

MINUTES

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

Thursday, June 17, 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 1:01 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	Remote
Gateway Cities	Jaime Lopez	Absent
Gateway Cities	Genaro Bugarin	Remote
Westside	Cris Gutierrez	Remote
Westside	David Haake (Chair)	Remote
Unincorporated Los Angeles County	Neil Fromer	Absent
Unincorporated Los Angeles County	Kristie Hernandez (Vice Chair)	Remote

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise stated.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Minutes from May 20, 2021 Community Advisory Committee Meeting
2. Update on the CAC 2020/2021 Adopted Work Plan

Motion: Committee Member Gutierrez, Westside
Second: Committee Member Tom, San Gabriela Valley
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, provided an update on Flex Alerts, noting that customer response for voluntary conservation was exceptional; CPA's demand response and peak management pricing programs are available to customers; and several of CPA's battery storage projects will be coming online that will charge using plentiful low-cost greenhouse gas-free power during the daytime and discharging during peak hours in the evening. Mr. Bardacke also provided brief updates on staff hiring; the \$1 billion in funding for utility bill write-offs in the State's budget that will provide bill relief to a portion of its customers, and the Governor's Executive Order, allowing for virtual meetings through the end of September.

Committee Member Bugarin asked if CPA can anticipate what areas are likely to experience power shutoffs first and if CPA can be more proactive in managing shutoffs. Mr. Bardacke noted that the likely reason for an unanticipated shutoff in a community is equipment failure, which is difficult to predict. Should California enter a stage three grid emergency, there is a schedule of rotating outages that will be shared with the Committee. Responding to Committee Member Novstrup's question, Mr. Bardacke referred to the California Independent System Operator's net demand trend data which indicates when demand will peak and help to forecast how much a battery can discharge to the grid.

4. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Plan Presentation

Karen Schmidt, Senior Advisor, Strategy, provided a presentation on CPA's DEI plan, noting that several of the organization's procurement activities and customer programs reflect CPA's core values and satisfy state regulatory requirements for DEI reporting, including CPA's first annual report on supplier diversity. CPA intends to work towards goals of diversity and equity, but it may be challenging to increase spend on diverse business enterprises in the energy sector because there are very few diverse providers; reported spend directed to diverse business enterprises is a small fraction of CPA's total spend. The DEI planning process is driven by an internal cross-functional team from across the organization focusing on innovation, leadership, transparency and economic justice in the utility industry; establishing metrics in supplier diversity, internal diversity, and stakeholder engagement. Ms. Schmidt summarized the process, including the stages of data collection, goal setting, review, and implementation planning; and presented a draft of CPA's DEI mission and long-term goals. Some preliminary 2021-2022 goals include staff

training and engagement, an annual equity audit, culturally appropriate marketing, and ongoing resources and leadership supporting these goals on an ongoing basis. Some of the stakeholder engagement objectives are to listen to communities and customers and reflect their perspectives and priorities; internal staff should have direct ownership of driving implementation and accountability of the DEI plan and conducting customer and supplier surveys and focus groups. Staff will develop a community engagement plan and present a final DEI plan for CAC and Board review as well integrate the plan into departmental operating plans, metrics, and strategic planning.

Chair Haake thanked staff for their work and commented that the DEI plan systematically examines CPA and the CAC's engagement with the most diverse and impacted communities, providing a path towards assisting these communities by way of customer programs, but there are areas with needed improvements. Committee Member Gutierrez added that language diversity is also an important consideration in defining how CPA develops its DEI plan and how it can become a leader, especially in disadvantaged communities. In response, Ms. Schmidt clarified that the internal team is certainly open to looking at the many ways the organization can define diversity and equity, and currently, staff can provide translated materials, partner with ethnic media, and continue to pursue comprehensive gender identity and LGBTQ diversity; across the board, CPA is focused on designing and investing in programs that protect the most vulnerable communities. Vice Chair Hernandez opined that the definition of diversity and equity will help to inform the decisions CPA will make; would like to see partnerships with educational institutions and conduct educational outreach that can help engage different ethnic communities; and encourages staff to ensure that the DEI plan does not remain only in writing, but is implemented throughout the organization. Committee Member Tom noted that staff has identified key areas of focus in supplier diversity where the challenge is to find diverse developers and added that CPA is in a position to redefine how the region can collectively work on diversity and equity issues; he also commented that this work is a continuous process and implementation activities should be prioritized. Committee Member Bugarin praised staff's work as authentic and well thought out; noted that "*vulnerable communities*" can have several meanings and should be inclusive to include beach and fire-prone communities; and raised the consideration that as CPA is implementing various programs in partnership with Community Based Organizations, CPA should match their work with an appropriate dollar value. Vice Chair Simmons echoed support for the DEI plan and the continued development of supplier diversity. Committee Member Lesser agreed with previous comments, and the DEI plan aligns with his personal goals to advance clean energy.

5. 2021 Legislative Update

Gina Goodhill, Policy Director, briefly reviewed next steps in CPA's priority legislation, Senate Bill 612. SB 612 takes steps to ensure fair and equitable access to the benefits of legacy resources that CCA customers already pay for but do not receive any benefits from. Should the bill pass, it can directly impact CCA's financial position, saving CPA tens of millions of dollars per year in procurement

costs that would then be passed on to customers. The CPUC recently released a final decision as a response to the bill, which required Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) to open up access to renewable energy benefits to all customers who pay for them, but it did not allow the same access to resource adequacy. Politically, this decision will make it more difficult for the bill to move forward. Ms. Goodhill requested the Committee's assistance in submitting new Letters of Support from their local communities and will focus outreach on CPA representatives that sit on the Assembly's Utilities & Energy committee.

Chair Haake requested that staff distribute the names and phone numbers of the representatives to the CAC.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Committee Member Lesser thanked Ms. Schmidt for joining a community meeting in Manhattan Beach, helping to educate and provide truthful information to the community.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Vice Chair Hernandez requested that points of contacts be shared with members. Committee Member Novstrup requested more information on how to improve the transparency of rate comparisons with Southern California Edison.

ADJOURN

Chair Haake adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.