

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Staff Report - Item 5

TO: VCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst
SUBJECT: CAC Draft April 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes
DATE: May 23, 2019

Recommendation

Receive, review and approve the attached draft April 25, 2019 CAC meeting Minutes.



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019**

Chair Gerry Braun opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in regular session on Thursday, April 25, 2019 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Valley Clean Energy's administrative offices located at 604 2nd Street, Davis, California.

Welcome and Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Gerry Braun (Chair), Christine Shewmaker (Vice Chair), Marsha Baird (Secretary), Mark Aulman, Yvonne Hunter, Christine Casey, Lorenzo Kristov, David Springer (arrived at 5:52 p.m.)

Committee Members Absent:

Approval of Agenda Yvonne Hunter made a motion to approve the April 25, 2019 Agenda, seconded by Christine Shewmaker. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Chair Braun opened the floor for public comment.

Greg Miller wanted to introduce himself to the Community Advisory Committee. He sits on the Natural Resources Commission at the City of Davis and he is an engineer.

VCEA Staff and Advisory Task Group Reports Legislative/Regulatory Task Group – Ms. Hunter informed those present that she and Lorenzo Kristov met with Pacific Policy Group and Interim General Manager Mitch Sears and will meet again tomorrow.

Outreach Task Group – Mark Aulman informed those present that the Task Group worked on finalizing the Fingertips Facts brochure, reviewed the article written about the Community Advisory Committee resulting in perfecting the Task Group's review process, the website is coming along, and will be focusing on opting customers up to UltraGreen. Everyone received copies of the Fingertip Facts and UltraGreen pamphlets.

Rates and Services Task Group – Chair Braun informed those present that there were several items on the regular agenda that would be covered by the Rates and Services Task Group Chair Marsha Baird.

Mr. Sears thanked everyone for attending the meeting here at the VCE administrative offices. He announced that Lisa Limcaco, Jim Parks and Alisa Lembke have or are going to be reaching their one (1) year anniversary with Valley Clean Energy.



Ms. Shewmaker asked for a status on whether the CAC can start contacting the other Community Choice Aggregates (CCA's) CAC groups to exchange ideas, etc. Mr. Sears informed those present that VCE's CAC members could reach out to their counterparts if they so choose. Ms. Shewmaker stated that she will move forward contacting their counterparts.

**Approval of
Items on
Consent Agenda**

Mr. Aulman commented that the Customer Enrollment update shows three (3) opt downs and wanted to know if Staff had any comments on this considering that we are trying to opt customers up. Mr. Sears informed those present that the number of opt downs are within Staff's expectations and reminded those present that within the City of Davis there are always college students moving in and out, which may be a part of the reason; however, he will check with Staff Jim Parks to look into it and expand on it. Ms. Hunter suggested that a quarterly report be prepared, such as a graph, showing the information listed on the customer enrollment.

Ms. Shewmaker made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Ms. Hunter. Motion passed unanimously. The following items were approved:

- Item 5 – March 28, 2019 Committee Meeting Minutes
- Item 6 – Receipt of Customer Enrollment Update as of April 18, 2019.

**Discussion on
Managing
Meeting Length**

Vice Chair Shewmaker reviewed with those present suggestions on how to improve the CAC's meetings, such as: time allotments for each item, Members are to police themselves and others, somebody needs to be the timekeeper, items brought up during Public comment can be talked about later – no discussion, action items are to be given priority over informational items, each member will have the opportunity to express their opinions, then can allow more time, during informational items, questions and comments should be limited, and remind members to read packet before the meeting. It was asked if a member can speak to another member outside of the meetings – any violations of the Brown Act? Mr. Sears informed those present that they could not; however, a member can ask Staff questions. If a Member is part of a task group asking another task group member then that is okay. Lastly, Task Groups should be sure to limit their input to three (3) minutes or request ahead of time to be on the agenda.

Other members provided their suggestions on how to keep the meetings on track, effective and productive within a reasonable amount of time.

There was no public comment.

**Reassessment
of Solar Home
and Business**

Chair Braun introduced this item.



(Net Energy Metering)

Marsha Baird, Chair of the Rates and Services Task Group reviewed their final draft report and recommendation. The Task Group's recommendation is as follows: ...that VCE Staff and the Board

1. recognize and acknowledge that: a) VCE's financial outlook has improved since the second solar enrollment deferral decision was made, b) VCE has financial flexibility and budgeting options to mitigate any negative financial impacts of policy changes and cost increases, and c) enrolling and collaborating with these future customers would enhance existing strategic benefits of local solar deployment to VCE and its member communities.
2. take immediate steps to enroll the solar residential and commercial accounts in its service area.

Mr. Sears informed those present that the new information/conditions have not been incorporated into either Staff's or the Task Group's reports. The new information has relieved many of the concerns mentioned in the Staff Report. He complimented the Task Group for doing a great job. He reiterated that the reasons for the original delay of enrolling NEM legacy customers should be expanded on further, i.e. 1) solar providers bringing up review of the original NEM policy, 2) why 2021 was the enrollment date and long term contracts, and 3) the importance of VCE giving customers the "option of service" – a person could opt out versus an "obligation to serve".

Staff Lisa Limcaco provided a summary of information contained within PG&E's advice letter that came out last Thursday. She presented several slides showing the rate increases and the assumptions that were made (Slides 2 and 3). She informed those present of the ERRA 2019 timeline (Slide 4); and, other considerations such as Resource Adequacy requirements and GHG emission reductions.

Mr. Sears briefly reviewed Staff's recommendation that the Community Advisory Committee:

1. Continue to support the VCE Board objective of enrolling Net Energy Metering (NEM) customers as soon as possible.
2. Continue to work with Staff to develop plans for enrollment that address the long-term benefits and costs associated with enrolling NEM customers in VCE.

He noted that Staff's recommendation is in line with what the Board has requested 1) have the CAC continue to work with Staff on looking at the issues and 2) follow their timeline. He reminded those present that the Board has not yet had the opportunity to receive the same information as presented to the CAC tonight. Currently, the Task Group in their recommendation are asking the Board to revisit their original direction and timeline.

The CAC Members discussed various aspects of reassessing whether to enroll legacy NEM customers before January 2020.



Public Comment was provided by Board Member Lucas Frerichs. He stated that he wants to see legacy NEM customers in as soon as possible too. It was not the Board's intention to single out a group of customers, but that decisions were made based on solid reasons to postpone; however, it appears that now on the right track for enrolling starting in 2020. There is still a lot of volatility. This issue for VCE is being looked at and followed carefully by the legislature. And, the Board needs to act prudently.

No other public comments.

Ms. Hunter made a motion to keep Task Group's 1a recommendation, add to 1b recommendation and keep 1c recommendation. The Rates and Services Task Group recommendation would be amended as follows: that Staff and the Board

1. recognize and acknowledge that: a) VCE's financial outlook has improved since the second solar enrollment deferral decision was made, b) [insert] "based on new financial information that" VCE has, "VCE has the" [insert] financial flexibility and budgeting options to mitigate "most" [insert] ~~any~~ [delete] negative financial impacts of policy changes and cost increases, and c) enrolling and collaborating with these future customers would enhance existing strategic benefits of local solar deployment to VCE and its member communities.
2. Take ~~immediate~~ [delete] steps to enroll the solar residential and commercial accounts in its service area "at the earliest date possible." [insert].

This motion was seconded by Chair Braun. The members discussed the motion.

A motion was made by Lorenzo Kristov that the CAC recommendation that: the Board initiate steps as needed to begin enrolling legacy NEM customers starting in January 2020, and if NEM enrollment is perceived to create negative financial impacts, to find alternatives rather than postponing legacy NEM enrollment. Ms. Shewmaker seconded the motion. The members continued to discuss the motion. Motion passed with the following votes:

AYES: Braun, Shewmaker, Baird, Kristov, Aulman, Casey, Springer

NOES: Hunter

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The CAC report was not approved. It needs to be updated and provided to the CAC at their May 23rd meeting for final review and approval. The final report will be provided to the Board at their June meeting when it is anticipated the Board will make a determination on enrollment.



**Rate Structure /
Dividend
Program**

Ms. Baird reviewed the Rates and Services Task Group report and recommendation with those present. Mr. Aulman made a motion to approve the report, including the recommendation, seconded by Ms. Shewmaker. Chair Braun opened the floor for questions. There being none, he asked if there were any public comments. There being none, he moved on to discussing the motion. Mr. Sears commented that Staff supports the Task Group's report.

The Committee Members discussed the recommendation and agreed that clarifying language needs to be added to the recommendation/motion.

After a thorough discussion, the motion to approve the recommendation was modified slightly for clarification purposes to read as follows:

The Rates and Services Task Group is in support of the Dividend Guidelines presented by VCE Staff with one addition – the task group recommends that dividends should not be paid out until the enrollment process for the legacy NEM accounts (accounts with solar installations prior to June 2018) in the VCE service area has begun. The enrollment of legacy NEM accounts was delayed in November 2018 due to financial constraints caused by the expected increase in 2019 PCIA costs and increased resource adequacy (RA) requirements. The task group feels that it would be inappropriate to pay dividends to current customers, which is a sign of financial strength, when legacy NEM customers have been told they cannot be enrolled due to financial constraints. Further, the task group recommendation supports VCE's mission to provide "cost-competitive clean energy" for all.

Motion passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Braun, Shewmaker, Baird, Hunter, Kristov, Aulman, Casey, Springer

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

**Long Range
Calendar 2019**

It was requested that "Reassessment of Solar Home and Business (Net Energy Metering) Final Draft Report" be added to the CAC's May 23, 2019 meeting items. Ms. Hunter made a motion to approve the addition, seconded by Mr. Aulman. Motion passed unanimously.

**Advisory
Committee
Member and**

Mr. Sears reminded those present of upcoming festivals and presentations are being scheduled by VCE Staff. He informed those present that VCE has been asked to speak at a public forum in Fresno, similar to the one attended in Stockton, to talk about the benefits of Community Choice Aggregates (CCA's) in the valley. Senator Patterson invited VCE and other



Staff Announcements CCAs to speak with his office on how CCA energy involving TOU affects our climate (weather) in the valley versus other climates.

Ms. Shewmaker informed those present that she noticed that MCE has been sending out to their customers advocacy information on legislative bills.

Mr. Springer stated that he is looking forward to presenting local program information to the Committee at their May 23, 2019 meeting.

Adjournment to Next Meeting Chair Braun adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting of Thursday, May 23, 2019 at the City of Woodland Council Chambers, located on the second floor at 300 1st Street, Woodland, California.

Alisa Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst