



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023  
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Chair Mark Aulman opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2023 beginning at 5:02 p.m. via videoconference pursuant to the Brown Act and Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361). The Board of Directors has authorized the continuation of remote meetings.

**Welcome and Roll Call**

Committee Members Present: Mark Aulman (Chair), Rahul Athalye (Vice Chair), David Springer, Marsha Baird, Christine Shewmaker, Lorenzo Kristov, Gerry Braun, Cynthia Rodriguez, Kristin Jacobs (arrived at 5:24 p.m.)

Committee Members Absent: Jennifer Rindahl, Keith Taylor

**Welcome and Approval of Agenda** Chair Aulman welcomed everyone. Motion made by Lorenzo Kristov to approve the February 23, 2023 Agenda, seconded by Rahul Athalye. Motion passed with Rindahl, Taylor and Jacobs absent.

**Public Comment / Introductions** There were no written or verbal public comments on items not on the agenda and on Consent Agenda items.

Chair Aulman reminded those present that four (4) CAC Member appointments will be expiring in June 2023. Like VCE has done in the past, advertising and soliciting for candidates will commence soon. He reminded those present that one seat from each of the four (4) jurisdictions (unincorporated Yolo County, and cities of Woodland, Davis, and Winters) will be open for reappointment and/or appointment.

**Brief Task Group and VCE staff Reports** **Task Group Reports:**

Legislative / Regulatory: Lorenzo Kristov informed those present that the Task Group met two weeks ago and will meet tomorrow. He provided an update on Resource Adequacy (RA) power purchase agreements (PPAs), which are running into interconnection delays. CCA's (like VCE) may potentially be penalized for interconnection delays although not the fault of the CCA or project. VCE Executive Director Mitch Sears informed those present that CalCCA is tracking and collecting information to be presented in both regulatory and legislative settings on this issue. VCE Assistant General Manager and Director of Power Procurement Gordon Samuel informed those present that VCE is in a good position to meet RA power requirements. VCE Staff Yvonne Hunter informed those present that placeholder legislative bills are present that may address interconnection issues relating to schools, hospitals, etc. CalCCA has reached out to the CCAs for examples of projects that have been significantly delayed. Mr. Sears informed those present that VCE has been active in conversations regarding this subject.



Mr. Kristov informed those present on the status of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) proceedings on the Microgrid Incentive program and Net Energy Metering (NEM) 3.0.

CAC Member Kristin Jacobs arrived at 5:24 p.m.

**February 9, 2023 Board in person meeting update:** Mr. Samuel provided highlights of the Board's February 9, 2023 meeting: meeting was in person held at the City of Davis Community Chambers with a 30 minute reception, open to the public, prior to the regular meeting; the Board received a presentation from VCE's lobbyist and regulatory consultants; received highlights of proposed changes to the Wholesale Energy Risk Management policy; received the annual Strategic Plan update and provided direction to Staff; approved an agreement with First Principles Advisory for additional portfolio modeling services; and, approved two "swap" Resource Adequacy (RA) agreements with Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA).

**Staff Report:** Mr. Samuel provided an update: he attended the Yolo County Planning Commission's meeting where they reviewed the Gibson project; VCE Staff have received and processed numerous Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate program applications; he reminded the Members that if they are interested in attending CalCCA's 2023 Annual Conference to contact the Board Clerk by the end of February; and, reminded those present that the CAC's next meeting will be in person at the City of Woodland Council Chambers. Mr. Sears informed those present that he and Mark Fenstermaker of Pacific Policy Group, VCE's lobbyist consultant, met with legislative offices. As a result, Mr. Sears was asked to speak, along with others, at the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee hearing about AgFIT, dynamic pricing and energy affordability. He said that the Committee was engaged and asked good questions.

## Consent Items

Marsha Baird informed those present that minor corrections were made to the January 26, 2023 CAC meeting minutes to reflect those who were in attendance and to correct a typo. Vice Chair Athalye asked about Item 6 – 2023 Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) and 2023 Rates, and requested that it be pulled from the Consent agenda to the Regular agenda for further discussion.

There were no written or verbal comments as identified above.

Christine Shewmaker made a motion to approve Item 5 - January 26, 2023 meeting Minutes as amended; with Item 6 – PCIA and Rates pulled to the Regular agenda for further discussion; and, receive Item 7 – 2023 long range calendar, seconded by Marsha Baird. Motion passed with Rindahl and Taylor absent. The following items were:

5. approved January 26, 2023 meeting Minutes as amended; and,
7. received 2023 long-range calendar listing proposed topics.



**Item 8: Receive Strategic Plan update. (Information/Discussion)**

VCE Staff Edward Burnham provided a summary of VCE's Strategic Plan accomplishments and reminded the CAC that Staff is asking that the CAC form a Strategic Plan Task Group to provide feedback related to the development of a rolling strategic plan.

Several items were discussed: PCIA and forecasting; status of VCE's credit rating; the effects of VCE adopting several new policies on credit rating; and, whether or not a consultant would be assisting VCE develop a rolling strategic plan. Mr. Burnham informed those present that at this time an outside consultant is not needed. Staff asked for the CAC to review, modify and expand core Strategic Plan goals and objectives. Mr. Burnham added that the first update will require the development of 2024-2025 objectives. The strategic plan objectives for 2026 will be included in the 2024 rolling update. Staff will present the Plan and timeline to the Community Advisory Committee for additional feedback and plan to return to the Board in Quarter 3. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Motion made by Marsha Baird to form a Strategic Plan Task Group (SPTG), seconded by David Springer. Motion passed with Rindahl and Taylor absent.

Chair Aulman asked that a draft Charge be developed and presented to the CAC for review and asked if there were any Member who wished to serve on the SPTG. Marsha Baird volunteered to serve on the SPTG in the short term, ending her service when her appointment expires in June 2023. Chair Aulman asked VCE's Board Clerk to inform CAC Members that this Task Group was formed and to invite additional Members to join.

**Item 9: Review draft 2023 Community Advisory Committee Customer Experience Task Group Charge. (Discussion/Action)**

Mr. Samuel introduced this item. CAC Member David Springer announced that the Task Group name has changed from Customer Experience to Programs and Outreach Task Group (POTG). In addition, he informed those present that CAC Member Keith Taylor will serve as chair and he would serve as co-chair.

Mr. Springer briefly reviewed the draft POTG Charge. The draft Charge was discussed, specifically items 3, 4, and 5, and clarifying revisions were suggested. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Motion made by Marsha Baird to approve the draft POTG Charge as amended, seconded by David Springer. Motion passed with Rindahl and Taylor absent.

**Item 10: Inflation Reduction Act (IRA): overview and items of interest to VCE Customers. (Information)**

VCE Staff Yvonne Hunter presented a high-level overview of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and provided highlights of the act that may be of interest to VCE Customers. David Springer informed those present that he received notification from the Department of Energy State & Community Energy Program regarding a Request for Information (RFI) that they are receiving comments on State programs. In addition, he received information on two state rebate programs that are being well funded: Homeowner Managing Energy Savings (HOMES) and HEEHRA (point of sale rebates for qualified high-efficiency electric appliances, such as heat pumps for space heating and cooling).



Several items were discussed, such as: rebates for battery installations with solar; whether this information will be presented to the Board; commercial Electric Vehicle (EV) rebates and whether it applies to agricultural equipment; utilization of resources to “stack” rebates; and, the effects on resource adequacy (RA) should there be an increase in battery (solar) installations.

There were no written or verbal public comments.

**Item 6: Receive 2023 Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) and Rates update. (Information)**

The CAC and Staff discussed impacts of PCIA (power charge indifference adjustment) on VCE’s rates; building VCE reserves; rate options for Customers; Rate Adjustment policy; and schedule of rate review by the Board.

Motion made by Christine Shewmaker to receive the 2023 PCIA and Rates update, seconded by Rahul Athalye. Motion carried with Rindahl and Taylor absent.

**Item 11: Advisory Committee Member and Staff Announcements.**

Christine Shewmaker made a suggestion that each Task Group provide a report on their activities at least once during the year. She also mentioned that a bill was introduced that would divest pension funds in California. That bill has been reintroduced as Senate Bill 252, one of three bills that relate to climate accountability.

Mr. Sears invited members to attend the Almond Festival in Esparto on Sunday, where VCE will have a booth. Mr. Sears informed those present that Staff are continuing to develop VCE’s ability to hold hybrid meetings. One option that is being considered is to develop “home base” or satellite meeting locations. Ms. Shewmaker informed those present that a bill (Senate Bill 411) was introduced in early February 2023 that would allow virtual meetings of appointed commissions. VCE and CalCCA are tracking bills related to this issue.

**Adjournment to Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 5 p.m. This will be an in person meeting to be held at the City of Woodland Council Chambers located at 300 First Street, Woodland, CA 95695. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Alisa M. Lembke  
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst