



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Chair David Springer opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2022 beginning at 5:01 p.m. via videoconference pursuant to the Brown Act and Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361). The Board of Directors 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, Lorenzo Kristov, Cynthia Rodriguez, Mark Aulman (departed at 6:01 p.m.), Rahul Athalye (departed at approximately 5:40 p.m.), Keith Taylor (arrived at approximately 5:03 p.m.)

Committee Members Absent: Gerry Braun, Jennifer Rindahl, Kristin Jacobs

**Welcome and
Approval of
Agenda**

Chair Springer announced that Item 4 – Staff and Task Group Reports will be heard at the end of the Regular agenda. He also announced that a few CAC Members will be departing the meeting early. Therefore, Item 10 - Election of 2023 Chair and Vice Chair will occur as the first item on the Agenda, after Public Comment and before the Consent Agenda. Motion made by Christine Shewmaker to approve the December 15, 2022 meeting agenda as amended, seconded by Marsha Baird. Motion passed with Braun, Rindahl, Jacobs and Taylor absent.

**Public Comment /
Introductions**

Keith Taylor arrived at approximately 5:03 p.m.

There were no written or verbal public comments on items not on the Agenda and on Consent Agenda items.

Chair Springer moved on to the Regular Agenda.

Consent Items

Vice Chair Baird announced that the November 17, 2022 minutes are amended, on page 3, Item 10 – 80% Renewable by 2030, 2nd paragraph, 1st sentence changed from: “...speeding up...” to “...their reasons for moving the plan...”.



Christine Shewmaker asked that Item 8 – Seeking Recommendation regarding Assembly Bill 843 Sunset Limit be pulled from the other consent items for a separate vote.

Christine Shewmaker made a motion to approve Items 5 through 7 on the Consent agenda, seconded by Marsha Baird. Motion passed with Braun, Rindahl and Jacobs absent. The following items were:

5. approved November 17, 2022 meeting Minutes as amended;
6. received 2022 long-range calendar; and,
7. received 2023 Operating Budget and 2023 Customer Rates update.

Board Clerk called for a motion on “Item 8 – Seek recommendation from CAC to the Board to support proposed 2023 legislation to remove AB 843 Sunset Limit for BioMAT Program.” No motion made. The CAC moved Item 8 to the end of the Regular agenda to give Staff the opportunity to provide additional information and provide the CAC further discussion.

Item 10: Election of 2023 CAC Chair and Vice-Chair. (Effective January 2023)

Christine Shewmaker made a motion to nominate Mark Aulman to the Chair position, seconded by Cynthia Rodriguez. Mark Aulman accepted the nomination. There was no verbal or written public comments. Motion passed with Mark Aulman abstaining and Braun, Rindahl and Jacobs absent.

Marsha Baird made a motion to nominate Rahul Athalye as Vice Chair, seconded by Christine Shewmaker. Rahul Athalye accepted the nomination. There was no verbal or written public comments. Motion passed with Rahul Athalye abstaining and Braun, Rindahl and Jacobs absent.

Chair Springer congratulated both Mr. Aulman and Mr. Athalye.

Item 9: Formation of 2023 CAC Task Groups. (Discussion/Action)

VCE Executive Officer Mitch Sears introduced this item and thanked the CAC for the Task Groups’ work this past year. Mr. Sears informed those present that the 2022 Task Group summaries were provided to the Board at their last meeting. He would like to acknowledge the time, effort and value that the CAC and Task Groups provide to the organization and the Board. Mr. Samuel briefly reviewed the Staff Report.

The CAC discussed combining the 2022 Outreach and Programs Task Groups to form one task group that addresses the customer experience. In addition, the CAC discussed several topics such as decarbonization, electrification, energy



resilience, agri-voltaic (land use for both solar power and cultivation), funding opportunities, rates, and future Task Groups and/or ad hoc groups that may need to be formed. The CAC also briefly discussed reforming the Legislative/Regulatory Task Group. Staff reminded those present that after Task Groups are formed, the Task Groups are to draft Charges that include goal-oriented tasks and projects that can be accomplished. The draft Charges are to be reviewed at the CAC's next meeting.

Lorenzo Kristov is interested in continuing a Legislative/Regulatory Task Group, which he will also like to serve on. It was mentioned that although Jennifer Rindahl was not present she may be interested in continuing to serve on this Task Group.

David Springer, Cynthia Rodriguez, Keith Taylor, and Mark Aulman are interested in serving on the Customer Experience Task Group. It was mentioned that although Rahul Athalye was not present he may be interested in serving on this Task Group.

There were no written or verbal public comments.

Lorenzo Kristov made a motion to form two (2) Task Groups: Legislative/Regulatory and Customer Experience, seconded by Mark Aulman. Motion passed with Braun, Rindahl and Jacobs absent.

Brief Task Group and VCE staff Reports

Task Group Reports

Legislative/Regulatory: Mr. Kristov informed those present that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) recently voted on the Net Energy Metering (NEM) 3.0 decision; and, the CPUC held a workshop on community engagement regarding process and ways to engage and increase participation. Chair Springer suggested that NEM Customers be reminded of the April deadline regarding NEM 3.0. VCE Staff Yvonne Hunter suggested working with Cool Davis to get the word out.

Outreach: Mark Aulman indicated that communicating NEM 3.0 deadline dates and information is a good example of what the Customer Experience Task Group would address. Vice Chair Baird reminded those present that VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles will be presenting to the Board marketing and outreach activities and accomplishments in 2022. Ms. Boyles informed those present



that a marketing, website and social media services vendor: REACH Strategies. Staff are moving forward with the transition from VCE's current vendor Green Ideals to REACH Strategies early part of 2023.

Programs: Vice Chair Baird informed those present Staff have been working on getting the word out about VCE's Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate program; the TECH rebates are coming back around along with related electrification rebates; AgFIT program continues to move forward; looking at next steps and opportunities for 2023, such as Vehicle-Grid Integration (VGI) Pilot program, Self Generation Incentive Program (SGIP), and second phases of existing programs. Chair Springer informed those present that he is looking at other CCA programs to see if there are other opportunities.

Energy Resilience: Mr. Kristov informed those present that this Task Group has been terminated.

(Mark Aulman departed at 6:01 p.m.)

December 8, 2022 Board meeting update: Assistant General Manager Gordon Samuel highlighted that the Board approved contracts, including REACH Strategies and The Energy Authority for wholesale energy services; approved GHG Free attributes for large hydro for 2023; and, approved the 2023 Operating Budget, 2023 Customer Rates, and Rate Adjustment Policy.

Staff Report: Mr. Samuel informed those present that VCE's Intern will be presenting agriculture load forecasting presentation at the CAC's January 2023 meeting. He informed those present that the Board subcommittee decided not to address 100% renewable by 2030 at the December Board meeting. Staff are moving forward on their analysis so that Staff are prepared to discuss with the Board in 2023. Christine Shewmaker informed those present that she and Cynthia Rodriguez provided public comment on this item at the Board's December meeting.

Mr. Sears informed those present that Staff continue to work on meeting schedule and structure (in person, hybrid). Staff will be bringing this to the Board at their January 2023 meeting for discussion and direction.

As a recap, Staff and the Legislative/Regulatory Task Group brought to the CAC a request for support to delete the sunset clause in existing Assembly Bill 843 Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff (BioMAT) program. Ms. Hunter provided

Item 8 – Seek recommendation from CAC to the



Board to support proposed 2023 legislation to remove Assembly Bill 843 Sunset Limit for BioMAT program. (Action)

more detail than what is provided in the Staff Report on this bill. Concerns were expressed about VCE's need to discuss what types of bioenergy projects might be considered by VCE before participating in the BioMAT program; VCE's lack of a bioenergy policy; possible expansion of the BioMAT program that could encourage siting of large scale dairy and feedlot operations; and, the need for more information on the BioMAT program before considering whether to support or oppose the proposed legislation. As a result, the CAC did not adopt a recommendation because no motion was made. Mr. Sears informed those present that Staff intends to move forward with presenting this item to the Board at their January 2023 meeting.

Item 11: Advisory Committee Member and Staff Announcements.

Christine Shewmaker informed those present that there is a lot of interest and articles on agri-voltaic. She will provide a list of articles to the Board Clerk for distribution.

Chair Springer informed those present that the Winters Climate Action Commission is looking for participants from the Winters area. The Commission is looking at asking the Winters City Council to opt up the City's electric utility accounts to UltraGreen.

Chair Springer thanked the CAC Members for allowing him to serve as Chair this past year. Mr. Samuel thanked David Springer and Marsha Baird for all of their work and assistance. Mr. Samuel welcomed and thanked Mark Aulman and Rahul Athalye for serving as Chair and Vice Chair in 2023.

Adjournment to Next Meeting

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 5 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Alisa M. Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst