

MEETING of the Legislative & Regulatory Committee of the
Clean Power Alliance of Southern California
Wednesday, May 27, 2020 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

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

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Committee Chair Lindsey Horvath called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and Clerk of the Board Gabriela Monzon conducted roll call.

Roll Call			
Agoura Hills	Deborah Klein Lopez	Committee Member	Remote
Carson	Cedric Hicks	Committee Member	Remote
Redondo Beach	Christian Horvath	Committee Member	Remote
West Hollywood	Lindsey Horvath	Chair	Remote

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise stated.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Minutes from April 22, 2020 Legislative & Regulatory Committee Meeting

Motion: Committee Member Christian Horvath, Redondo Beach
Second: Committee Member Deborah Klein Lopez, Agoura Hills
Vote: Item 1 was approved by a roll call vote, with one abstention by Committee Member Hicks.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Staff Presentation on COVID-19 Legislative Impact and Approve an Updated Position on SB 1215 to the Board of Directors

Gina Goodhill, Policy Director, provided a general update on the impact of COVID-19 on funding and legislation relating to resiliency and fire safety. Ms. Goodhill stated that most recently, the Governor of California had withdrawn support for climate funding, though there were separate efforts in the state legislature, however, most legislation remaining was focused on the creation of green jobs. Ms. Goodhill noted that the Governor maintained much of the fire prevention commitments and allocated a one-time \$50 million general fund support for additional preparedness measures related to Public Safety Power Shutoff events and that CPA staff would continue to advocate for green infrastructure. In response to Chair Horvath's request at the last meeting, Ms. Goodhill indicated that staff had reached out to the Governor's Task Force and had also started conversations with federal representatives to explore ways for CPA to be involved in the development of green infrastructure projects and stimulus packages.

Ted Bardacke, Executive Director, added that there was an effort to get some additional funding for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations as part of statewide stimulus efforts focused on infrastructure, and CPA was involved in those efforts.

Chair Horvath asked if the shift in support for environmental policies was a response to the pandemic or was used as an opportunity to deprioritize environment and clean energy efforts, and Ms. Goodhill clarified that at the State level, it appears to be a response to the pandemic, though nationally, that may differ.

SB 1215 (Stern)

Ms. Goodhill provided a summary of SB 1215 noting that in its original language, the bill would have established the Local Government Deenergization Event Resiliency Program and appropriated an unspecified amount of funds to create a grant program that local governments and Joint Powers Authorities could apply for. Since the Committee voted on this bill, Ms. Goodhill explained that the author completely removed funding to develop microgrid projects and focused more generally on the development of a statewide database to identify geographic locations and critical circuits well suited for microgrids. However, Ms. Goodhill noted that as described, the database was not publicly accessible, with no clear benefit from a funding perspective.

Ms. Goodhill continued to explain that CPA staff felt that a statewide database was helpful if accessible to CCA's, and therefore recommended a CPA position of "Support if Amended."

Chair Horvath indicated an interest in making it known to the author that CPA was also in support of the original language. Committee Member Lopez asked if the omission of CCA access to the database was thought to be intentional or was there specific reasoning for that.

Staff indicated that database accessibility was not explicit on the bill, but that the author considered some correlation between this database and a California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) proceeding which would create a microgrid database not viewable by CCAs. Mr. Bardacke noted that all three Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) opposed the bill under the reasoning that the data was proprietary and posed cybersecurity risks.

Motion: Committee Member Horvath, Redondo Beach

Second: Committee Member Lopez, Agoura Hills

Vote: Motion to support SB 1215 if amended was approved by a roll call vote.

3. Review of 2020 Regulatory Priorities Overview

CC Song, Director of Regulatory Affairs, provided an overview of 2020 regulatory priorities, including the policy framework used by staff to develop key regulatory priorities that CPA actively engaged at various regulatory agencies. Ms. Song indicated that regulatory priorities were aimed at providing competitive rate and program offerings to customers, providing positive impact to member agencies and local communities, and achieving the State environmental policy goals. Ms. Song explained the different priority levels and definitions and highlighted some high, medium, and low priority proceedings. Ms. Song touched on the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) proceeding, which had an immediate impact on CPA's ability to procure renewable and carbon free resources and engagement would be around ensuring the planning process properly considers Load Serving Entities (LSEs) existing portfolios, market conditions, and other factors. Ms. Song also described the engagement goals of other proceedings, including De-Energization/Public Safety Power Shut-off (PSPS)/Wildfire Mitigation Plans, Disconnections, and lastly, Microgrid Development, which focused on access to relevant data to aid resiliency planning.

Committee Member Lopez thanked staff for the flexibility in regulatory priorities and noted that PSPS events could become a seasonal issue. Staff agreed, adding that engagement was reevaluated as needed, and noted that disconnections in particular, were important to pursue customer protections and CPA's fiscal health.

In response to Committee Member Hicks questions regarding non-payment debt management, staff clarified that bad debt allowances were increased in the budget by two and a half times in order to plan forward.

4. Staff Presentation on Joint Rate Comparison (JRC)

Matthew Langer, Chief Operating Officer, provided a presentation on the background and content of the JRC mailer. Mr. Langer noted that although the JRC presents CPA's rates alongside Southern California Edison's (SCE) programs, those shown are fundamentally different and did not represent a precise comparison. In addition to background information on the JRC, Mr. Langer also covered SCE's Green Rate program, stating that this program was intended to allow customers to meet their electricity needs with renewable generation and that the rate was historically higher than CPA's Clean and 100% Green products until SCE's most recent rate change in April 2020. Mr. Langer also reviewed future JRC modifications.

Chair Horvath asked for clarification on legal requirements for sharing of information and expressed interest in exploring other ways of explaining the comparison analysis. Both Chair Horvath and Committee Member Hicks asked if the JRC previously impacted opt-outs. Mr. Langer explained that the JRC itself must be neutral, but CPA's marketing about the JRC is not bound by legal requirements. Mr. Langer also clarified that mailers did not generate significant interest in the customer base, and that staff did not see opt-outs spike in correlation with previous mailers.

Committee Member Lopez noted that SCE rates recently started to trend down, asked for details on the monthly bill average, asked if the JRC was a legislative or regulatory requirement, and lastly, encouraged staff to share information with the full Board of Directors. Mr. Langer clarified that the average monthly bill reflected what the next 12 months looked like, rather than the last 12-month average bill; and clarified that the JRC was a regulatory requirement preventing IOUs from misstating facts. Mr. Bardacke noted that all Board members who represented 100% Green customers were to receive additional information, and the full Board would receive an update.

Committee Member Horvath asked if the JRC could be included as an insert in customer bills or a link to an online version could be added. Mr. Langer noted that it could be more expensive to do that, but the requirement was to mail out a JRC as well.

Chair Horvath noted that CPA was notably consistent in its rates and thanked staff for the update

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

Chair Horvath adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.