

MEETING of the Community Advisory Committee of the
Clean Power Alliance of Southern California
Thursday, January 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 the Board Clerk conducted roll call.

East Ventura/West LA County	Angus Simmons (Vice-Chair)	Remote
East Ventura/West LA County	Jennifer Burke	Remote
San Gabriel Valley	Richard Tom	Remote
West/Unincorporated Ventura County	Lucas Zucker	Absent
South Bay	David Lesser	Remote
South Bay	Emmitt Hayes	Remote
Gateway Cities	Jaime Lopez	Remote
Gateway Cities	Genaro Bugarin	Remote
Westside	Cris Gutierrez	Remote
Westside	David Haake (Chair)	Remote
Unincorporated Los Angeles County	Neil Fromer	Remote
Unincorporated Los Angeles County	Kristie Hernandez	Remote

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Minutes from November 18, 2020 Community Advisory Committee Meeting
2. Update on the Voyager Clean Energy Career Pathways Scholarship Program

Motion: Committee Member Lesser, South Bay
Second: Vice Chair Simmons, East Ventura/West LA County
Vote: The consent agenda was approved by a roll call vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

3. Oral Update from the Executive Director on CPA Operations

Ted Bardacke, Executive Director, announced that CPA will welcome nine new board members in the coming weeks and informed the Committee that CPA will engage in a rate setting process for 2021. Mr. Bardacke explained that Southern California Edison (SCE) released updated rates inclusive of Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) costs that will become effective on February 1, 2021; staff will have to evaluate how to respond to revenue impacts and avoid more than one rate adjustment in 2021. Lastly, Mr. Bardacke noted that CAC members should be aware that SCE rates include an increase in Transmission & Delivery (T&D) charges, which may cause concern amongst customers.

Committee Member Lesser asked why SCE is allowed to make multiple rate adjustments and requested information on the relationship between Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) and SCE. Mr. Bardacke explained that SCE goes through an annual rate change process called the Energy Resource Recovery Account proceeding (ERRA) and the General Rate Case, which runs on a three-year cycle, and involves T&D and PCIA charges as well.

Committee Members Lesser and Hernandez expressed concern over how this would be presented to customers, and Mr. Bardacke stated that CPA will be factual in letting customers know about the increase even though it is not CPA's doing, but agreed that messaging is key, as CPA may have to increase rates to stay competitive.

Committee Member Bugarin asked if targeted marketing can be conducted to reach out to the low-income population and those enrolled in CARE/FERA who will be severely impacted. Mr. Bardacke noted that nearly all the funding for COVID-19 bill relief has been exhausted and therefore, staff will be implementing two programs, one to help customers write off unpaid bill debt and the other to assist customers that may be subject to disconnections. Committee Member Lopez asked how CAC members can prepare to share the specifics of the customer programs with the community and Mr. Bardacke explained that staff has recently launched video tutorials and is developing other educational materials to better prepare CAC members.

In response to Committee Member Burke's questions relating to SCE's spending on grid enhancements, Mr. Bardacke noted that during SCE's General Rate Case, CPA is involved in ensuring costs are not being pushed onto CPA customers. He noted that the existence of CCAs has brought more scrutiny to the generation rates process, but CPA is not currently positioned to provide more oversight.

4. Update on Power Share Program

Jack Clark, Director of Customer Programs, provided a background of the Disadvantaged Communities Green Tariff (DAC-GT) and Community Solar Green Tariff (CSGT) programs, which the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved on November 5, 2020. Both programs will be marketed to customers as “Power Share” and will provide eligible low-income customers in disadvantaged communities with 100% renewable energy projects at a 20% discount on their total electric bill. Mr. Clark explained that the Community Solar program will require a longer timeline to develop and CPA is conducting a soft-launch for the DAC-GT part of Power Share. Participating customers must be eligible for low-income programs and must reside within a DAC in CPA or SCE territory. Mr. Clark explained the customer enrollment process and noted that in addition to applying through the website or the customer service center, staff will work with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to facilitate the enrollment process. As CPA further enhances its relationship with customers, Mr. Clark described the marketing and outreach channels, targeted digital advertising, and member agency/CBO partnerships that will further inform future program development. Mr. Clark reviewed the customer discount in detail and noted that the CPUC will reimburse CPA for the bill discount and be applied to customers’ already discounted CARE/FERA rate, for a total bill discount of approximately 35-45%.

Committee Member Gutierrez inquired about outreach already conducted in the community, the capacity limit, and the disadvantaged community (DAC) requirement. Mr. Clark explained that broad community outreach has yet to occur, but the CAC will be involved in this effort and clarified that CPA capacity for the two programs combined, is capped at about 15 MW, approximately 6,600 customers and the requirement to reside in a DAC is from the CPUC. In response to Committee Member questions, Mr. Clark noted that the customer is eligible, independent of their jurisdictions’ default rate and staff has considered a need-based waitlist, however, the marketing and outreach can be targeted to those who are economically vulnerable. Mr. Clark also clarified that the CS-GT program will encourage local job creation and local community involvement. Committee Member Hernandez expressed interest in building an educational campaign for customers and Committee Member Fromer asked about other funding resources to expand the program. Mr. Clark explained that staff will collaborate with the CAC to implement a marketing plan and that there will be opportunities in the future to generate partnerships and additional program funding to expand these kinds of programs.

5. Presentation on Proposed Amendments to the Reserve Policy

David McNeil, Chief Financial Officer, briefly reviewed the Reserve Policy, which governs the accumulation of reserves at the agency. Reserves are used for working capital and are required to meet financial covenants in loan and energy agreements. Mr. McNeil emphasized that the policy defines targets but does not determine the outcome of the annual budget and rate setting process. The current

policy defines reserves as the Net Position, establishes minimum and maximum range of target reserves. Mr. McNeil stated that the amendments to the Reserve Policy consist of (1) expanding the definition of reserves to include both the Net Position and balances in the Fiscal Stabilization Fund and (2) adding a goal of achieving 120 days liquidity on hand.

Mr. Bardacke added that the price CPA pays for power is impacted by how strong CPA reserves are and is a direct link to how the agency serves its customers.

Committee Member Tom asked for the timing of CPA's credit rating, and Mr. McNeil noted that progress in liquidity and reserves, as well as a solid track-record factor into the credit rating timeline. Committee Member Gutierrez commented that CAC members need a solid communication strategy to share CPA's long-term goals with the community. Committee Member Hernandez added that educational materials for CAC members are needed and expressed concerns that customers may feel overwhelmed if the information shared with them is not clear.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Committee Member Lesser requested that staff provide Committee Members with more resources to understand their roles better so they can effectively represent their communities and provide valuable feedback. Vice Chair Simmons commented that Oxnard College provided a matching grant on the Voyager Scholarship Program and encouraged CPA to involve them in CPA events to encourage their professional growth. Committee Member Tom added that the energy industry is complicated, and some information does not need to necessarily be shared with customers, but rather focus on getting direction as to what staff needs the CAC to participate in and what is best left to other partners.

Mr. Bardacke acknowledged Committee Member comments about the CAC's role in providing feedback and in assisting with community engagement and noted that staff would be more intentional in communicating with the CAC. Sherita Coffelt, Director of External Affairs, commented that the CAC will play a big part in developing marketing strategies for both the agency and its' customer programs.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

ADJOURN

Chair Haake adjourned the meeting at 2:51 p.m.