



**Regular Meeting of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
of Valley Clean Energy Alliance
Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Yolo County Department of Community Services
Cache Creek Room
292 West Beamer Street, Woodland, California 95695**

CAC Members will be attending in-person and public participation will be in-person or available via Zoom Webinar (video/teleconference). Valley Clean Energy (VCE) will, to the best of its ability, provide hybrid and remote options for VCE meeting participants and to the public; however, VCE cannot guarantee these options will be available due to technical limitations outside of our control. For assurance of public comment, VCE encourages in-person and written public comments to be submitted as described below when possible. VCE, to the best of its abilities, will provide participation via the Zoom platform.

Meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the meeting materials, should contact Alisa Lembke, VCE Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst, at least two (2) working days before the meeting at (530) 446-2754 or Alisa.Lembke@valleycleanenergy.org.

If you have anything that you wish to be distributed to the CAC and included in the official record, please hand it to a member of VCE staff who will distribute the information to the CAC members and other staff.

Please note that the numerical order of items is for convenience of reference. Items may be taken out of order on the request of any CAC member with the concurrence of the CAC; times listed are estimates. Staff recommendations are advisory to the CAC. The CAC may take any action it deems appropriate on any item on the agenda even if it varies from the staff recommendation.

Members of the public who wish to participate remotely in the CAC's meeting may do so with video/teleconferencing call-in number and meeting ID code. To join remotely, please see the Zoom Webinar (video/teleconference) information below:

From a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device with high-speed internet:

(If your device does not have audio, please also join by phone.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89503435985>

Meeting ID: 895 0343 5985

By phone:

One tap mobile:

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Meeting ID: 895 0343 5985

Public comments may be submitted electronically or verbally during the meeting. Instructions on how to submit your public comments can be found in the PUBLIC PARTICIPATION note at the end of this agenda.

Committee Members: Keith Taylor (Chair), Rahul Athalye (Vice Chair), Mark Aulman, David Springer, Lorenzo Kristov, Cynthia Rodriguez, Diccon Westworth, Danielle Ballard, Ari Halberstadt, Mark Murray, Jennifer Rindahl

5:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome

2. Public Comment: This item is reserved for persons wishing to address the CAC on any VCE-related matters that are not otherwise on this meeting agenda or are listed on the Consent portion of the agenda. Public comments on matters listed on the Regular agenda shall be heard at the time the matter is called. As with all public comment, members of the public who wish to address the CAC are customarily limited to two minutes per speaker, electronically submitted comments should be limited to approximately 300 words. Comments that are longer than 300 words will only be read for two minutes. All electronically submitted comments, whether read in their entirety or not, will be posted to the VCE website within 24 hours of the conclusion of the meeting. See the information below under **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** at the conclusion of this agenda about how to provide your public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA (≈ 5 minutes)

- 3. Approval of June 25, 2026 Meeting Minutes.**
- 4. Receive 2026 Long Range Calendar. (Information)**
- 5. Receive Customer Participation update (2nd Quarter). (Information)**
- 6. Receive 2026 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) filed with CPUC. (Information)**

REGULAR AGENDA

- 7. Receive, provide feedback on, and recommend approval to Board of draft Power Project Selection Criteria Guidelines. (Discussion/Action) (≈ 30 minutes)**
- 8. Receive update from VCE Intern on Distributed Energy Resources Management System (DERMS). (Information) (≈ 20 minutes)**
- 9. Receive an informational overview of VCE's pending efforts related to customer engagement focus groups. (Information) (≈ 10 minutes)**



10. Brief Task Group and VCE Staff Reports (Information) (~ 15 minutes) - Representatives of VCE staff and active Task Groups will provide verbal updates on on-going Staff and Task Group work. Task Group recommendations requiring Committee attention require a regular agenda item. Summaries of written reports received by the Committee in advance of the meeting will receive a time allocation of up to ten minutes. Otherwise, the time allocation will be five minutes, including questions and answers.

a. Task Group Reports

b. Staff Report

11. Advisory Committee Member and Announcements. (~ 5 minutes) Action items and reports from members of the Advisory Committee, including announcements, reports on meetings, and information which would be of interest to the Committee or the public.

12. Announcement and Adjournment. The CAC's next scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 24, 2026 at the City of Woodland Council Chambers, located at 300 First Street, Woodland, California 95695.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Public Comments: Public participation for this meeting will be done electronically via e-mail and during the meeting as described below.

Public participation via e-mail: If you have anything that you wish to be distributed to the CAC and included in the official record, please e-mail it to VCE staff at Meetings@ValleyCleanEnergy.org . If information is received by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the CAC meeting it will be e-mailed to the CAC members and other staff prior to the meeting. If it is received after 3:00 p.m. the information will be distributed after the meeting, but within 24 hours of the conclusion of the meeting. Written public comments that do not exceed 300 words will be read by the VCE Board Clerk, or other assigned VCE staff, to the CAC and the public during the meeting subject to the usual time limit for public comments [two (2) minutes]. General written public comments will be read during Item 2, Public Comment. Written public comment on individual agenda items should include the item number in the "Subject" line for the e-mail and the Clerk will read the comment during the item. Items read cannot exceed 300 words or approximately two (2) minutes in length. All written comments received will be posted to the VCE website.

Verbal public participation during the meeting:

- 1) **If attending in person**, please complete a **Comment Card** and return it to the Board Clerk.
- 2) **If attending remotely via Zoom**, there are two (2) ways for the public to provide verbal comments:
 - A. If you are attending by computer, activate the "participants" icon at the bottom of your screen, then raise your hand (hand clap icon) under "reactions". When called upon, you will be "unmuted" to allow to speak.
 - B. If you are attending by phone only, you will need to press *9 to raise your hand. When called upon, press *6 to unmute your microphone.



VCE staff will acknowledge that you have a public comment to make during the item and will call upon you to make your verbal comment.

Public records that relate to any item on the agenda for a regular or special CAC meeting are available for public review on the VCE website. Records that are distributed to the CAC by VCE staff less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will be posted to the VCE website at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the CAC. Questions regarding VCE public records related to the meeting should be directed to Board Clerk Alisa Lembke at (530) 446-2750 or Alisa.Lembke@ValleyCleanEnergy.org. The Valley Clean Energy website is located at: <https://valleycleanenergy.org/cac-meetings/>.

Accommodations for Persons with disabilities. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the meeting materials, should contact Alisa Lembke, VCE Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst, as soon as possible and preferably at least two (2) working days before the meeting at (530) 446-2754 or Alisa.Lembke@ValleyCleanEnergy.org

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Staff Report - Item 3

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: CAC June 25, 2026 Meeting Minutes

DATE: August 27, 2026

Recommendation

Receive, review and approve the attached June 25, 2026 CAC meeting Minutes.

Attachment: June 25, 2026 CAC meeting Minutes



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
City of Davis Conference Room
(inside Community Chambers building)
23 Russell Boulevard, Davis, California 95616**

CAC Member and Acting Chair Mark Aulman established that there was a quorum present and opened the Community Advisory Committee of Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2026 beginning at 5:02 p.m., held at the City of Davis Conference Room, located inside the Community Chambers building at 23 Russell Boulevard, Davis, California 95616.

Welcome and Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Mark Aulman, Lorenzo Kristov, Diccon Westworth, Mark Murray, Ari Halberstadt, Jennifer Rindahl

Committee Members Absent: Keith Taylor (Chair), Rahul Athalye (Vice Chair), David Springer, Cynthia Rodriguez, Danielle Ballard (attended remotely)

Welcome Mr. Aulman welcomed everyone. VCE Chief Financial Officer Edward Burnham congratulated Diccon Westworth, Ari Halberstadt, and Mark Murray for being reappointed to the CAC and congratulated Jennifer Rindahl for being appointed to the CAC representing the City of Winters.

Public Comment There were no verbal or written public comments on items not on the agenda nor on the Consent Agenda items.

Item 3: Task Group Reports and Staff Reports Programs & Outreach: Mr. Aulman informed those present that the Task Group has been meeting monthly, but the meeting scheduled for last month was cancelled. There is nothing to report.

Legislative & Regulatory: Lorenzo Kristov informed those present that the Task Group met two weeks ago. He provided an up to date status on the following legislative bills: AB 1761 (PCIA Transparency), SB 1138 (Resource Adequacy Transactability), AB 2383 (Electricity: Large Energy Use Facilities), SB 886 (California Technology Innovation and Ratepayer Protection Act), AB 1787 (Dynamic Rate Options), SB 868 ("Patio Solar"), SB 1329 (Property Tax, Solar Energy Systems), and AB 710 (Resiliency Planning: Microgrid Projects).



Mr. Kristov also provided an update on DER proceedings, which have been going on for the past 5 years. He reported that a retiring CPUC Commissioner is pushing for the proceedings to end by the end of the year.

Local Energy Group: Mr. Kristov informed those present that the Task Group met on June 12th and discussed exploring local energy possibilities. VCE Staff Chad Curran informed those present that Staff and the Task Group are looking at the economics (cost and feasibility) of the different options that align with VCE's Strategic Plan. Mr. Burnham informed those present that Staff are preparing an energy process document on Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and local projects.

The CAC and Staff briefly discussed items, such as the value to the Customer of having a battery; VCE's Electric Advisory program; and solar ownership.

Staff report: Mr. Burnham informed those present that the Board at their June 11, 2026 meeting received a Summer Preparedness report and the 2025 financial audit. The Board received information and discussed the 2025 Net Margin Allocation; 2026 rates and Customer discounts; and, dividends and other monies allocated to reserve funds.

Agenda

Consent Items

Mark Murray made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items, seconded by Ari Halberstadt. Motion passed with Jennifer Rindahl abstaining and Taylor, Athalye, Springer, Rodriquez, and Ballard absent. The following items were:

4. approved May 28, 2026 meeting Minutes;
5. received 2026 Long Range Calendar;
6. received Summer Preparedness outlook; and,
7. received annual Load Management Standards (LMS) update.

Item 9: Receive update on Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and provide feedback. (Discussion)

VCE Staff Chad Curran provided highlights of the updated Integration Resource Plan (IRP). Mr. Curran informed those present that Preferred Conforming Portfolio (PCP) modeling will be included in the IRP. The IRP will demonstrate that VCE will comply with its regulatory procurement obligations. Mr. Curran reminded those present that the IRP is a planning exercise, and it is not VCE's procurement plan. Mr. Curran reviewed Staff's recommendation.

The CAC and Staff discussed items, such as statewide transmission plan; power market prices and procurement; and, the different resources, emissions, and load requirements. There were no written or verbal public comments.



Motion made by Rindahl to recommend that the VCE Board of Directors approve the submission to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) of VCE's 2026 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) substantially as described and presented, seconded by Westworth. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Kristov, Westworth, Halberstadt, Murray, Rindahl, Aulman

NOES: None

ABSENT: Taylor, Athaly, Springer, Rodriguez, Ballard

ABSTAIN: None

**Item 10. Advisory
Committee
Member and Staff
Announcements**

There were no announcements from the CAC Members in attendance. VCE Staff provided a brief overview of a Grand Jury Report on MCE Community Choice Energy. Mr. Curran informed those present that PG&E did not award the Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP) grant to VCE. Mr. Kristov mentioned that he recently attended a Strategic Growth Council meeting where they announced upcoming grant opportunities for resiliency centers.

**Adjournment to
Next Meeting**

Mr. Aulman announced that the CAC's meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2026 has been cancelled. He announced that the CAC's next scheduled meeting is Thursday, August 27, 2026, location to be determined. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Alisa M. Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Staff Report – Item 4

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: Receive 2026 Long Range Calendar meeting topics

DATE: August 27, 2026

Please find attached the 2026 Board and Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Long Range Calendar. Please note that the long range calendars have some added information (coding) to each item for Staff purposes only.

At any time, if you have an item that you would like added, including future topics, please send an email to Chief Financial Officer Edward Burnham, Board Clerk Alisa Lembke, CAC Chair and/or Vice Chair for consideration.

Due to the holidays in November and December 2026, the CAC's meeting dates have been moved to the 3rd Thursday and are as follows:

- November 19, 2026 (3rd Thursday) – DAVIS
- December 17, 2026 (3rd Thursday) – Davis

Attachment:

1. 2026 Board and CAC Long Range Calendar

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY
2026 Meeting Dates and Proposed Topics
Board and Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
(Note: Meeting locations and Topics are subject to change)

MEETING DATE		TOPICS	ACTION
January 8, 2026 CANCELLED	Board (Woodland)	• Oaths of Office for Board Members (Annual – new Members only) (R) (placeholder) • Election of Officers for 2026 (Annual) (R) (placeholder) • Customer Participation Update (4th Quarter 2025) (O) (placeholder) • 2025 Year-end review (R) (placeholder) • VCE Employee Handbook Update (R) (placeholder) • Annual Strategic Plan Report (R) (placeholder)	• Action • Nominations • Information • Information • Action • Information
January 22, 2026	Advisory Committee (Woodland)	• Rates/Budget 2026 Update (O) • Customer Participation Update (4th Quarter 2025) (O) • Review and approve 2026 draft CAC Task Group(s) “Charges” (R) • Power Portfolio update (R) • 2025 Year in review: Customer Care & Marketing (R)	• Information • Information • Discussion/Action • Information • Information
February 12, 2026	Board (Davis)	• Oaths of Office for Board Members (Annual - new Members only) (R) • Election of Officers for 2026 (Annual) (R) • Customer Participation Update (4th Quarter 2025) (O) • 2025 Year-end review (O) • VCE Employee Handbook update (R) • Annual Strategic Plan Report (R) • Receive CAC 2025 Year-end Task Group Reports (O)	• Action • Nominations • Information • Information • Action • Information • Information
February 26, 2026 Cancelled	Advisory Committee (Davis)	• This meeting has been cancelled.	•
March 12, 2026 Cancelled.	Board (Woodland)	• This meeting has been cancelled.	•

March 26, 2026	Advisory Committee (Woodland)	• Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Update (O) • Local Energy Task Group Update (O) • Update on CalCCA sponsored legislative bills (O)	• Information • Information • Information
April 9, 2026	Board (Davis)	• Receive Enterprise Risk Management Report (Bi-Annual) (R) • Customer Participation update (1st Quarter 2026) (O) • Receive Treasury and Financial update; ratify Investment Policy; and extend RCB Credit Agreement (R/O) • Update Exhibits C & D of VCE's JPA (R) • Update VCE's Conflict of Interest Code (R) • Brown Act compliance (R) • Ratify VCE's position on legislative bills	• Information • Information • Action • Action • Action • Action • Action
April 23, 2026 Cancelled.	Advisory Committee (Davis)	• This meeting has been cancelled.	•
May 12-14, 2026	CalCCA Annual Conference (Sacramento)	VCE Staff and some Board and CAC members attending	
May 14, 2026 Cancelled, may be rescheduled.	Board (Woodland)	• * No meeting due to CalCCA Annual Conference. A special meeting may be scheduled if an urgent matter needs to be addressed.	•
May 28, 2026	Advisory Committee (Woodland)	• 2025 Net Margin Allocation (R) • Customer Participation update (1st Quarter 2026) (O) • Seek feedback on updates to Integrated Resource Plan (O) • Receive update on three (3) legislative bills. (O) • Recap of CalCCA May 2026 Annual Conference (O)	• Discussion/Action • Information • Discussion/Action • Information • Information
June 11, 2026	Board (Davis)	• Re/Appointment of Members to Community Advisory Committee (Annual) (R) • Calendar Year 2025 Audited Financial Statements (James Marta & Co.) (placeholder) (R) • Mid-Year 2026 Financial Update (R) • 2025 Net Margin Allocation (R) • CC Power Amendment to Fish Lake Geothermal PPA • Summer Preparedness outlook (O) • Receive annual Load Management Standards (LMS) update (O) • Recap of CalCCA May 2026 Annual Conference (O)	• Action • Action • Information • Discussion/Action • Action • Information • Information • Information

*No meeting unless an urgent matter needs to be addressed

June 25, 2026	Advisory Committee (Davis)	• Receive Summer Preparedness outlook (O) • Receive annual Load Management Standards (LMS) update (O) • Seek recommendation to Board on updated Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) (O)	• Information • Information • Discussion/Action
July 9, 2026	Board (Woodland)	• Customer Participation update (2nd Quarter 2026) (O) • Approve Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) updates (R) • Indian Valley Long Term PPA (placeholder) (O)	• Information • Discussion/Action • Action
July 23, 2026 <i>Cancelled</i>	Advisory Committee (Woodland)	• Cancelled.	
August 13, 2026 <i>Cancelled</i>	Board (Davis)	• Cancelled. A Special meeting may be scheduled if needed.	
August 27, 2026	Advisory Committee (Davis) Yolo County Dept. of Community Services, Cache Creek Room, Woodland	• Customer Participation Update (2nd Quarter 2026) (O) • Receive updated Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) (O) • Focus Group Engagement • Draft Power Project Selection Criteria Guidelines • Receive Distributed Energy Resource Management System (DERMS) Intern Update	• Information • Information • Information • Discussion/Action • Information
September 10, 2026	Board (Woodland)	• Certification of 2025 Power Content Label (Annual) (R) • Residential Dynamic Pricing Pilot Program (HFP) and Vehicle-Grid Integration (VGI) Pilot Program update (placeholder) (O) • Approve AI Usage IT Policy • Approve updated Collections Policy	• Action • Information • Action • Action
September 24, 2026	Advisory Committee (Woodland)	• Power Portfolio Update (O) • Residential Dynamic Pricing Pilot Program (HFP) and Vehicle-Grid Integration (VGI) Pilot Program update (placeholder) • Programs / 3 Year Programs Plan update (placeholder) (O) • Draft Power Project Selection Criteria Guidelines (placeholder)	• Information • Information • Discussion/Action • Discussion/Action
October 8, 2026 Possibly meeting date conflict with League of Cities Annual Conference	Board (Davis)	• Enterprise Risk Management Update (Annual) (R) • Customer Participation Update (3rd Quarter 2026) (O) • Legislative End of Session Update (O) • Programs / 3 Year Programs Plan update (placeholder) (O) • Electric Vehicle (Charge Your Ride) Rebate Program (O) (placeholder)	• Discussion/Action • Information • Information • Discussion/Action • Discussion/Action

*No meeting unless an urgent matter needs to be addressed

		Procurement Policy (placeholder)	Discussion/Action
October 22, 2026	Advisory Committee (Davis)	2025 Power Content Label Outreach (O) - Customer Participation Update (3rd Quarter 2026) (O) - Legislative End of Session Update (O) 2027 Legislative & Regulatory Platform	- Information - Information - Information - Discussion/Action
November 12, 2026	Board (Woodland)	2027 Preliminary Operating Budget (R) - Contract Renewals (R) (placeholder) - Approve 2027 Legislative and Regulatory Platform - CC Power – Willow Rock PPA (placeholder) (O) - Electric Vehicle (Charge Your Ride) Rebate Program (O) (placeholder)	- Information/Discussion - Discussion/Action - Discussion/Action - Discussion/Action - Discussion/Action
November 26, 2026 November 19, 2026 (rescheduled to November 19 due to Thanksgiving holiday on Nov. 26 th)	Advisory Committee (Woodland) (Davis)	- Review CAC Draft 2026 Task Group Year-end Reports (R) - GHG Free Attributes (R) (placeholder)	- Discussion/Action - Discussion/Action
December 10, 2026	Board (Davis)	- Approve 2027 Operating Budget (Annual) and 2027 Customer Rates (R) - Receive VCE Grant/Program Annual Report (R) - GHG Free Attributes (R) (placeholder) - Contract Renewals (R) (placeholder) - CC Power – Willow Rock PPA (placeholder) (O)	- Discussion/Action - Information - Discussion/Action - Action - Discussion/Action
December 24, 2026 December 17, 2026 (rescheduled to December 17 due to Christmas Eve on Dec. 24 th)	Advisory Committee (Davis)	- Approve 2026 Task Group Year-end Reports (R) - Power Portfolio Update (R) - Election of Officers for 2027 (Annual) (R)	- Discussion/Action - Information - Nominations
January 14, 2027	Board (Woodland)	- Oaths of Office for Board Members (Annual - new Members only) (R) - Election of Officers for 2027 (Annual) (R) - Customer Participation Update (4th Quarter 2026) (O) 2026 Year in review: Customer Care & Marketing (R) - Receive 2026 Task Group Year-end Reports (R) - VCE Employee Handbook Update (R) - Annual Strategic Plan Report (R)	- Action - Nominations - Information - Information - Information - Action - Information

*No meeting unless an urgent matter needs to be addressed

January 28, 2027	Advisory Committee (Woodland)	• Rates/Budget 2027 Update (O) • Customer Participation Update (4th Quarter 2026) (O) • Approve 2027 CAC Task Group(s) “Charges” (R)	• Information • Information • Discuss/Action
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PLEASE NOTE: May 12-14, 2026: CalCCA Annual Conference in Sacramento, California

CAC <i>PROPOSED</i> FUTURE TOPICS Topics and Discussion dates may change as needed	<u>ESTIMATED</u> MEETING DATE(S)

*No meeting unless an urgent matter needs to be addressed

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Staff Report – Item 5

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Rebecca Boyles, Director of Customer Care & Marketing

SUBJECT: Receive Quarterly Customer Participation (Quarter 2 2026) Update (Information)

DATE: August 27, 2026

RECOMMENDATION (Information only)

Receive the quarterly [Customer Participation update staff report](#) (<<<<linked here), which was provided to the Board at their July 9, 2026 regular meeting. The quarterly report reflects the time period of April 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026 (Quarter 2 2026).

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Staff Report – Item 6

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Chad Curran, Director of Power Services

SUBJECT: Receive 2026 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) filed with CPUC (Information)

DATE: August 27, 2026

RECOMMENDATION (Information only)

Receive a copy of the filed 2026 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) document.

The Board received [Staff Report \(Item 12\)](#) at their July 9, 2026 meeting on the draft 2026 IRP. The 2026 IRP was filed with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on July 29, 2026. The [2026 IRP](#) and supporting template and calculator can be found on the [Key Documents](#) page on VCE's [website](#).

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Staff Report - Item 7

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Chad Curran, Director of Power Services

SUBJECT: Power Project Selection Criteria Guidelines. (Discussion/Action)

DATE: August 27, 2026

RECOMMENDATION

Provide feedback on draft Power Project Selection Criteria Guidelines (the “draft guidelines”) and recommend that the Board approve the draft guidelines.

OVERVIEW

Valley Clean Energy’s (VCE) primary purpose is to procure electricity for its customers from the wholesale energy market. Based on its strategic vision and Mission, it has successfully built a robust clean and affordable portfolio of long-term energy contracts that is responsive to local goals and regulatory realities. The recommended procurement guidelines help memorialize VCE’s past efforts to build its portfolio while maintaining the flexibility needed to adjust to a highly volatile energy sector and associated regulatory landscape.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Valley Clean Energy (VCE) has a robust contracted renewable energy portfolio and is currently well-positioned in the near- and medium-term to meet its customers’ demand and strategic plan goals for the procurement of renewable and carbon free energy. For example, in 2025 VCE met approximately 87% of its retail customer load with renewable energy, and approximately 96% of its wholesale customer load with carbon free energy. As a result, VCE is not currently holding any solicitations for the bulk procurement of long-term power contracts and is not actively planning for any solicitations.

However, from time to time, VCE does engage in bilateral discussions for the procurement of long-term power contracts, such as for the recontracting in July 2026 of the 3 MW Indian Valley Hydro Facility in Yolo County¹. As with previous solicitations (e.g. 2020 Local Projects Solicitation) and bilateral engagements, the foundation for these negotiations was VCE’s strategic vision and Mission with final approval determined by the VCE Board. Based on input from outside groups and the relative lull in active long-term procurement, Staff believes it is appropriate timing for VCE to memorialize its

¹ [Item-11-Indian-Valley-Long-Term-Power-Purchase-Agreement-7-9-26-1.pdf](#)

past work that led to the construction of its current portfolio. The proposed guidelines will help clarify and inform decision making if VCE becomes more active in large-scale, long-term power contracting. Staff notes that while establishing these guidelines, it is important for VCE to maintain the flexibility needed to adjust to a highly volatile energy sector and associated regulatory landscape.

Recent CCA Adoption of Project Selection Criteria

The recommended draft guidelines are generally consistent with similar criteria adopted by other community choice aggregators (CCAs). These actions have taken place in the context of CCA discussions with labor and environmental groups with a focus on CCAs that, like VCE, are members of the California Community Power Joint Power Agency.

Recent example CCA actions:

- January 17, 2024 - Ava Community Energy's Board adopted Workforce and Environmental Justice Project Selection Criteria².
- April 3, 2025 - Sonoma Clean Power's Board adopted Energy Project Selection Criteria³.
- April 9, 2025 - Silicon Valley Clean Energy's Board adopted a Power Purchase Agreement Project Selection Policy⁴.
- April 25, 2025 - San Jose Clean Energy approved its Workforce and Environmental Stewardship Project Selection Criteria⁵.

Draft Guidelines

VCE's development of the draft guidelines includes criteria that matter most for VCE's community. They are intended to provide increased clarity into VCE's decision making process when considering long-term contracts for power projects and help ensure that VCE selects projects that provide diverse benefits to the customers and communities it serves.

The draft guidelines are designed to provide factors for VCE to consider when selecting long-term power projects. They are intended to be flexible enough to allow VCE to consider the unique circumstances under which it considers each long-term power project. But the draft guidelines are also intended to help VCE be holistic in what factors it considers when selecting projects.

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² <https://avaenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/P-2024-20-Workforce-and-EJ-Project-Policy.pdf>

³ <https://sonomacleanpower.org/uploads/documents/SCPA-BOD-2025.04.03-Meeting-Agenda-Packet-with-Teleconference-Instructions.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.svcleanenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-0409-SVCE-April-BOD-Agenda-Packet-scrubbed.pdf>

⁵ <https://sanjose.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=14145212&GUID=5C39D187-D67C-465B-A844-F1FF6ED29BD5>

The attached draft guidelines include criteria addressing:

- Regulatory Requirements
- Cost
- Development Risk
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impact
- Location
- Technology Diversity
- Environmental Responsibility
- Community Engagement
- Workforce Development

The draft guidelines are generally based on power project selection criteria recently approved by other CCAs. By using those criteria as a starting point, VCE will be generally consistent with other CCAs while maintaining its primary focus on VCE's locally derived goals and the flexibility necessary to adapt to a volatile regulatory landscape.

CONCLUSION

If approved by the board, the draft Power Project Selection Criteria Guidelines will be a valuable tool to help VCE select long-term power projects that meet its goals and serve its customers and communities. Staff seeks CAC's feedback and a recommendation on the draft guidelines.

Attachment:

1. Draft Power Project Selection Criteria Guidelines



VALLEY

CLEAN ENERGY

Draft Power Project Selection Criteria Guidelines

Revised: August 2026

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1. Overview of Guidelines

Power Project Selection Guidelines

Valley Clean Energy's (VCE) power project selection criteria guidelines (the "Guidelines") establishes guidelines that inform VCE's decision-making process when procuring long-term power resources, to ensure projects selected best align with the mission, vision and goals described in VCE's Strategic Plan¹. These guidelines can be applied to the selection of long-term purchases of energy, capacity, renewable and carbon free attributes, and other power-related attributes; to front-of-the-meter new build power resources and/or power storage projects, as well as substantial repowering of existing power supply resources; and to projects sourced through solicitations or bilateral negotiations. Projects considered under these Guidelines may be evaluated based on the criteria described below, though not necessarily in order of priority:

- Regulatory Requirements
- Cost
- Development Risk
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impact
- Location
- Technology Diversity
- Environmental Responsibility
- Community Engagement
- Workforce Development

Projects will be selected based on their contributions toward VCE's mission of providing clean, reliable, and affordable energy. VCE will assess the cost, products, and operational and regulatory characteristics of each project to maximize the contribution toward each of these selection criteria. Evaluation and selection of projects will be consistent with and subject to VCE's Wholesale Energy Procurement Risk Management Policy² and other VCE Board approved policies.

2. Selection Criteria

2.1 Regulatory Requirements

VCE must comply with all regulatory procurement requirements and orders, including renewable portfolio standards (RPS) targets, greenhouse gas reduction (GHG) targets, CPUC procurement orders,

¹ <https://valleycleanenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/VCE-Strategic-Plan-2026-2029-Major-Update-approved-10-14-2025.pdf>

² <https://valleycleanenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/VCE-Wholesale-Energy-Procurement-Risk-Management-Policy-Revised-Sept.-2023.pdf>

and any other regulatory requirements. VCE will select projects based on their contribution towards its regulatory procurement requirements.

2.2 Cost

VCE's mission includes providing affordable power to its current and future customers. The net cost of a project will be a key selection criterion. Net cost will consist of the contracted cost of the project minus the forecast value of any products received under the contract.

2.3 Development Risk

VCE will select projects based on their development risk, giving preference to projects with the greatest likelihood of a project coming online on schedule. Criteria evaluated for development risk will include interconnection status, deliverability, site control, permitting, construction status, developer experience, financing, and any other criteria relevant to determining a project's ability to deliver the project on or ahead of the anticipated online date.

2.4 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impact

VCE will evaluate greenhouse gas emissions of project proposals and prioritize projects that reduce/mitigate emissions on the grid and VCE's portfolio.

2.5 Location

VCE will prioritize projects within the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) control area and/or certified deliverability to the CAISO control area, giving priority to projects in this order:

- Projects within VCE's service territory.
- Projects adjacent to VCE's service territory.
- Projects within the CAISO control area.
- Projects with the ability to interconnect with the CAISO control area.
- All other projects.

2.6 Technology Diversity

VCE recognizes the importance of diversifying generation technology in its portfolio to help diversify technology-specific risk, and to promote technologies with diverse values and benefits.

All else equal, VCE will prioritize projects that will diversify its current technology portfolio, enhance local reliability, and reduce or control costs for VCE customers, when compared to other available alternative technologies.

VCE's strategic plan goals include developing strategies to identify and pursue cost-effective, local distributed energy resources (DERs). VCE recognizes DERs as an important tool in diversifying its energy portfolio.

2.7 Environmental Responsibility

VCE is committed to providing customers with energy that delivers benefits for air, water, and the natural environment while avoiding, to the extent reasonable, negative impacts on lands, species, and waters. VCE, without diminishing or interfering with permitting, land use or development requirements of jurisdictional authorities including local, state, and federal agencies or Tribes prioritizes projects:

- That are proposed on currently developed or previously disturbed sites; and
- Where the developer(s) and local land use authority(ies) have established an enforceable development agreement or equivalent agreement which includes measures to mitigate impacts to sensitive habitats or environmentally sensitive areas.

2.8 Community Engagement

VCE will prioritize projects that:

- Demonstrate contact and collaboration with local community organizations and stakeholder groups representing a broad diversity of demographic and local interests, particularly low income and environmental justice communities, to identify and address benefits and impacts of projects and ensure project benefits are communicated and accessible to local citizens and businesses.
- Commit to meaningful engagement with local communities throughout the planning, evaluation, development, and construction processes to identify and address benefits and impacts of projects and ensure project benefits are communicated and accessible to the local community.

2.9 Workforce Development

VCE is committed to stimulating its service area's economy through supporting local projects when feasible, committing to prevailing wage rates as required by law, and supporting a local Skilled and Trained Workforce, including construction efforts performed by appropriate Journeypersons and Apprentices from a state-approved apprenticeship training program.

VCE will prioritize projects as follows:

- High-priority projects will commit to a multi-trade project labor agreement with additional preference given to projects committing to target 30% Local Hire and a target of 5% Workforce Pipeline participation, using prevailing hourly wage and benefit rates as determined by: (1) the California Department of Industrial Relations for California projects or (2) respective state or federal prevailing wage and benefit rates, whichever is higher, for out-of-state projects;
- Medium-priority projects will commit to:
 - Using prevailing hourly wage and benefit rates as determined by: (1) the California Department of Industrial Relations for California projects or (2) respective state or federal prevailing wage and benefit rates, whichever is higher, for out-of-state projects.
 - Additional preference will be given to projects that use apprentices at the same ratio of apprentice hours to Journeyperson hours as required for public works projects under Section 1777.5 of the California Labor Code; and
- Low-priority projects may demonstrate other commitments to local workforce development.

3. Joint Procurement

3.1 Joint and Third-Party Procurement Efforts

VCE may consider these Guidelines when determining whether to participate in project sourced through joint procurement activities with California Community Power (CC Power), other Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) entities, or other opportunities to jointly procure power. VCE may also consider these Guidelines when procuring long-term power contracts through its wholesale energy services provider or other third parties.

DRAFT

4. Definitions

The following are definitions of terms utilized in this document:

- **Journey person:**

A worker who either:

- Graduated from a California state-approved apprenticeship program for the applicable occupation or, when located outside California, approved for federal purposes pursuant to apprenticeship regulations adopted by the U.S. Secretary of Labor, or
- Has at least as many hours of on-the-job experience in an applicable occupation as would be required to graduate from an apprenticeship program for the applicable occupation that is approved by the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards.

- **Local Hire:**

A qualified worker that meets one of the following criteria in descending priority:

- A resident within the nearest communities in proximity to the project, by a radius as reasonably determined on a project-by-project basis. Such radius will target a distance that is within reasonable daily commuting distance.
- A resident within the county where the project is constructed.

- **Skilled and Trained Workforce**

A workforce in which all workers performing work in apprentice-able occupations in the building and construction trades are either skilled Journey persons or Apprentices registered in an apprentice program approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards, as defined in Chapter 2.9 of Part 1 of Division 2 of the California Public Contracts Code.

- **Workforce Pipeline Program Hires**

An individual who is a participant in a workforce pipeline program which:

- Partners with a structured, Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3)-certified construction careers training and placement program or programs that recruits, supports, and places targeted workers in skilled construction trades; and
- Creates opportunities for certified MC3 graduates to enter Registered Apprenticeship Programs and/or obtain work hours needed to successfully complete their apprenticeship.

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE**Staff Report – Item 9**

TO: Valley Clean Energy Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Rebecca Kuczynski, Chief Customer Officer

SUBJECT: VCE Customer Engagement Focus Groups

DATE: August 27, 2026

RECOMMENDATION

Receive an informational overview of VCE's pending efforts related to customer engagement focus groups.

BACKGROUND

Focus groups are a qualitative research tool that provide deeper insight into customer perceptions, motivations, and decision making. Consistent with VCE Strategic Plan goals, the focus group research will help VCE better understand awareness of VCE, perceptions of value and trust, customer communication preferences, and opportunities to improve outreach and program design/participation.

Valley Clean Energy is preparing to engage a professional marketing firm to provide focus group research services. The purpose of the research is to better understand customer awareness, perceptions, motivations, barriers, and communication preferences, and use those insights to inform future marketing, outreach, and customer program strategies.

The research is intended to capture perspectives from residential, commercial, agricultural, Spanish-speaking, CARE/FERA, rural, and other key customer segments across the VCE service area. Focus Group design principles will incorporate important equity concerns, and address potential barriers to participation, including stipends, childcare, and meals. Staff has discussed Focus Group approach with the Programs and Outreach Task Group, and received generally positive feedback.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding is included in the approved Marketing and Customer Engagement budget for these efforts. The final contract amount will be determined through the competitive procurement process.

CONCLUSION / NEXT STEPS

Staff anticipates hiring a firm through a competitive process with a goal of beginning work in late 2026 or early 2027.