VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Staff Report – Item 6

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Edward Burnham, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Review and approve draft 2026 Task Group Year-end Reports

DATE: November 19, 2026

Recommendation:
Review and approve draft 2026 Task Group year-end reports.

Attached for your review are the following draft Task Group year-end reports:

1. Legislative & Regulatory
2. Programs & Outreach
3. Local Energy
4. Bio Energy (No 2026 activity)

The schedule is to provide all final year-end reports to the Board for their information at their December 10, 2026, meeting.

Attachments:
1. 2026 Legislative & Regulatory TG Draft Year-end Report
2. 2026 Programs & Outreach TG Draft Year-end Report
3. 2026 Local Energy TG Year-end Report
4. 2026 Bio Energy TG Year-end Report

LEGISLATIVE/ REGULATORY TASK GROUP
2026 YEAR END REPORT

Members:

- Lorenzo Kristov
- Rahul Athalye
- Ari Halberstadt
- Mark Murray

Primary Staff Contacts: Mitch Sears, Yvonne Hunter, Christian Filbrun (effective October)

2026 Charge:

Work with VCE staff and VCE's lobbyist to:

- Provide feedback, recommendations on potential VCE positions on legislation, and technical and strategic input to VCE staff on key legislative and regulatory issues facing VCE and the CCA community in general in 2026. This includes, but is not limited to, legislation and regulatory issues related to VCE's Legislative and Regulatory Platform, Strategic Plan and Environmental Justice Statement.
- Provide periodic reports to the CAC about legislation and regulatory issues in general, with emphasis on items most relevant to VCE.
- Lead CAC discussions to solicit recommendations from the CAC to inform VCE positions on key legislation and regulatory proceedings of interest to VCE and to CCAs in general.
- Discuss and provide feedback on VCE's engagement with legislators, regulatory proceedings and other stakeholders.
- Receive periodic updates about and discuss CalCCA legislative and regulatory priorities and activities, identifying any potential differences in perspectives and emphasizing how VCE can most effectively contribute.
- Work with staff to periodically review and update VCE's Legislative and Regulatory Platform for consideration by the CAC and the VCE Board.

Highlights of Activities and Accomplishments in 2026

During 2026, the Leg/Reg Task Group met bi-weekly with staff and VCE's lobbyist and worked closely with them. During 2026 the Task Group:

1. Reviewed pending legislation; provided feedback, technical and policy information, and strategic guidance on legislative and regulatory issues; discussed and recommended VCE positions and legislative strategies for pending legislation and regulatory issues.

2. Energy-related legislative issues the Task Group discussed in 2026 included:

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TOPIC	LEGISLATION AND RESULT
• Large loads and data centers	• SB 886 (Padilla, signed by the Governor) • AB 2383 (Zbur, signed by the Governor) — VCE was opposed unless amended due to language that would give the CPUC improper control over CCAs related to large load customers; after the amended, VCE went neutral • SB 887 (Padilla, signed by the Governor) • SB 978 (Perez, held in Senate Appropriations)
• Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA)	• AB 1761 (Rogers, CalCCA sponsored, vetoed by the Governor); PCIA data transparency — VCE supported
• Affordability	• SB 943 (Becker, held in Assembly Appropriations) • AB 1677 (Boerner, held in Assembly Utilities & Energy)
• Resource Adequacy (RA)	• SB 1138 (Padilla, CalCCA sponsored, held in Assembly Appropriations); hourly RA capacity trading between CCAs — VCE supported • SB 913 (Becker, signed by the Governor)
• Diablo Canyon Power Plant	• Legislation was not introduced in 2026 to extend operation
• Balcony solar	• SB 868 (Wiener, signed by the Governor)
• Battery Storage	• SB 1295 (Stern, held in Assembly Appropriations)
• Virtual power plants (VPPs)	• AB 1787 (Schultz, held in Senate Appropriations)

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• Electrification and gas distribution line replacements	• AB 2313 (Berman, signed by the Governor) • SB 905 (Becker, signed by the Governor)
• Community solar	• AB 1813 (Ward, vetoed by the Governor)
• Dynamic pricing and Time of Use rates	• Subject of several informational hearings in the Legislature • AB 710 (Irwin, held in Senate Appropriations)
• Transmission planning and financing	• Subject of several informational hearings in the Legislature • AB 2111 (Papan, signed by the Governor) • SB 1097 (Wiener, held in Senate Appropriations) • AB 2396 (Irwin, held in Assembly Appropriations)
• State budget	• Issues relevant to Valley Clean Energy and energy issues in general.

3. Various regulatory proceedings, including:

TOPIC	PROCEEDING AND DESCRIPTION
• CPUC Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA)	• Track 2 (Decision D.26-09-047) related to Pre-2019 Banked Renewable Energy Credit (REC) valuation for 2026 and later • Track 3 related to data transparency and reforms to PCIA (R.25-02-005 – This proceeding is ongoing) (Track 3 has split into two sub-tracks: Track 3A and Track 3B to address distinct elements of the PCIA including refinements to the current PCIA [Track 3A] and structural changes [Track 3B])

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• CPUC Large loads and data centers	• Discussion of large load customers and their impacts on other customers and to the grid and how this relates to pending legislation (R.26-04-009 – this proceeding is ongoing)
• CEC SB 100	• CEC conducts a resource planning process for how to achieve 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045; required to report to the Leg. every 4 years; the latest report was due in January 2025 and is still outstanding, so it is not clear whether and how the SB 100 process will be restored.
• CARB Climate Credit	• Discussion of climate credit implementation at the California Air Resources Board related to reauthorization of Cap and Invest in 2025 and the decision by CARB to provide free allocations for oil refineries. These changes were adopted by CARB.
• CPUC Dynamic rates	• Discussion of dynamic rate structures to reduce costs and encourage flexing of energy consumption.
• CPUC High Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Future Grid	• R.21-06-017 was opened in 2021 to develop utility reforms for a future grid with high volumes and diversity of distributed energy resources (DER). The CPUC has adopted the term "DER Orchestration" to describe the IOUs' central function. CPUC has issued proposed decisions to close out the proceeding this year without resolving the inherent IOU conflict of interest between enabling non-utility DERs to provide grid benefits and maximizing IOU profit through capital investment. Several parties have raised this concern. Decision D.26.10-054, adopted Oct. 29, affirms the IOU

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	application process following a workshop series in 2027.

4. Discussion on how best to engage legislators and regulators on issues of key importance to CalCCA and VCE.

5. Reviewed and discussed California state budget issues that affect matters of concern to VCE and all CCAs.

6. Provided periodic updates to the CAC on key legislative and regulatory issues.

7. Received and discussed periodic updates about CalCCA legislative and regulatory activities, including critical opportunities for VCE to engage and lobby its legislators and provide input to CPUC and CEC proceedings.

8. Updated the Legislative and Regulatory Platform for 2027 for review by the CAC and VCE Board, including adding statements related to large loads and RA transactability.

Challenges

1. Identifying those legislative and regulatory areas where VCE has a significant interest and can make a difference given VCE's limited resources.

2. This is particularly challenging with regard to CPUC proceedings because there are so many that affect retail electricity customers and CCAs.

3. How to be most effective in the legislative and regulatory arenas given VCE's limited resources. How best to engage VCE's two legislators and tell VCE's story.

4. How best to educate legislators, legislative staff and regulators about CCAs, changing the narrative from a negative to a positive message.

Opportunities

1. With the addition of Christian Filbrun, VCE's new Legislative and Regulatory Analyst, VCE will be able to play a larger role in legislative and regulatory issues of importance to VCE, developing ongoing relations with district and legislative staff, as well as becoming more involved with CalCCA's legislative and regulatory activities.

2. Continue to monitor, and where feasible engage in, legislative and regulatory activities that can benefit VCE customers, such as Demand-Side Grid Support, Virtual Power Plants, and EV bi-directional charging.

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VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH TASK GROUP (POTG)
2026 YEAR-END REPORT

Task Group Members: Mark Aulman, David Springer, Diccon Westworth

Primary Staff Contact: Rebecca Kuczynski

2026 Charge:

Collaborate with VCE 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 VCE 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. In consultation with staff, 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. Assist with planning for focus groups in VCE service territory to better assess customer needs and preferences.

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 2026 program implementation with Staff.

5. Collaborate with staff and consultants on policies, procedures and programs aimed at improving customer experience and customer satisfaction in VCE. Assist development of public information strategies, planning, and materials related to VCE customer programs.

6. Collaborate with staff on an update to the 3-Year Programs Plan, the Outreach and Marketing Plan and discuss 2026 program implementation with Staff.

7. As requested by the Chief Customer Officer, 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

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websites and social media platforms.

8. Provide summaries and updates at monthly CAC meetings on Task Group activities, as necessary.

Highlights of Accomplishments:

- POTG members continued to keep a finger on the pulse of the community, notifying VCE staff when VCE-specific issues arise on social media or within the community, e.g. firms impersonating VCE.
- The POTG has actively participated in the development and finalization of customer-facing materials, including:
  - VCE Adventure Booklet
  - Business Customer Toolkit
  - Water Bill Advertisements
  - Bus advertisements
- POTG members continued to brainstorm with staff on how to best support low-income households in the adoption of electrification, as well as steps VCE can take to include renters.
- The POTG continued to actively assist in the ongoing conversations with member jurisdictions to opt their municipal accounts up to UltraGreen.
- The POTG participated with advising, recruitment, and conducting interviews of prospective Focus Group firms.
- The POTG continued to provide analysis and recommendations on VCE's social media and assisted with the VCE intern developing VCE's Social Media Style Guide.
- Staff continued to discuss the UltraGreen service option with the POTG, who helped with formulating strategies on marketing the program going forward, especially while VCE's default power content is very high in renewables.
- POTG members provided event support, which has increased staff's capacity to attend events within the community.
- The POTG assisted with several program concept developments and/or grant applications for:
  - The Microgrid Incentive Program
  - Customer Tree Shade Program
  - DERMs
- Due to limitations on staff time, POTG efforts are invaluable. Members may move forward to support staff on specific items that best suit their interests and industry expertise.

<u>Lessons Learned – Challenges and Opportunities:</u>

Challenges:

- Limited staff time to develop, market, and manage programs, especially as programs continue to grow in complexity and scope.
- Partnerships (e.g. with constituent jurisdictions, community organizations, and others) have proven to be time-consuming but productive.
- VCE's customer base is diverse, and some segments either are unaware of VCE's role or are unaware of the benefits which apply to them.

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Opportunities

- Engagement with Yolo County residents through focus groups and direct contact can help strengthen the perception of value VCE brings to residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural customers through clean electricity, electrification programs and lower rates.
- Active communication with customers provides a proactive means of reducing opt-outs.
- Continue to learn from experiences of other CCAs on programs that have worked well for their customers.
- Potential to add staff and/or hire consultants to help with program implementation.
- Engage with Staff on availability of funding as reserves build.
- Support Staff with specific needs as time permits, such as ideas for and review of website updates, strategies to maximize customer access to incentives, and identification of future program and outreach needs.
- Collaborate with Yolo, Woodland, Davis, and Winters Climate Action Commissions and Cool Davis.
- Potential to collaborate with other public utilities.

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VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LOCAL ENERGY TASK GROUP
2026 YEAR-END REPORT

Members:

Lorenzo Kristov
David Springer
Ari Halberstadt
Keith Taylor
Diccon Westworth (partial year)
Mark Aulman (partial year)

Staff:

Chad Curran (Director of Power Services) (Lead)
Edward Burnham
Sierra Huffman
Mary-Kathryn Rueff

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2026 Charge:

- Compile and organize educational materials on Local Energy Resource (LER) technologies and applications that could be appropriate for VCE's service area. Educational materials would include the following:
  - Definitions and descriptions of LER terms, concepts and major types of applications.
  - Examples of LER applications deployed elsewhere, with information on benefits, costs, implementation processes, etc., as available.
  - Description of risks, challenges, and benefits associated with types of LER applications, including technical and financial risks, policy uncertainties and community benefits.
  - Identification of existing obstacles to LER deployment, including policy and regulatory obstacles, and any efforts by other CCAs or stakeholders to reduce those obstacles.
- Identify potential LER applications that would be beneficial in VCE's territory and will develop brief initial descriptions. Applications may include conceptual models, specific projects and programs.
- Assist VCE staff in developing evaluation methods for LER applications.
- Provide short (5-10 minute) reports at each CAC meeting to inform the CAC about the above topics. When a CAC agenda is light, the LETG may lead a longer discussion on an LER topic.
- Assist VCE staff in the development of a vision, strategy and plans for increasing LERs in VCE's energy planning and procurement and in member communities' energy systems.
- When opportunities arise, the LETG, in its advisory and research role, may assist VCE staff in outreach to stakeholders about LER applications and issues of interest.

Highlights of Accomplishments:

- Members and staff developed a list of four types of local energy projects that the task force could investigate and described these types of projects and their potential benefits and challenges at the March CAC meeting. The types of projects included:
    - Community resilience centers
    - Community-scale solar + storage projects
    - Public or coop-owned EV charging stations
    - Energy self-supply for new housing & mixed-use developments / aka greenfield developments
- Members developed a potential framework for evaluating and prioritizing potential local energy projects VCE could pursue, including financial, local considerations, and VCE's role.
- Staff presented to the LETG on several topics that could help consider and evaluate local resources, including:
    - Overview of the economics of VCE procuring different types of energy projects, such as CAISO-participating resources and behind the meter solar or batteries
    - Amounts of installed behind the meter PV and batteries in VCE's service territory
    - Distributed energy resource management systems (DERMS)
- Members shared materials on a wide variety of local energy resources, including a draft proposal for VCE engagement on community resilience centers and resilience hubs.
- Members raised concerns about frequent outages in the Capay Valley and proposed exploring ways VCE could help improve energy resiliency in the area.

<u>Lessons Learned – Challenges and Opportunities:</u>

Challenges:

- Staff and task group member transitions.
- The LETG was enthusiastic and had many informative discussions, but group did not form consensus on priority projects to recommend.
- Presentations to the broader CAC and Board were limited.
- Uncertainty about the mechanics and economics of local energy projects.
- Difficulty maintaining momentum between monthly meetings.
- Broad scope of potential issues and solutions made it difficult to commit to specific actions.

Opportunities:

- Begin the year with education from VCE staff on past and existing VCE programs.
- Improve member education about policy barriers to local energy.
- Increase consistency of task group report-outs to the broader CAC and board.
- Identify topics and outside resources for task group education.
- Increase touchpoints outside of monthly meetings or increase meeting frequency.
- Develop an achievable schedule for annual deliverables early.
- Develop annual schedule for educational topics, with different members assigned to prepare for presentations.
- Borrow resources and best practices from other CAC task groups and other CCAs.
- More focus on turning discussions and ideas into action items.

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BIOENERGY TASK GROUP
2027 YEAR-END REPORT

Members: Danielle Ballard
Diccon Westworth
Mark Aulman

Staff Lead: N/A (was Director of Power Procurement)

Summary:
This task group was not active during 2026 because no appropriate RFIs were ever identified. The information below dates from the 2025 report.

The charge of the Bioenergy Task Group is to collaborate with VCE staff on development of recommendations to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) on bioenergy electricity generation which may be applicable to Valley Clean Energy.

Specific tasks enumerated in the 2025 charge and respective outcomes to date:

Task 1: *Identify bioenergy-based power generation technologies and resources which are currently available or may become available to Valley Clean Energy.* **Outcome to date:** While VCE potentially could benefit from the addition of baseload resources such as bioenergy to its portfolio in the 40-50MW range, adequate resources have not been identified to date. The Task Group agrees with staff that VCE could benefit from the creation of a small-scale request for information (RFI) solicitation relating to the potential availability of small, locally situated projects. There are no results to report at this time.

Task 2: *Engage with external information sources including subject matter experts, relevant stakeholders, other CCAs, and others.* **Outcome to date:** The categories of information pertinent to 2025 Task Group Charge are yet to be determined, due to the absence of an appropriate RFI solicitation.

Task 3: *Provide summaries and updates at monthly CAC meetings on Bioenergy Task Group activities, including recommendations as appropriate.* **Outcome to date:** Task Group meetings and participation by CAC members have been paused, effective December 2024, contingent on staff assessment of a RFI solicitation relating to small-scale, locally sited projects. As of December 2025, resumption of Task Group activity has not been requested by staff, and for this reason Task Group activity remains suspended. Resumption of Task Group activity may occur if requested by staff.

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