

MEETING of the Community Advisory Committee of the  
Clean Power Alliance of Southern California

Thursday, May 21, 2020 1:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

*The Community Advisory Committee conducted this meeting in accordance with California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 and COVID-19 pandemic protocols.*

**WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

Chair David Haake called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and Clerk of the Board Gabriela Monzon conducted roll call.

|   |                                  |        |
|---|----------------------------------|--------|
| <b>East Ventura/West LA County</b>        | Angus Simmons<br>(Vice-Chair)    | Remote |
| <b>East Ventura/West LA County</b>        | Lilian Teran Mendoza             | Remote |
| <b>San Gabriel Valley</b>                 | Richard Tom                      | Remote |
| <b>San Gabriel Valley</b>                 | Robert Parkhurst<br>(Vice-Chair) | Remote |
| <b>West/Unincorporated Ventura County</b> | Lucas Zucker                     | Absent |
| <b>West/Unincorporated Ventura County</b> | Steven Nash                      | Remote |
| <b>South Bay</b>                          | David Lesser                     | Remote |
| <b>South Bay</b>                          | Emmitt Hayes                     | Remote |
| <b>Gateway Cities</b>                     | Jaime Abrego                     | Remote |
| <b>Westside</b>                           | Cris Gutierrez                   | Remote |
| <b>Westside</b>                           | David Haake (Chair)              | Remote |
| <b>Unincorporated Los Angeles County</b>  | Neil Fromer                      | Remote |
| <b>Unincorporated Los Angeles County</b>  | Kristie Hernandez                | Absent |

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Minutes from April 16, 2020 Community Advisory Committee Meeting

**Motion:** Committee Member Nash, West/Unincorporated Ventura County  
**Second:** Committee Member Gutierrez, Westside  
**Vote:** Item 1 was approved by a roll call vote.

## REGULAR AGENDA

2. Report from Executive Director on Agency Operations

Ted Bardacke, Executive Director, discussed CPA's financial performance and member agency enrollments in the CPA Power Response program, noting that Beverly Hills and Culver City signed up and Downey was close behind. Mr. Bardacke also described various staffing changes and the positive impact the CAC had on the development of the bill assistance program approved by the Board of Directors.

Committee Member Parkhurst inquired about opt-out effects on energy load and impact of COVID-19 concerns on the status of cities' decisions to change their default rate. Mr. Bardacke explained that the opt-out by load was approximately 15%, which included a higher opt-out rate of larger commercial customers, though the percentage remained steady. Mr. Bardacke noted that the City of Sierra Madre and City of Malibu were both moving to default their customers at 100% Green rate and that other cities that looked at changing their default rates had postponed until next year.

Committee Member Lesser asked about the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Central Buyer decision. Mr. Bardacke explained that the item had been postponed by CPUC staff, but that CPA continued to monitor the proceeding and would keep the Committee informed.

3. Outreach on Bill Assistance for Residential and Small Business Customers Impacted by COVID-19

Allison Mannos, Sr. Manager of Marketing and Outreach discussed availability of a one-time, automatic \$25 electricity bill credit for residential CARE, FERA and Medical Baseline customers and for residential customers who sign up for payment plan through SCE on or after March 16. Ms. Mannos described the marketing and outreach conducted for the first and second phases of the program, including social media ads in English, Spanish, and Chinese that collectively reached 50,000 customers and radio ads on popular Spanish, Mandarin, and Cantonese language stations in LA and Ventura County. Ms. Mannos also indicated that there were a series of English language radio ads on KCRW/NPR, reaching 135,800 listeners,

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and some local news coverage across the service territory, and briefly discussed the number of new accounts for CARE/FERA and small business payment plans. Mr. Bardacke added that there were about 8-10 weeks left of funding for the program.

Committee Member Gutierrez asked if there were areas of unexpected lower involvement and Committee Member Fromer inquired about customer donations for other customers that cannot pay their electricity bills. Staff noted that small businesses did not use as much of the bill credits as expected and that the Board did provide discretion for the reallocation of funds if needed, to meet the needs of CARE/FERA enrollments. Ms. Mannos added that Southern California Edison (SCE) had an energy assistance fund where customers could donate.

Ms. Mannos further stated that an easy-to-read social media post regarding the bill assistance program would be shared with Committee Members and customers.

4. Presentation on CPA's Fiscal Year 2020/21 Financial Outlook  
David McNeil, Chief Financial Officer, provided background information on CPA's budgeted revenue, cost of energy and bad debt expense, which were driven by CPA base-case load and economic forecasts. Mr. McNeil noted that approximately 92% of CPA expenses were the cost of energy and approximately 45% of budgeted operating expenses were fixed by regulatory or contractual obligation. Mr. McNeil discussed the change in net position, noting that the budget was in line with the Board approved reserve policy, and that the contribution to reserves was vital to the organization, allowing it to project financial strength and meet credit obligations to enter into renewable energy contracts for solar, wind, and battery projects.

Mr. McNeil noted that CPA is expected to have \$5-7 billion of energy and storage under contract, depending on future prices and energy demand, once it reached a steady state and that building CPA reserves and financial strength allowed for renewable and storage projects to be financed and built while keeping energy costs down.

In response to Chair Haake's question, Mr. McNeil noted that CPA was about a quarter towards the reserve target; Committee Member Parkhurst inquired about increases in general administrative costs within the budget, and Committee Member Nash asked about the timeframe for meeting target reserves and the Boards' goals once reserves were met. Mr. McNeil clarified that increases reflected expected program funding that came from SCE via the CPUC to support community solar programs, and the general administrative expenses were due largely to a general overhead related to an increase in staff, memberships, insurance, software, and equipment. Mr. Bardacke further clarified that the Board was interested in reducing or

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eliminating the gap between the Clean and 100% Green rates and pursuing broader community objectives like resilience and GHG reductions once target reserves were met, and that the timeframe for meeting targets was 4-6 years.

In response to Committee Member Gutierrez's question, staff clarified that major contributors of the increase in the communications and marketing budget were the anticipated funding for a second round of the CBO grant program, increased notices to customers such as the Joint Rate Comparison mailer and the Power Content Label, sponsorships and events, and the increase in use of graphic designers and consultants to support the in-house team.

Chair Haake asked for clarification on the potential disruptions and forecasts for the cost of energy, to which Mr. McNeil noted that reserves were intended to absorb unexpected volatility and help the agency reach a credit rating that could drive down energy costs as it brought to the market investors that only worked with credit-rated companies.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Christian Cruz, Community Outreach Manager announced the beginning of a process to clarify, alter and expand the role of the Committee in the future.

#### **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

None.

#### **ADJOURN**

Chair Haake adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.