

SPECIAL MEETING of the Energy Planning & Resources Committee
of the Clean Power Alliance of Southern California
Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 12:15 p.m.

MINUTES

The Energy Planning & Resources 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 McKeown called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. and Clerk of the Board, Gabriela Monzon, conducted roll call.

ROLL CALL			
Arcadia	Tom Tait	Committee Member	Remote
Carson	Reata Kulcsar	Committee Member	Remote
Oxnard	Carmen Ramirez	Committee Member	Remote
Santa Monica	Kevin McKeown	Committee Chair	Remote
Thousand Oaks	Helen Cox	Committee Member	Absent

All votes are unanimous, unless otherwise stated.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Minutes from October 28, 2020 Energy Committee Meeting
2. Receive and File October 2020 Risk Management Team Report

Motion: Committee Member Ramirez, Oxnard

Second: Committee Member Tait, Arcadia

Vote: The consent agenda was approved by a roll call vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

3. 2020 Clean Energy Request for Offers (RFO) Longlist Presentation

Erik Nielsen, Senior Manager of Structured Contracts, provided an overview of the RFO's goals and stated that there was preference for near-term online date projects to fulfill CPA's renewable energy and long-term contracting requirements under Senate Bill (SB) 350. Mr. Nielsen reviewed the offers received by technology, resource type, and generation capacity, noting that CPA received a high number of large-project offers and a high number of 100 Megawatt (MW) battery projects that were uncommon just a year ago. Mr. Nielsen provided a detailed analysis of the offers broken down into five measurement metrics and highlighted key takeaways: workforce development was high across all offers; project locations indicated a trend of standalone storage projects in local areas and a high number of generation offers within disadvantaged communities; and noted that earlier online dates within 2022 and 2023 were important for compliance with SB 350 procurement requirements. Mr. Nielsen concluded with a couple of dilemmas that the review team will face, particularly that 2022 generation resources are limited and may cost more, local projects are limited, and storage paired with solar will be competitive due to the Investment Tax Credit (ITC).

In response to Committee Member questions, Mr. Nielsen clarified that long-duration storage is defined as 8 hours or more and there are technological limitations that affect storage which the RFO is aiming to address.

Chair McKeown commented that the previous RFO process has been successful but asked if the timeline was realistic given the number of offers received. Staff noted that previously learned lessons will help to streamline the process and include the same valuable information to help the review team make an informed decision. Ted Bardacke, Executive Director, added that the selection process moves swiftly because of market competition.

Committee Member Ramirez asked why geothermal projects were not as popular a source of clean energy. Natasha Keefer, Director of Power Planning & Procurement, explained that some of the challenges of geothermal projects are the cost and availability of the resource, but it can generate in hours where solar cannot. On a value basis, Ms. Keefer noted that it may make sense to contract some geothermal projects. Chair McKeown asked if CPA could in any way encourage the development of geothermal technology. Matt Langer, Chief Operations Officer, noted that CPA is already soliciting geothermal projects and, in the past, has pursued signing long-term contracts with geothermal facilities but had lost out to other buyers.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair McKeown commented that there is some turnover in the Board and Energy Committee due to recent municipal elections and that may mean that as few as two Board members would participate in the upcoming Review Team. Chair McKeown also noted there will be additional opportunities to participate in upcoming Review Teams in 2021.

ADJOURN

Chair McKeown adjourned the meeting at 1:06 p.m.