



**MEETING MINUTES
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021
1:00 P.M.**

******AB 361******

****RE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19****

CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF AB 361 WHICH SUSPENDED CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE BROWN ACT, MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE PARTICIPATED IN THE NOVEMBER 18, 2021, MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nicholls called the meeting to order at approximately 1:04 p.m.

Committee Members present: Chair Nicholls and Members Quinlan, Dowd, Sizemore, Chaban, Wells, and Morris.

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Mike Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations; Chad Asay, Director of the Advanced Energy Center; Rebecca Simonson, Director of Programs; Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs; Kate Kelly, Director of Public Relations and Marketing; and Scott Salyer, Programs Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Public Comment: None

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve September 16, 2021 Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve the November 18, 2021 Community Advisory Committee Consent Calendar by Member Dowd

Second: Sizemore

Public Comment: None

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote: 7 - 0 - 0

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR

2. Appoint a Vice Chair of the Community Advisory Committee for the Remainder of 2021 and January of 2022

Motion to Appoint Patricia Morris as Vice Chair of the Community Advisory Committee for the Remainder of 2021 and January of 2022 by Chair Nicholls

Second: Wells

Public Comment: None

Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer and Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations clarified with Chair Nicholls that the regular election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2022, starting in February, would take place at the February 2022 Committee meeting.

Member Quinlan asked why it was necessary to have a formal election again in just a few months. Chair Nicholls responded that new Committee members will be appointed at the Board of Directors meeting on December 2, 2021 for terms beginning in January 2022.

Member Fenichel joined the meeting at approximately 1:07 p.m.

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote: 8 - 0 - 0

3. Receive Internal Operations and Monthly Financial Report and Provide Feedback as Appropriate

Rebecca Simonson, Director of Programs, notified the Committee that at the November 4th, 2021 meeting, the Board of Directors approved an amendment with Olivine, the administrator of the GridSavvy program, to extend the term through March of 2022, add \$169,000 of program management fees, and replenish \$180,000 in escrow account funds (which fund incentives for our customers). It also amended the scope to include additional work relating to adding battery storage and behavioral demand response to the existing GridSavvy community.

Director Simonson continued by introducing Kimberly Beltran, who was recently hired as a Technical Programs Manager.

Chad Asay, Director of the Advanced Energy Center, announced that the Center will soon showcase new upgrades for renters and the upcoming holiday season. He continued with participation and project updates to the on-bill finance program and CEC grant goals. Director Asay also shared that the Advanced Energy Center and the 0% loan program have gained attention across the state and among other CCA's. He gave updates on recent and upcoming events as well as recent webinar successes. Finally, Director Asay introduced the new Events Manager for the Advanced Energy Center, Brytann Busick.

CEO Syphers provided updates on the Geothermal Opportunity Zone initiative headed by Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning & Analytics, which included a recent presentation to the Lake County Board of Supervisors that elicited good engagement from Supervisors. Staff will next address Mendocino County, then Sonoma County, followed by other groups such as permit districts, air districts, and local tribes.

CEO Syphers then moved on to provide updates on CC Power, the joint procurement entity among several California CCA's. They are close to closing a deal for long duration storage. They are also responding to early criticism from labor organizations that CC Power does not have its own independent labor, environmental, or community policies. After months of deliberation and research, it was determined that member CCA's should abide by their own governing board-approved policies and participation in CC Power could not be used as a way to circumvent those policies. CC Power's Board passed a resolution on the matter.

CEO Syphers also gave updates SCP's budgetary statements, revenue, and market prices for energy.

Finally, CEO Syphers provided some background on how SCP is approaching equity issues in our service territory. He highlighted the work of SCP's Communication Specialist, Claudia Sisomphou, with creating the Empower Program. He also mentioned General Order (GO) 156 which is a CPUC supplier diversity initiative. Women, minority, LGBT, and disabled veteran owned or controlled businesses can register for GO 156 certification which can give them access to a broader market of potential clients. SCP staff is encouraging local vendors to apply for GO 156 certification. Additionally, staff is working to create a staff culture that welcomes diverse viewpoints.

Member Quinlan asked Director Asay about the High-Performance Valuation webinar, Advanced Energy Center traffic, supply chain constraints, and contractor availability. Director Asay responded that supply chain and labor availability concerns do remain, however staff are still looking into more solutions to these problems.

Member Quinlan also asked CEO Syphers to clarify financial information on page 16 of the meeting materials as it relates to net-position growth. CEO Syphers stated that value takes into account the real estate asset values of the SCP headquarters building and the Advanced Energy Center. Staff will add this detail to future written reports for clarity.

Member Dowd expressed concerns about SCP's cash reserves over the next several years. CEO Syphers added that he has no intention to dip into SCP's four-months minimum cash reserve and staff is actively working to ensure sound financial planning. Member Dowd also requested a contact person at Sonoma Clean Power he can direct builders and other people to. CEO Syphers gave several options, including directing them to the Advanced Energy Center, as well as reaching out to himself or Rebecca Simonson.

Member Sizemore commended CEO Syphers for his attention and work on reducing any potential barriers on equity and inclusion.

Member Chaban expressed his pride in the work being done at the Advanced Energy Center.

Member Wells pointed out the date of the December Community Advisory Committee meeting was incorrect. Staff clarified the December meeting will be held on December 16, 2021.

Vice Chair Morris asked why revenue from electricity sales was down. CEO Syphers and Director Simonson replied there are several factors including implementation of time-of-use rates and reduced demand charges during the summer due to milder weather. Vice Chair Morris also asked if there were likely any impacts due to COVID. She also asked if staff has a plan to meet with the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors regarding the GeoZone. CEO Syphers replied that there isn't a date yet, but it's likely to be in February.

Chair Nicholls echoed the sentiments of several others regarding the topic of equity. He encouraged working with a consultant to conduct a seminar for staff and Committee members on equity and microaggressions.

Member Fenichel asked how the passing of the federal infrastructure bill which includes electric vehicle funding will affect SCP. CEO Syphers responded that staff is still studying it.

Public Comment: None

4. Receive Legislative and Regulatory Updates and Provide Feedback as Appropriate

Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, gave a verbal report on the joint settlement between CCA's, PG&E, and Public Advocates Office regarding PG&E's 2020 Erra Application that was included in the written report.

CEO Syphers gave a brief legislative update that staff is continuing to monitor the federal infrastructure bill and that details are likely to become available over the next month or so. Relating to state legislature, he recalled the bankruptcy of Western Community Energy and recognized that it could lead to a state bill intending to financially regulate CCA's. CalCCA is already beginning work to prepare for that possibility.

Chair Nicholls asked CEO Syphers about the closure of City of Baldwin Park's municipal utility and the fees being posed upon customers for re-entry to Southern California Edison (SCE) service.

Member Sizemore posed questions about PG&E's 100% solar rate and suggested it could be a motivator to endorse the NEM 3.0 proposal. CEO Syphers provided some background on the challenges relating to NEM 3.0 and rooftop solar subsidies.

Member Quinlan commended Director Reardon for his work in the Erra settlement.

Member Fenichel asked for more detail on the changes proposed under NEM 3.0. She also asked for clarification on who regulates finances for CCA's currently. CEO Syphers replied that the individual CCA governing boards do.

Public Comment: None

5. Recommend that the Board of Directors Delegate Authority to the CEO to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with StopWaste in the Amount Not-To-Exceed of \$300,000 (\$30,000 in Administration Fees and \$270,000 in Customer Incentives) to Provide SCP Incentives Through the BayREN Multifamily Building Enhancement (BAMBE) Program

Scott Salyer, Programs Manager, briefed the Committee on a pilot program staff has worked on to address the multifamily rental market. This program would add on to what is offered through BayREN to offer additional incentives for in-unit and central electrical panel upgrades for multifamily buildings. StopWaste is the program implementer for BayREN. Because BayREN does not operate in Mendocino County, this pilot program will be available only in Sonoma County, however staff is working to explore options to offer a similar

program in Mendocino County.

Member Quinlan suggested modifying the motion for this item to delegate authority to the CEO or *designee*. He also asked about prevailing wage requirements, noting that the agreement with StopWaste indicates that "Exhibit D - Prevailing Wage Requirements" is not included. CEO Syphers provided background on where prevailing wage requirements apply and stated that staff would review standards of prevailing wage language and return to a future meeting, in three to four months, to continue that discussion.

Member Dowd expressed support along with concerns about not including Mendocino County. CEO Syphers responded that he has been in communications with Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County's 4th District Supervisor who sits on SCP's Board of Directors. Mendocino County is exploring establishing a REN (regional energy network) which would allow Mendocino County to gain access to these types of funding. CEO Syphers supports having SCP staff spend time and money in aiding Mendocino County to establish a REN.

Member Wells posed questions about how the program will measure and monitor progress. He would like to learn more about metrics such as the number of facilities in the program and CO₂ reduction per dollar to compare and contrast with other programs. CEO Syphers responded that staff would consider options. Mr. Salyer added that while the panel upgrade is a barrier, upgrading the panel itself doesn't necessarily save energy. Upgrading the panel is preventing people from going forward with other measures that do save energy.

Vice Chair Morris asked staff to clarify the term of the agreement. Mr. Salyer replied that the term will end December 31, 2022 as currently written in the agreement.

Chair Nicholls asked if this program could apply to mobile home parks. Mr. Salyer replied that it's for traditional multi-family buildings. Director Simonson added that staff is working internally on solutions to help electrify mobile home parks. More information on these efforts will be presented in the future.

Public Comment: None

Member Sizemore left the meeting at approximately 2:52 p.m.

Motion to Recommend that the Board of Directors Delegate Authority to the CEO or Designee to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with StopWaste in the Amount Not-To-Exceed of \$300,000 (\$30,000 in Administration Fees and \$270,000 in Customer Incentives) to Provide SCP

Incentives Through the BayREN Multifamily Building Enhancement (BAMBE) Program by Member Quinlan

Second: Chaban

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote: 7 - 0 - 0

6. Recommend that the Board of Directors Delegate Authority to the Chief Executive Officer or Designee to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Nexo Advertising, LLC in the Amount Not-To-Exceed \$375,000 to Provide Sonoma Clean Power with Multi-Cultural Agency Services Through June 30, 2024

Kate Kelly, Director of Public Relations and Marketing, gave background on the request for proposal (RFP) process SCP utilized to seek proposals for multi-cultural agency services. Ultimately, staff selected a local agency, Nexo Advertising LLC, that has previously worked with SCP.

Member Wells requested examples of Nexo Advertising's previous work for SCP.

Member Chaban highlighted portions of the agreement's Scope of Services on that were written in a confusing manner. Director Kelly responded staff will correct these issues. CEO Syphers added background for Nexo Advertising. He shared that staff encouraged business owners whose first language is not English to apply.

Member Quinlan asked if Nexo Advertising is a minority-owned business. Director Kelly confirmed. CEO Syphers added that after SCP's encouragement, Nexo Advertising's owner, Hector Velasquez, registered with the CPUC for GO 156 certification and went on to attend the CPUC workshop to put his name out there for other CCA's and investor-owned utilities to gain access to other potential opportunities.

Motion to Recommend that the Board of Directors Delegate Authority to the Chief Executive Officer or Designee to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Nexo Advertising, LLC in the Amount Not-To-Exceed \$375,000 to Provide Sonoma Clean Power with Multi-Cultural Agency Services Through June 30, 2024 by Member Wells

Second: Quinlan

Public Comment: None

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote: 7 - 0 - 0

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chair Morris announced that as a result of dredging of the Petaluma River, the Petaluma Lighted Boat Parade will resume this year on Saturday, December 11th.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beau Anderson", with a stylized, cursive script.

Beau Anderson
Clerk of the Board