

## **MINUTES**

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

Thursday, April 21, 2022

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**

Vice-Chair Hernandez called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and Christian Cruz, Clerk of the Community Advisory Committee, conducted a roll call.

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

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise stated.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

## CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approved Minutes from March 17, 2022, Community Advisory Committee Meeting
2. Update on Implementation of Workplan Priorities

**Motion** Committee Member Tom, San Gabriel Valley  
**Second** Committee Member Gutierrez, Westside  
**Vote** The update and minutes were approved by a roll call vote

## REGULAR AGENDA

3. Oral Update from the Chief Executive Officer on CPA Operations

Chief Executive Officer Ted Bardacke highlighted the jobs and contracting opportunities on our Clean Power Alliance website. He also highlighted CPA's upcoming virtual CPA Lobby Day scheduled on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, staff will reach out to CAC members that are interested in participating.

Committee Member Lesser asked to what extent is CPA looking to partner with other entities to pursue infrastructure funds. Mr. Bardacke responded that most of the federal infrastructure funds will be distributed to the states for implementation and the current state budget proposal will dictate program priorities. CPA is looking at funds for community resiliency centers that aim to resolve climate adaptation through the established Power Ready program.

Committee Member Fromer inquired about the status of the Power Ready program. Mr. Bardacke gave a brief program overview, CPA is currently in the process of signing memorandums of understanding with member agencies. CPA will then put together a bid package to work with a contractor. The City of Sierra Madre and Ventura County have signed up and there are 10 -12 more possible agencies that would provide 15 – 17 sites in total.

Committee Member Gutierrez

4. Budget Priorities Fiscal Year 2022/2023

Chief Financial Officer, David McNeil presented an overview of the budget priorities for the fiscal year 2022/2023. The presentation went over the budget process, operating expenses, and key budget priorities. CPA will become the third-largest LSE in CAISO by the end of 2022 and the largest supplier of renewable energy in the nation. Operating expenses represent about 5 % of total cost and this is expected to increase to about 31%. Notable increases to the budget were in communication and mailers, the default rate change, program marketing, and brand awareness. Staffing will also increase to 55 positions and currently CPA has a staff of 44. The CAC

members were asked to provide feedback on the operating budget priorities, in relation to communication and customer programs.

Chair Haake asked where the budget addresses communicating to new customers that have been opted in a rate tier such as unincorporated LA County and the low and underserved communities within. Mr. McNeil responded the communication budget has two default rate change mailers and 40% of the budget is related to marketing programs to customers. Mr. Bardacke added, CPA does not have targeted material but does include messaging in programs. Mr. Cruz added that when interacting with the community there is a dialogue with potential eligible customers about CARE/FARE.

Vice-Chair Hernandez added that CPA will need to take the lead to inform many within the communities of unincorporated Los Angeles about their CARE/FARE eligibility and the effects of changes in rates. Mr. Bardacke responded, per CPA policy those that are CARE/FARE within 100% green default rate communities will not see an increase in their bill. Gina Goodhill, Policy Director and External Affairs Interim Director gave an overview of the communication process once a city chooses a rate tier. At minimum CPA provided two postcard mailers to inform the residents of the tier change. Member agencies are also offered digital information sharing and a partnership with CPA to participate in the community meetings and events. For the County of Los Angeles, CPA is working with the five different county supervisors to ensure the best messaging for these communities.

Committee Member Gutierrez stated that the communication materials challenge customers to understand. The materials should be less text-focused and more graphics should be used. She also stated that re-education is still a present challenge.

##### 5. CPA Rate Options 2022/2023

Chief Operating Officer, Matt Langer presented CPA Rate Options for 2022/2023. Mr. Langer gave an overview of the 2022 rate environment, CPA considerations for FY22/23 rates, rate setting options, and the CARE subsidy and program options. Mr. Langer discussed the important milestone that CPA's progress is achieving, an investment-grade (IG) credit rating. Three rate-setting scenario options are considered low revenue, middle revenue, and high revenue. In 2021, CPA froze CARE rates at 202 levels, there are four scenario options for ending or phasing out the CARE rate freeze. In summary, Option 1 for low revenue would end the CARE rate freeze in July and is considered high risk. Option 2 for middle revenue has the option to end the CARE rate freeze in October or end it in July and have 10 million in one-time program spending. Option 3 for high revenue has the option to end the CARE rate freeze in October, end the rate freeze in July and have 10 million in one-time program spending, or end the CARE rate freeze in October and have 5 million in one-time program spending. The CAC members were asked for feedback on the rate options that the Board will consider in May.

Committee Member Lesser asked to what extent could CPA provide more of an offset for the 100% green rate as opposed to the clean and lean rates. Mr. Langer responded that CPA had a cost-of-service study conducted and set the rate differential based on the cost to deliver each product. Green is 3% more than clean and lean is 1% less than clean. Committee Member Lesser added that the focus

should stay on incentivizing the 100% green rates and retaining customers at that rate. Mr. Langer responded that CPA's long-term strategy is long-term procurement with new build resources to drive down the cost of the 100% green rates.

Vice-Chair Simmons asked if there is a PR challenge as 300,00 customers default to 100% green rates and the CARE freeze rate is ended or phased out. Mr. Langer responded that CPA CARE customers would receive 100% green and would be paying less on CARE than they would with Southern California Edison (SCE) at 40% green. Additionally, CARE customers in Los Angeles County unincorporated will be faced until 2024.

Vice-Chair Hernandez asked about the factors that influenced the CARE rate freeze ending or being phased out and the timeline. Mr. Langer responded that CPA is aware of the different circumstances and use patterns customers live within, it is most common to have the highest demand in the summer. Additionally, with time of use (TOU) the actual rate paid is higher in the summer June through September and the rate paid in the winter is lower, October through May.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR WORK-IN-PROGRESS**

No comments.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

No comments.

#### **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

No comments.

#### **ADJOURN**

Chair Haake adjourned the meeting at 2:42 pm.