

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Staff Report - Item 6

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Gordon Samuel, Chief Operating Officer
Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: CAC Task Groups for 2024

DATE: December 21, 2023

Background/Discussion

Each year Staff asks the CAC to consider forming task groups to assist VCE Staff and the Board with tasks and projects. Staff is recommending that prior to the December meeting, CAC members consider possible task groups that need to be formed now and provide input on goal-oriented tasks and projects that can be accomplished. Throughout 2024, Staff may revisit with the CAC on forming additional task group(s) as needed to assist with tasks and projects as they become defined.

For reference, the 2023 Task Groups and membership are listed below and the existing 2023 Task Group "Charges" are attached. Task groups tentatively identified for formation in 2024 at the December CAC meeting will be finalized at the January meeting.

2023 CAC Task Groups

1. Legislative/Regulatory
 - A. Members: Lorenzo Kristov, Jennifer Rindahl, Carl Linvill (September/October)
2. Programs & Outreach
 - A. Members: Keith Taylor, Rahul Athalye, Mark Aulman, David Springer
3. Strategic Plan
 - A. Members: Rahul Athalye, Marsha Baird, Lorenzo Kristov

Preliminary Staff Suggestions

As in past years, staff believes that fewer Task Groups helps efficiently allocate resources and focus on the most important issue/policy areas. Therefore, staff is supportive of the formation of up to 4 task groups. With the continuing activity in the first two Task Groups listed above, staff suggests that they would be reconstituted for 2024.

Attachments:

1. Legislative/Regulatory Task Group 2023 Charge
2. Programs & Outreach Task Group 2023 Charge
3. Strategic Plan Task Group 2023 Charge

**LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY TASK GROUP
2023 DRAFT Year End Report**

Task Group Members: Lorenzo Kristov, Jennifer Rindahl, Carl Linvill (as of September 2023)

2023 Charge

For the 2023 Legislative Session, work with VCE staff and VCE's lobbyist to:

- Provide feedback, technical information and strategic advice to VCE staff on key legislative and regulatory issues facing VCE and the CCA community in general in 2023, including legislation and regulatory issues related to VCE's Legislative Platform, Strategic Plan and Environmental Justice Statement.
- Provide periodic reports to the CAC about legislation and regulatory issues.
- Solicit recommendations from the CAC on VCE positions on key legislation and regulatory proceedings.
- Work with staff to consider options to enhance the Task Group's and CAC's understanding of regulatory proceedings.
- Contribute to VCE's engagement with legislators and other stakeholders.
- Discuss strategies to engage regulatory agencies and stakeholders to advance dynamic pricing programs, such as AgFIT, and other grid services opportunities, for VCE and other CCAs.
- Receive periodic updates and discuss CalCCA legislative priorities, emphasizing how VCE can most effectively contribute.
- Advise VCE staff on CalCCA's regulatory and legislative work, when appropriate.
- Work with staff to periodically review and update VCE's Legislative Platform for consideration by the CAC and VCE Board.

Highlights of Accomplishments in 2023

During 2023, the Leg/Reg Task Group met bi-weekly with staff and VCE's lobbyist and worked closely with them to:

1. Review pending legislation, provide feedback, technical and policy information, and strategic guidance on legislative and regulatory issues; discuss and recommend VCE positions and legislative strategies for pending legislation and regulatory issues. Special attention was devoted to discussing how VCE could best engage with CalCCA and other CCAs to address issues related to AB 1373 that were problematical to CCAs.
2. Provide input on selected regulatory proceedings of interest to VCE. These included the CPUC's dynamic pricing proceeding as well as the Resource Adequacy proceeding.
3. Discuss other regulatory proceedings of interest, including those at the CPUC related to micro-grids, virtual net metering for multi-family housing, and incorporation of fixed charges in distribution rates, as well as proceedings at the CEC on SB-100 compliance and Community Energy Resilience Investment.
4. Discuss VCE's AgFIT program and its potential impacts on regulatory and legislative issues as well as how best to brief VCE's legislative representatives and area stakeholders about AgFIT.
5. Work with CalCCA on how best to incorporate AgFIT concepts into potential legislation or budget proposals.
6. Provide periodic updates to the CAC on key legislative and regulatory issues.

7. Receive and discuss periodic updates about CalCCA legislative activities, including critical opportunities for VCE to engage and lobby its legislators.
8. Discuss proposals to create a western regional transmission organization (RTO).
9. Prepare a draft 2024 Legislative Platform for CAC review and Board action.

Challenges

1. Identifying those legislative and regulatory topics where VCE has a significant interest and can make a difference given VCE's limited resources. This is particularly challenging with regard to CPUC proceedings because there are so many that affect retail electricity customers, they continue to proliferate, and there is no VCE staff person assigned to track regulatory activities.
2. Continuing to examine how best to work with CalCCA and other individual CCAs to expand dynamic pricing programs through the CPUC, CEC or other agencies.

Opportunities

1. Play a role in educating VCE staff, the CAC, VCE board and CalCCA about policy and regulatory developments to advance opportunities and benefits for deploying distributed energy resources (DER).
2. Play a role in educating VCE staff, the CAC, VCE board and CalCCA about the ongoing efforts to create a western regional transmission organization.
3. Continue to expand legislative opportunities in which VCE may become more engaged with CalCCA.

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2023 PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH TASK GROUP CHARGE

Members: Keith Taylor (Chair)
David Springer (Co-Chair)
Mark Aulman
Rahul Athalye

Staff Lead: Rebecca Boyles

2023 Charge:

Collaborate with VCEA staff and consultants on policies, procedures and programs aimed at improving the customer experience and customer satisfaction in VCE, including:

1. Assist in the development of public information strategies, planning, and materials related to VCEA customer marketing, outreach, policies and programs. As requested by staff, review draft materials and provide comments as appropriate; assist with customer-facing community outreach to, and liaison with, member communities.
2. Help define audience segments within VCE's service area and consult on appropriate messages and communications approaches; provide a sounding board to assist in message development and copy testing. Conduct review of marketing materials at the draft (pre-release) stage upon request from staff.
3. Assist with identification of statewide program opportunities and development of strategies for disseminating information on eligibility, rebate amounts, stacked incentives, and other details; assist Staff with finding and applying for external funding for potential programs.
4. Collaborate with Staff on an annual update to the 3-year Programs Plan, discuss 2023 program implementation with Staff; assist with the update of 2022 program design/implementation forms and program prioritization for implementation in 2023.
5. As requested by the Director of Customer Care and Marketing, provide outreach and messaging support for the efforts of other CAC task groups, as well as outreach to VCE's participating jurisdictions to encourage collaborative dissemination regarding programs, energy savings tips, rebates/incentives etc. on their websites and social media platforms.
6. Provide summaries and updates at monthly CAC meetings on Task Group activities.

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2023 STRATEGIC PLAN TASK GROUP CHARGE

Members: Marsha Baird
Lorenzo Kristov
Rahul Athalye

Staff Lead: Edward Burnham

2023 Charge:

The CAC Strategic Plan Task Group will assist VCE Staff with the planning and development of a rolling strategic plan and updates to current objectives through 2026. The current 3-year Strategic Plan covers 2021-23 and was approved by the Board on October 8, 2020.

Specifically, the Task Group will:

- (1) review existing organizational strategic documents – vision statement, mission statement, SWOT analysis, and strategic plan;
- (2) work with Staff to develop 2024-26 Strategic Plan objectives;
- (3) provide input and feedback to Staff on a working draft 2024-26 Strategic Plan to present to the CAC and Board;
- (4) collaborate with Staff develop guidelines for structure and best practices of rolling strategic plan for future years; and,
- (5) provide summaries and updates at monthly CAC meetings on Task Group activities.