board by the end of the calendar year. In addition, she noted that the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) is also scheduled to come to the CAC and the Board. She suggested that the IRP be incorporated somehow into the discussion of carbon neutral by 2030. Mr. Samuel confirmed



the schedule of items to occur in the 4th quarter. He noted that the IRP schedule follows the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) calendar with a filing due date of November 1st. The carbon neutral by 2030 will be scheduled for a Board meeting before the end of the year. Christine Shewmaker made a motion to approve the Consent agenda, seconded by Marsha Baird. Motion passed with Keith Taylor and Jennifer Rindahl absent. The following items were:

5. approved June 23, 2022 meeting Minutes; and,
6. received quarterly Customer Enrollment update; and,
7. received 2022 long-range calendar.

There were no written or verbal comments as identified above.

Item 8: Overview of the Brown Act and social media provided by VCE's legal counsel: Richards, Watson and Gershon. (Information)

VCE's legal counsel Inder Khalsa of Richards, Watson and Gershon (RWG) presented an overview of the Brown Act and social media. A few questions were asked regarding Tweet and Facebook posts, intersections of professional work and volunteering as a CAC Member, and Task Groups. There were no written or verbal public comments. The Board Clerk informed those present that a Handbook on the Ralph A. Brown Act, containing a summary and full text of the Brown Act, prepared by RWG, will be distributed to the CAC members in a follow up email.

Item 9: Mid-year 2022 rates review. (Information)

VCE Staff Member Edward Burnham provided a mid-year 2022 rates update by reviewing actions taken by the Board, key factors, factors impacting revenues and costs, and other considerations (increase in power market prices, increased revenues). Vice Chair Marsha also noted that a Dividend Policy was adopted by VCE.

(Rahul Athalye departed at approximately 6:08 p.m.)

Mr. Burnham reviewed 2022 Budget proforma update and load forecast vs. Actual. The CAC discussed how the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) projects will affect rates, how energy gaps are filled and the effects on the budget, and funding reserves and programs. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Item 10: Power Procurement / Renewable Portfolio Standard update. (Information)

Mr. Samuel provided an update on the 2021 Power Content Label, PPA projects, 2022 targets and progress, and long term Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) forecasting and PPA timing of anticipated projects coming on line. The CAC discussed the need and timing on purchasing renewable energy certificates (RECs) to meet VCE's goals, the need and concerns of marketing our renewable content, and balancing need with the budget. There were no written or verbal public comments.



(Gerry Braun departed at approximately 6:35 p.m.)

Item 11 – New state and federal rebates and incentives for electrification. (Information)

VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles provided a brief overview of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), with the largest share of funding for: tax credits and rebates for solar panels, wind turbines, heat pumps, energy efficiency and electric vehicles. Staff will evaluate the potential for VCE to participate in some of these rebate programs which may depend on staff availability. The CAC are interested in learning about the opportunities and possible amounts of rebates and incentives listed within the Act and informing customers about them. Staff were asked to bring back a summary of monies for each rebate and incentive listed within the IRA when this information is available. Staff may seek the Programs Task Group to assist. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Advisory Committee Member and Announcements

Christine Shewmaker announced that there is a legislative bill (SB 1137) that asks for a 3,200 setback from wells. If interested in supporting or have questions, to please contact her. AB 2133 addresses statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals: reducing emissions from 40% below 1990 levels to 55% below 1990 levels.

Mark Aulman informed those present that he met with Yolo County Supervisor Gary Sandy and discussed outreach issues as he perceives them and may invite him to an Outreach Task Group meeting. He met with Christine Engle, Community Services Director at the City of Woodland on possibly using the City's Community Center as a resilience hub. Lastly, the proposals that have been submitted to Yolo County and the City of Davis to opt up their various accounts to UltraGreen. A community meeting was held on July 9th with a lot of community interest. An update on this will be provided at the CAC's next meeting.

Adjournment to Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 5 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Alisa M. Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst