

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Staff Report - Item 7

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Edward Burnham, Chief Financial Officer
Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: Review 2026 CAC Task Group draft "Charges"

DATE: January 22, 2026

RECOMMENDATION

Review, provide feedback and approve the draft 2026 Task Group Charges.

BACKGROUND

Task Groups were formed for the 2026 year at the CAC's October 23, 2025 and December 18, 2025 meetings. Thereafter, CAC Members have volunteered to continue to serve and serve on the Task Groups as follows:

1. Legislative/Regulatory
 - A. Members: Lorenzo Kristov (Chair), Rahul Athalye, Ari Halberstadt
2. Programs & Outreach
 - A. Members: David Springer, Mark Aulman, Diccon Westworth
3. Local Energy
 - A. Members: Lorenzo Kristov, Keith Taylor, David Springer, Diccon Westworth, Ari Halberstadt

Please review the attached draft Charges, provide input and consider approving the draft Charges.

Attachments:

1. Legislative & Regulatory 2026 Task Group draft charge
2. Programs & Outreach 2026 Task Group draft charge
3. Local Energy Task 2026 Group draft charge

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

2026 LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY TASK GROUP CHARGE

Members: Lorenzo Kristov, Chair

Rahul Athalye

Ari Halberstadt

Staff: Mitch Sears, Chief Executive Officer

Yvonne Hunter, Legislative and Project Specialist

Mark Fenstermaker, VCE Lobbyist, Pacific Policy Group

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 and those discussed by the LRTG.
- 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.
- Contribute to VCE's engagement with legislators, regulatory proceedings and other stakeholders.
- Receive periodic updates about and discuss CalCCA legislative and regulatory priorities and activities, 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.

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

2026 PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH TASK GROUP CHARGE

Members: TBD (Chair)
TBD (Co-Chair)
David Springer
Mark Aulman
Diccon Westworth

Staff Lead: Rebecca Kuczynski, Chief Customer Officer

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

DRAFT

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

2026 LOCAL ENERGY TASK GROUP CHARGE

Members: Lorenzo Kristov
Keith Taylor
David Springer
Diccon Westworth
Ari Halberstadt

Staff: Edward Burnham, Chief Financial Officer

The Rationale for Creating the LETG

Local Energy Resources (“LER”) is a broad category of electricity technologies that includes: scalable renewable generation facilities (solar, wind, small hydro & geothermal); batteries & other types of energy storage; control systems to manage energy supply and customer load; electric vehicles and vehicle charging systems; microgrid controls to provide continuous “islanded” service during utility grid outages (e.g., Community Resilience Centers or CRC); energy efficiency (e.g., weatherization of buildings); and back-up emergency generators.

In recent years LER have been rapidly improving in performance and cost-effectiveness, making them more attractive to diverse customer types and communities for reasons of affordability, resilience, local control and ownership, ability to avoid transmission and distribution system upgrades and interconnection costs, and ability to support local clean energy and electrification initiatives.

To move from recognition of the potential benefits of LER to the identification of practical LER applications in which VCE could play an effective role, there is a need for (1) accurate education about LER applications, benefits, technologies and costs, both for decision makers and for the general public (VCE customers and member jurisdictions); (2) identification and evaluation of potential LER applications in VCE’s territory in which VCE could participate or play an enabling or supportive role; and (3) development of a vision and strategy for increasing LERs in VCE’s energy planning and procurement and in member communities’ energy systems.

The LETG would support the following objectives in VCE’s 2026-29 Strategic Plan:

2.3 Objective: Develop strategies to identify and pursue cost-effective, local distributed energy resources. Strategies could include, but are not limited to, an allocation of resource portfolio investment in cost-effective local energy and storage resources even though such local investment may affect achievement of overall resource portfolio goals.

4.1 Objective: Work with a variety of local, regional and state partners, to develop strategies and initiatives to pressure state policy makers to remove barriers to technical feasibility and economic viability of local renewable and storage resources, both FOM and BTM.

4.2 Objective: Work with member jurisdictions (e.g., city and school district planning staff) to

help plan and implement local energy resilience, decarbonization and electrification initiatives and where practical, powered by local supply resources.

5.2 Objective: Work with partners and policy makers at the local, regional and state levels to remove barriers to the technical feasibility and economic viability of local solar+storage and other renewable resources, for both in front of the meter and behind the meter installations.

Proposed LETG Charge

1. The LETG will meet monthly, outside of regular VCE Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings. Specific research or other tasks may be performed by LETG members outside of LETG meetings.
2. The LETG will compile and organize educational materials on 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.
3. The LETG will 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.
4. The LETG will assist VCE staff in developing evaluation methods for LER applications.
5. The LETG will 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.
6. The LETG will 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.
7. 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.