MEETING MINUTES
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024
1:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

(1:04 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:03:00)

Chair Morris called the meeting to order.

Committee Members present: Chair Morris, Vice Chair Lipp, and Members Soto, Wang, Hagen, and Nicholls. Members Dowd and Kelly were absent with prior notice.

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Michael Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations; Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs; Miles Horton, Legislative Policy and Community Engagement Manager; Rebecca Simonson, Director of Programs; Kimberly Beltran, Technical Programs Manager; Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning and Analytics; and Erica Torgerson, Managing Director of Customer Service.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR

(1:05 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:04:32)

1. Approve April 11, 2024, Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

2. Approve and Delegate Authority to the Chief Executive Officer or Designee to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with ReconMR, LLC with an Amount Not-to-Exceed $926,046 for a Three-Year Research Contract

3. Approve and Delegate Authority to the Chief Executive Officer or Designee to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Studio PR with an Amount Not-to-Exceed $350,000 for a Three-Year Public Relations Contract

4. Recommend the Board of Directors Approve and Delegate Authority to the CEO or Designee to Execute a First Amendment to Agreement for Professional

Services with Maher Accountancy to add $292,800 for an Amount Not-to-Exceed $742,800, through June 30, 2025

It was noted that Item 3 should read "Three-Year Public Relations Contract" and not "Three-Year Research Contract."

Public Comment: None

Motion to approve the May 16, 2024, Community Advisory Committee Consent Calendar with the changes to Item 3 included by Member Nicholls

Second: Vice Chair Lipp

Motion passed by roll call vote.

AYES: Morris, Lipp, Soto, Wang, Hagen, Nicholls

ABSENT: Dowd, Kelly

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR CALENDAR

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

(1:07 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:06:21)

Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations, discussed the CalCCA Conference that was held in San Jose and invited Kimberly Beltran, Technical Programs Manager to discuss changes to SCP's electric vehicle (EV) charging equipment incentives.

Michael Koszalka, COO, mentioned community events planned for SCP and pointed out that Santa Rosa had begun its summer service of the electric trolley Rose-E. Director Reynolds then gave an update on SCP's investment summary, compiled financials, and the budget. CEO Syphers announced that SCP would be holding an art exhibit opening reception on June 6, 2024, and invited the Committee to attend. He then announced that Member Sarah Booth had resigned from the Committee.

Public Comment: Member Jeff Kelly discussed SCP's investments.

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

   (1:25 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:24:36)

   Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, described CPUC-approved changes to the Self-Generation Incentive Program regarding battery back-up systems. He stated that the CPUC approved the modifications brought forth by AB 209 as-is and stated that the intent is not to exclude CCA customers. Demand response providers submitted a petition for review. Director Reardon then stated that the CPUC unanimously approved the denial of PG&E's Pacific Generation spinoff proposal. He then discussed the Income Graduated Fixed Charge which was amended to have 3 different tiers, but nothing in the decision changes the amount utilities can charge.

   Member Soto asked if there was now a lower administrative burden with the Income Graduated Fixed Charge and Director Reardon answered that anytime PG&E changes its billing it has the potential to create issues.

   Miles Horton, Legislative Policy and Community Engagement Manager, gave a legislative update and he discussed how AB 1999 would have repealed the Income Graduated Fixed Charge but now it would make it a pilot program. He then stated SCP was recommending SB 1298 (Cortese) be opposed which is regarding back-up power systems for large data centers. Mr. Horton discussed AB 1359 (Papan) which relates to geothermal permitting, and he mentioned that SCP sponsored it and was recommending approval.

   Member Soto asked if there are already exemptions for diesel generators in California and CEO Syphers answered that there were size and runtime limitations, and the concern here is there are no run-time limitations in SB 1298.

   Public Comment: None

7. Receive Mobility & Transportation Community Needs Assessment Final Report

   (1:56 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:55:43)

   Brant Arthur, Programs Manager, gave a presentation on the mobility and transportation needs assessment performed by SCP.

Vice Chair Lipp encouraged SCP to reach out to local organizations when researching safety for transportation. Chair Morris mentioned that she liked the "Community Readiness" portion of the presentation, and she asked what is "ground truthing," and Mr. Arthur defined it as insight backed up by data to speak to its truth. Member Nicholls mentioned that he thinks a hybrid public transportation system for West County is important. Member Soto mentioned that it would be interesting to know the opportunity costs associated with transportation needs.

Public Comment: Jeff Kelly discussed transportation and Sonoma County infrastructure.

8. Receive Geothermal Opportunity Zone Update

   (2:25 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:23:42)

   CEO Syphers explained that while California is doing a good job with batteries, wind, and solar, we still can't shut down almost any of the fossil fuel power plants on the grid. He further explained that actually shutting down those power plants will require a variety of technologies, and he recommended the Committee to watch the Geothermal Opportunity Zone Item because updates are coming. CEO Syphers discussed Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) and said that SCP staff is working to update the Geothermal Opportunity Zone portion of the website in the next few weeks.

   Chair Morris asked how often the steel casings in the drilled holes break down and CEO Syphers said he would take any industry questions down and get the Committee an answer. Member Soto asked how people were reacting to "fracking" and CEO Syphers responded that SCP is starting to talk to people in the area, and early conversations were revealing the importance of ground water protections. He added that he and staff Director Ryan Tracey also toured local communities in Lake County near the existing Geysers operations to meet with people and learn about their experiences.

   Public Comment: None

9. Recommend the Board of Directors Delegate Authority to the Chief Executive Officer or Designee to Finalize Terms and Execute Agreements with Princeton University for a Contract Total of $325,000 and First Principles Advisory LLC for a Contract Total of $75,000 for the Transmission Planning Under Uncertainty Project

(2:36 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:35:34)

Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning and Analytics, discussed interconnectedness and discussed how these contracts would explore the root causes of transmission planning problems and transmission planning under uncertainty. CEO Syphers further explained that the planning process for transmission is based around minimizing the cost of transmission construction, but this would focus on maximizing California's chances of meeting its reliability and climate goals in the face of significant uncertainly around specific technologies like offshore wind.

Member Nicholls hopes that other CCAs will join with SCP on this project. Vice Chair Lipp asked how the sensitivity analysis came about, and Director Tracey responded that it was done while brainstorming with the other parties. Chair Morris stated that she was excited about this and asked what kind of a reception it got with the CPUC. Director Tracey responded that it went well, but they were concerned that it will require an upfront investment.

Public Comment: None

Motion to Recommend the Board of Directors Delegate Authority to the Chief Executive Officer or Designee to Finalize Terms and Execute Agreements with Princeton University for a Contract Total of $325,000 and First Principles Advisory LLC for a Contract Total of $75,000 for the Transmission Planning Under Uncertainty Project by Member Nicholls

Second: Member Soto

Motion passed by roll call vote.

AYES: Morris, Lipp, Soto, Wang, Hagen, Nicholls

ABSENT: Dowd, Kelly

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

(2:56 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:55:37)

Public Comment: None

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

(2:57 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:56:18)

Member Nicholls mentioned that electric chargers had been installed at Northwood golf course and he described west Sonoma County's emergency radio system.

ADJOURN

(2:59 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:57:50)

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darin A. Bartow, JD
Clerk of the Board

Hi Geof, Darin,

Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend this CAC meeting this week - I have an important noon presentation scheduled for work in Marin and would have to commute an hour to make it back to Sonoma. Having said that, I did look through the packet and wanted to share some thoughts now.

I noticed you included some information on SCPs investments (thank you!). One thing I noticed is that we have a substantial sum of reserves in Summit State Bank, which is a smaller bank (1 Billion) with 75% of their portfolio concentrated in CRE. CRE has been an area to watch with rising interest rates and the post-pandemic WFH world. Since they would need to be pledging collateral for SCPs deposits, I assume a big part of the collateral would be CRE. Having said that, they have a very low LTV overall so that is good as long as they manage their liquidity (which I assume they are experts at). Related to CRE - I think Office Conversions (or demos for mixed use) are another interesting frontier of the real estate world along with ADUs.

Also, the Transportation Needs Assessment was interesting to flip through, but unfortunately I'm not crazy about the recommendations. My thoughts are that transportation is at least half about how we design our cities and infrastructure, which influences what devices we use for that purpose.

- I 100% agree that our biking infrastructure is disconnected and I believe it's extremely important to focus a lot of effort on this - I live near some good pedestrian paths for biking, but I need to travel a bit on Guerneville Road (which is scary to bike). I think biking is a HUGE opportunity to create biking highways (especially with the invention of e-bikes), which would be a wonderful way to commute between the cities in the 101 corridor (Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Rohnert Park, Petaluma, Headlsburg, etc.). I would be interested to know, if people could see a map of proposed biking highways, how far they would be willing to commute (I think 10-20 miles would be easy for a e-biker, or some other small scale and affordable transportation). For example, I think of all the highschools and middle schools that could have students biking instead of getting rides to school if there were better paths - that's a lot of miles avoided in a car.
- I'd also be interested to know how many people use the SMART train, and if there was a price that more people would ride the train. Obviously Mendocino is much more rural and the train doesn't make it up there. Also, maybe I missed it, but I didn't get any idea of how many people commute from Mendo to Sonoma (and vice versa), which would be a useful datapoint for focusing efforts to help Mendocino (Biking would also be more of a challenge up there). What I'm getting at here is I believe the programs for transportation would be different for Mendo and Sonoma. Sonoma has a much greater opportunity for public and alternative transit like biking, and Mendocino has a bigger need for cleaner vehicles as it is very rural.

- Another thought is that we could offer targeted programs for small businesses who have work vehicles to go hybrid or EV - like construction, mobile cleaning/detailing, junk removal and towing, and any other businesses that depend heavily on vehicles.
- My overall thought is that I think the discussion about transportation is less about Gas and EV cars (at least in Sonoma), and more about how we redesign/densify our cities while expanding public transit and biking infrastructure. I think we need more information on where people in mendocino and sonoma commute, where there are gaps in the biking infrastructure (more of a mapping exercise), and what kind of enhancements to major arteries like the 101 (i.e. a train or buses) would be appealing to people given a certain price. Lastly, I'd be interested in an inventory/study of types of small businesses who have work vehicles - construction, mobile cleaning/detailing, and other businesses that depend heavily on vehicles.

Sorry to miss it, but will be there next time!

Best,

Jeff Kelly