

MINUTES

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

Thursday, May 20, 2021

1:00 p.m.

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Haake called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and Gabriela Monzon, Clerk of the Board, conducted roll call.

East Ventura/West LA County	Angus Simmons (Vice-Chair)	Remote
East Ventura/West LA County	Jennifer Burke	Remote
East Ventura/West LA County	Debbie West	Remote
San Gabriel Valley	Richard Tom	Remote
San Gabriel Valley	Kim Luu	Remote
West/Unincorporated Ventura County	Lucas Zucker	Absent
West/Unincorporated Ventura County	Vern Novstrup	Remote
South Bay	David Lesser	Remote
South Bay	Emmitt Hayes	Absent
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 (Vice Chair)	Remote

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise stated.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurene Von Klan provided public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Minutes from April 22, 2021 Community Advisory Committee Meeting
2. Update on the CAC 2020/2021 Adopted Work Plan
3. Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Draft Budget Presentation

Motion: Committee Member Tom, San Gabriel Valley

Second: Committee Member Lesser, South Bay

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

REGULAR AGENDA

4. Oral Update from the Executive Director on CPA Operations

Ted Bardacke, Executive Director, provided an update on the rates approach and thanked CAC members for their input. Mr. Bardacke elaborated on budget preparations, noting that CPA will aim to add approximately \$28 million to the reserves fund; customers will receive more bill relief assistance due to the macro-economic recovery but also state funding for such programs; this ultimately puts downward pressure on CPA rates. Operating expenses focus on communications and staffing in key internal functions of the organization, including crucial investments in cybersecurity and the optimization of battery storage projects, rapidly growing as CPA enters into Power Purchase Agreements.

Responding to Committee Members Fromer and Novstrup, Mr. Bardacke noted that battery project sites are scattered throughout Southern California; briefly touched on the status of the Power Ready program; and explained that there are several thousand low-income customers who have debts greater than \$500 and bill relief will be crucial in helping customers get caught up. Vice Chair Hernandez asked for further information on bad debt; Mr. Bardacke stated that 90-day past due balances for residential customers is approximately \$20 million. Committee Member Tom commented that it is unclear how the legislature will determine how funding is credited to customer accounts. Committee Member Gutierrez asked how customers will learn about bill relief assistance. Mr. Bardacke clarified that current proposals indicate a customer would not be required to apply and CPA is advocating for automatic credit based on eligibility. Committee Member Lesser suggested a future presentation to better understand how CPA is directly helping with the availability of energy throughout the state.

5. Power Share Program Outreach Update

Committee Member Bugarin recused himself out of precaution over a potential or perceived conflict-of-interest.

Jack Clark, Director of Customer Programs, provided an overview of the Power Share program, community involvement and strategy, and Power Share rates and customer discounts. The Disadvantaged Communities Green Tariff (DAC-GT) and

Community Solar Green Tariff (CS-GT) programs will provide eligible low-income customers in disadvantaged communities with 100% renewable energy projects. Mr. Clark reviewed the CS-GT program and requirements, noting that each project must have a community-based organization (CBO) or local government entity that sponsors a CS-GT project on behalf of residents. Project developers, community sponsors, and project host sites all have opportunities to be involved. CPA will conduct targeted marketing to various contacts and will work to facilitate partnerships, particularly sharing information with several parties where permissible; conduct outreach training to community sponsors and develop targeted marketing to eligible customers. Lastly, Mr. Clark noted that the 20% Power Share discount will be applied to the customer's total bill and combined with the CARE or FERA rate, for a total bill discount of approximately 35%-45%; the CPUC will reimburse CPA for the 20% bill discount. The CAC may assist in identifying community leaders and/or CBOs and be able to facilitate those relationships.

Chair Haake asked how sponsors can attain financing for projects; Vice Chair Hernandez asked if developers would assist in outreach; commented that in some areas of Los Angeles there is some distrust of developers and noted that various outreach methods are needed for customers that do not have access to internet or computers. Mr. Clark clarified that it would be the developer who will be in the position of financing projects, but there is flexibility in the formation of partnerships as well as in the roles of each of the parties; CPA envisions sponsors taking a leadership role in outreach. Additionally, CPA plans to conduct various methods of outreach, including text; the sponsor is an important role in the program design and should be a trusted advisor in the community; digital toolkits will be shared with CAC members to prepare members to conduct outreach in the community.

Committee Member Fromer inquired as to the possibility of adding storage to the program; Mr. Clark noted that CPA can advocate for storage in future iterations of the program. In response to Committee Member Lesser's question regarding the impact of Power Share and the costs of running such a program, Mr. Clark explained that although the program serves a small portion of customers, these kinds of programs can usually serve as a pilot/template that can later be expanded, if successful, and can allow for further funding from other sources in the future. Committee Member Gutierrez asked how the CAC should coordinate outreach in their communities and asked for a timeframe of the program. Mr. Clark noted that the CAC's involvement is fluid, but the first step was to submit any contacts to CPA that CAC members believe should be aware of the Power Share program. Mr. Clark explained that the next RFO is in the fall of 2021 where partnerships will be formalized; residential customer enrollment comes at a later stage. Committee Member Lopez asked how CPA can assist schools in becoming hosts, including budgeting for such projects; Mr. Clark noted that staff is available to provide presentations and information on the program as needed and CPA will consider how to best inform future sponsors of anticipated costs as the end of the fiscal year approaches.

Committee Member Gutierrez suggested creating a working group for the Power Share, and Chair Haake agreed and invited CAC members to participate.

6. 2021 Rates Communication Strategy

Sherita Coffelt, Director of External Affairs, explained that CPA underwent a lengthy process to develop a rates approach that addresses revenue shortfalls and increasing energy costs; a major component of that discussion is customer outreach. Outreach objectives will focus on retaining CPA customers and communicate the entirety of CPA's value in the communities it serves and will include concurrent campaigns on bill assistance. Ms. Coffelt explained that the messaging approach will provide adequate context concerning rates, focusing on providing the customer with ample information pertaining to bill impacts and their environmental footprint. Lastly, Ms. Coffelt briefly reviewed the Cost of Service rates approach talking points and the outreach timeline.

Chair Haake commented that it may benefit CAC members to understand how other bill impacts which are outside of CPA's control will be communicated along with CPA's rate changes. Vice Chair Hernandez asked about the demographics of survey respondents. Ms. Coffelt noted that demographic information was optional, and the first round of responses was scattered, but media hits did affect where responses came from. Even then, there were no major shifts in customer responses, with reliability, environmental impact, and costs being top priorities; additionally, the survey indicated customers want to hear more about cost savings. Committee Member Burke asked if CPA is planning to conduct media outreach to explain the rate change and noted that reliability was a primary concern, but the messaging did not directly address that. Ms. Coffelt explained that there will be light media outreach, with a focus on driving media to the CPA-owned channels to control messaging; while reliability is the top priority, it will be embedded into all aspects of messaging.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

ADJOURN

Chair Haake adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.