

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING of the Energy Planning & Resources Committee
of the Clean Power Alliance of Southern California
Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 12:15 p.m.

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			
Alhambra	Jeffrey Maloney	Committee Member	Remote
Arcadia	Tom Tait	Committee Member	Remote
Carson	Reata Kulcsar	Committee Member	Remote
Santa Monica	Kevin McKeown	Chair	Remote
Sierra Madre	Robert Parkhurst	Committee Member	Remote
Thousand Oaks	Helen Cox	Committee Member	Remote
Ventura County	Carmen Ramirez	Committee Member	Remote

All votes are unanimous, unless otherwise stated.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Minutes from February 24, 2021 Energy Committee Meeting
2. Receive and File February and March 2021 Risk Management Team Reports

Motion: Committee Member Tait, Arcadia
Second: Committee Member Maloney, Alhambra
Vote: The consent agenda was approved by a roll call vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

3. Approve Shortlist Projects as Recommended by the Review Team for the 2020 DAC Request for Offers (RFO)

Natasha Keefer, Director of Planning & Procurement, and Erik Nielsen, Senior Manager of Structured Contracts, presented the item. In June 2018, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) created the Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Green Tariff (DAC-GT) and Community Solar Green Tariff (CS-GT) programs that allow CPA to procure energy from small-scale renewable projects within

Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) in order to provide 100% renewable energy to low-income customers at a 20% bill discount. The programs are branded as Power Share. Ms. Keefer provided a regulatory background and reviewed evaluation criteria. The RFO Review Team, which included three Board members, reviewed confidential offer information and developed a recommended shortlist or the Energy Committee's approval.

Mr. Nielsen discussed the DAC-GT and CS-GT programs in detail and reviewed project eligibility for each. Mr. Nielsen provided an overview of Project A, submitted for DAC-GT, noting that: the project is a 3.0 MW-AC solar PV generating facility located in Newbury; with an online date of December 31, 2024, sited on a vacant undeveloped land. Project B is a 350 kW solar project and Project C is a 450 kW solar project, both submitted for CS-GT. Both projects are located on a commercial storage facility with an online date of September 30, 2022 and the required community sponsor is Bassett Unified School District, which is a CPA customer. Mr. Nielsen continued with a brief review of the projects' qualitative scores and discussed the valuation process, highlighting that CPA built and managed an in-house valuation tool that allowed CPA to model proposals. Offer prices were determined to be competitive when evaluated against pricing from CPA's 2019 Distributed Track RFO.

Ms. Keefer discussed strategies to improve participation and acknowledged that the low response rate to the RFO is largely due to the nascent nature of the program. CPA will reach out to current and new contacts and facilitate partnerships between developers and site hosts. The RFO Review Team also provided feedback regarding project location criteria for future RFOs, specifically, limiting project eligibility only to CPA territories or only within Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The Energy Committee will be consulted on re-evaluating the project location criteria ahead of launching the next RFO.

Chair McKeown asked why Projects B and C of the CS-GT were considered two separate projects. Ms. Keefer explained that the projects are separate stand-alone entities and Matt Langer, Chief Operating Officer, noted that the one or both projects could be marketed to someone else because they will be CAISO interconnected. Committee Member Parkhurst asked why projects were required to be front-of-the-meter (FTM) for community solar as it adds extra barriers. Mr. Langer responded that behind-the-meter is limited by site load and FTM projects allow CPA to serve the broader community.

Committee Member Ramirez commented that this RFP was one of the most complicated yet and more resources are needed to encourage bidders. Committee Member Cox asked if the projects required a niche developer market and how regular commercial developers could participate.

Ms. Keefer agreed and explained that the difficulty in attracting bidders for the RFO is the reasoning behind CPA's intent to invest in marketing and outreach; Mr. Bardacke highlighted that moving the projects forward will help create the toolkit for other CCAs and RFPs in the future. Ms. Keefer described the developer market for these projects as niche due to the distinct requirements of community solar programs which are new to California and usually attract developers with experience.

Committee Member Parkhurst expressed support for the recommendation but opined that a drawback of the RFP is not being able to attract projects within CPA communities and would like to see that become part of the outreach. Committee Member Maloney noted that the RFO Review Team did provide direction to staff on the matter. Committee Member Kulcsar agreed and expressed preference for pursuing projects within CPA territory and her preference to make it a requirement for the next RFO.

Motion: Committee Member Ramirez, Ventura County

Second: Committee Member Tait, Arcadia

Vote: Item 3 was approved by a roll call vote.

Chair McKeown invited discussion on outreach in member jurisdictions and requested that staff share a list of the disadvantaged communities in each member jurisdiction. Committee Member Kulcsar reiterated the importance of engaging CPA communities and limiting project to within CPA territory; projects offer local benefits and cited warehouse buildings located in Carson as viable options; suggested a period before the release of an RFP that can allow for communication and coordination between city staff and potential site hosts.

Ms. Keefer emphasized that CPA must stay neutral throughout the RFP process and all bidders should have equal access to information. Chair McKeown noted that CPA and by extension Committee Members, cannot prejudice the RFO, but it would be permissible to identify potential sites and share the information through CPA to all bidders. Mr. Bardacke referenced Committee Member Kulcsar's suggestion that a pre-RFO period can help facilitate partnerships, and staff will consider that an option moving forward; noted that there are pros and cons to limiting projects to CPA territory and staff will make recommendations at the policy level before issuance of the next RFO.

Chair McKeown noted that CPA can now reference an actual track record when conducting outreach to potential partners and developers; directed staff to share information that can help identify potential sites in each member's jurisdiction but also draw parameters around permissible actions and communications. With respect to facilities, Committee Member Parkhurst asked for specificity in data that can help identify the best prospects. At Chair McKeown's request, Santa Monica staff member Drew Johnstone confirmed that Santa Monica has conducted a solar rooftop survey in the past and UCLA has also created a community solar map that has mapped out and identified hosts for community solar projects.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

Chair McKeown adjourned the meeting at 1:23 p.m.