

**REGULAR MEETING of the Citizens Advisory Committee  
of the Peninsula Clean Energy Authority (PCEA)  
Thursday, May 11, 2023  
MINUTES**

In-Person, Video Conference, and Teleconference  
6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

**ROLL CALL****Present:**

*PCEA Lobby, 2075 Woodside Road, Redwood City, CA 94061*

Diane Bailey, Belmont  
Steven Booker, Half Moon Bay  
Michael Closson, Menlo Park  
Michael Garvey, San Carlos  
Kathleen Goforth, San Carlos  
Katie Green, San Mateo  
Margaret Li, South San Francisco *arrived at 6:45 p.m.*  
Jason Mendelson, Redwood City, *Vice Chair*  
Cheryl Schaff, Menlo Park, *Chair*  
Desiree Thayer, Burlingame

**Absent:**

Daniel Baerwaldt, Los Banos  
Brandon Chan, South San Francisco

**An in-person quorum was established.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

**ACTION TO SET THE AGENDA AND APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA****1. Approval of the Minutes for the April 13, 2023, Regular Meeting**

Motion Made / Seconded: Garvey / Closson

**Motion passed 9-0 (Absent: Baerwaldt, Chan, Li)**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

## 2. Chair Report (Discussion)

No Chair Report

## 3. Member Introductions (Discussion)

Cheryl Schaff, *Chair*, invited each member of the Committee to introduce themselves and answer the following questions: *There is a goal to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030. In one word, tell us how you feel about this goal. In another word, tell us why.*

## 4. Citizens Advisory Committee Work Plan Approval (Action)

Kirsten Andrews-Schwind, *Senior Manager of Community Relations*, reviewed the proposed Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) working groups for 2023. Noting that United States citizenship is not a prerequisite to serving on the CAC (which may be implied by the current name “Citizens Advisory Committee”), Kirsten encouraged the Committee members to consider changing the name of the Committee to increase inclusivity.

Michael Closson, *Committee Member*, suggested changing the name of the “Residential Solar + Storage Programs” Working Group to “Local Solar + Storage Programs” Working Group to include local, non-residential solar + storage opportunities.

Diane Bailey, *Committee Member*, expressed support for renaming the Committee from the “Citizens Advisory Committee” to the “Community Advisory Committee.”

Jason Mendelson, *Vice Chair*, made a motion to recommend the proposed 2023 CAC Work Plan, with the following edits:

- Rename the “Residential Solar + Storage Programs” Working Group to “Local Solar + Storage Programs” Working Group.
- Change the name of the Committee from the “Citizens Advisory Committee” to the “Community Advisory Committee.”

Motion Made / Seconded: Mendelson / Bailey

**Motion passed 10-0 (Absent: Baerwaldt, Chan)**

## 5. Discussion on Managed EV Charging (Discussion)

Phillip Kobernick, *Transportation Programs Manager*, provided an overview of the Managed Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Program, including the role of EV load shifting in achieving Peninsula Clean Energy’s goals. Phillip discussed the objectives, timeline, and experimental design of the large-scale pilot planned in 2023.

Committee members asked questions about the eligibility requirements for the pilot, pilot recruitment process, features of the managed charging app, and how the pilot incentives will be communicated on the PG&E bill.

Diane Bailey asked whether the Managed EV Charging Program is expected to save Peninsula Clean Energy money on energy costs through reduction of peak loads and load smoothing. Steven Booker, *Committee Member*, asked whether the Managed EV Charging Program will include participation from municipalities and businesses. Jason Mendelson asked whether other agencies are pursuing similar programs. Jason also expressed interest in supporting the development of surveys for the pilot participants.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Hambir Chavan asked whether the pilot is available to customers with solar panels.

John McKenna asked whether pilot participants can override the charging schedule set in the app.

Rahul Bahadur asked whether the presence of a home battery impacts the type of data received through the pilot.

### 6. Discussion on Local Government Electrification Program (Action)

Blake Herrschaft, *Buildings Program Manager*, introduced the proposed program for supporting local governments with electrifying municipal buildings and facilities. Committee members evaluated the recommended incentive structure, project prioritization criteria, and possible timeline.

Diane Bailey expressed support for the proposed program and prioritization criteria. Noting that some municipalities have aging infrastructure that will need to be replaced before the proposed program timeline, Diane recommended offering funding earlier in the form of pilot grants for urgent needs. Michael Closson asked if the proposed program would assist municipalities with accessing funding from other sources.

Kathleen Goforth, *Committee Member*, motioned to make the following recommendation to the Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors:

*The CAC recommends to the Board to support the Local Government Electrification Program, including the incentives structure as written by staff, and explore expanding the scope of the funding if feasible. The CAC requests that Peninsula Clean Energy accept early applications from cities for projects that are urgent, such as projects for which electrification would not be a viable option if the funding would be delayed until next year. The CAC recommends that an equity lens be applied to selection and prioritization of projects.*

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Rebecca Lucky, *Sustainability Manager at the City of Menlo Park*, described the high cost of electrifying the City of Menlo Park's aging equipment, including electric pool heating and EV charging for the municipal fleet. Rebecca supported the idea of

expediting the program timeline or providing funding earlier for jurisdictions to serve as model or pilot. Rebecca noted that funding 40% of the total project costs would help the City continue to make progress on municipal electrification.

Rahul Bahadur asked Blake to clarify the meaning of “shovel-ready” projects.

Adrienne Etherton, *Sustainability Manager at the City of Brisbane*, discussed the high cost of electrifying the City of Brisbane’s community pool. Adrienne noted that an incentive structure that funds half of the electrical upgrade cost with a smaller per-therm (\$12/therm) incentive would allow the project to be completed.

John McKenna expressed support for the program concept, including prioritizing high-impact and aging equipment. He also encouraged the consideration of equity and environmental justice when prioritizing projects.

Jeff Chen submitted the following comment by email: “I’m a resident of Menlo Park and I’m writing to support the proposal for the Local Government Electrification Program. I believe it’s critical for local governments to pilot electrification programs within their jurisdiction to understand the benefits, costs and risks of electrification. To do so, local governments need some financial help to invest in these programs and experiment. I urge Peninsula Clean Energy to provide zero-interest loans and/or grant programs to local governments to fund these initiatives this year similar to the programs offered to 9 cities and school districts. I think this would be an important step to expand the breadth and diversity of participating municipalities to learn more about what it’ll take to scale electrification programs. Thanks for your consideration.”

Gary Trott submitted the following comment by email: “I am a resident of the City and County of San Mateo who supports a swift and equitable transition from gas-powered appliances to electric appliances in all existing buildings within the PCE territory. I am writing regarding Item 6, Local Government Electrification Program, on the Agenda for your May 11 meeting. I write in strong support of PCE moving forward with its proposed “Local Government Electrification Program.” Many cities in the county need some seed funding to support urgently needed electrification projects right now. One example for such a program has been set by SVCE, which just announced more funding for city electrification demonstration projects: SVCE Announcement. Thank you for all you do for the climate and the health of our community.”

Nicole Kemeny submitted the following comment by email: “I’m writing in strong support of the Local Government Electrification Program. My city, Menlo Park, must replace old gas-powered equipment with clean electric alternatives as quickly as possible, and needs seed funding to do it. We should be taking a page out of SVCE’s book with their grants to cities for demonstration projects. These projects serve the purpose of speeding up public acceptance of electrification, which is of paramount importance, while also reducing our carbon footprint, an urgent task. As you well know, time is passing quickly, and action is sorely needed. Please help us get on a path to quick electrification.”

Michelle Hudson submitted the following comment by email: “I am a resident of the City and County of San Mateo who supports a swift and equitable transition from

gas-powered appliances to electric appliances in all existing buildings within the PCE territory. I am writing regarding Item 6, Local Government Electrification Program, on the Agenda for your May 11 meeting. I write in strong support of PCE moving forward with its proposed “Local Government Electrification Program.” Many cities in the county need some seed funding to support urgently needed electrification projects right now. One example for such a program has been set by SVCE, which just announced more funding for city electrification demonstration projects: SVCE Announcement. Thank you for all you do for the climate and the health of our community.”

Linh Dan Do submitted the following comment by email: “I’m writing to show my support for local government electrification programs. Many cities, such as Menlo Park, have gas infrastructure that is near the end of its life and are in urgent need of support for electrification projects, in the form of seed funding, zero interest loans, and grants. Silicon Valley Clean Energy’s \$3.6m grants to 9 cities and a school district are a fantastic example for addressing the climate crisis, improving public health, and educating residents on electrification. This needs to happen this year - we can’t wait. Thanks so much!”

Teri Whitehair submitted the following comment by email: “As a customer and an advocate, I am writing in support of Peninsula Clean Energy providing funding to local governments for electrification. Thank you for your consideration”

Motion Made / Seconded: Goforth / Bailey

**Motion passed 10-0 (Absent: Baerwaldt, Chan)**

## **7. Marketing and Community Liaison Update (Discussion)**

Kirsten Andrews-Schwind shared that the E-Bikes for Everyone program will launch in June. Highlighting that a record number of residents have applied to serve on the CAC, Kirsten also invited Committee members to share ideas for how Peninsula Clean Energy engage applicants that do not receive appointment to the CAC.

Katie Green expressed enthusiasm for the idea to train applicants as volunteers and invite them to support outreach with Peninsula Clean Energy at events. Desiree Thayer suggested hosting quarterly Peninsula Clean Energy trainings or sharing existing training materials. Desiree also suggested encouraging applicants to participate in Peninsula Clean Energy public meetings as members of the public. Cheryl suggested referring to these volunteers as “ambassadors.”

Jason Mendelson suggested leveraging the experience of volunteers who have undergone the process of home electrification or participated in one of Peninsula Clean Energy’s energy programs. Jason mentioned that designating clear actions or roles for volunteers is helpful.

Michael Garvey and Michael Closson inquired whether it is possible to invite members of the public to participate in CAC working group meetings. Michael Closson noted that it may be most effective to connect interested volunteers with existing initiatives.

## **8. Upcoming Topics for Discussion (Discussion)**

Kirsten Andrews-Schwind previewed topics for the upcoming meeting of the Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors, including a review of Peninsula Clean Energy's budget for the next fiscal year. Kirsten also highlighted topics proposed by Committee members during previous meetings, including the Net Energy Metering 3.0 policy.

Kathleen Goforth recommended an overview of the Inflation Reduction Act, including provisions and funding opportunities that may benefit Peninsula Clean Energy's programs. Michael Closson suggested a discussion of California Senate Bill 49, which would support solar canopies on parking lots, and how it might relate to Peninsula Clean Energy's efforts. Michael also proposed a regulatory update on the California Public Utilities Commission.

## **9. Committee Members' Reports (Discussion)**

Katie Green announced that her current term on the CAC concludes at the end of May 2023. Committee members expressed their appreciation for Katie's contributions to the CAC. Desiree Thayer announced that the Youth Climate Ambassadors graduation is on May 13, 2023. Cheryl Schaff thanked Committee members for their participation in the Love Our Earth Festival on April 22, 2023.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55.