

**REGULAR MEETING of the Citizens Advisory Committee  
of the Peninsula Clean Energy Authority (PCEA)  
Thursday, October 12, 2023  
MINUTES**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

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

Diane Bailey, Belmont *arrived at 6:33 p.m.*  
Steven Booker, Half Moon Bay *arrived at 6:35 p.m.*  
Brandon Chan, South San Francisco *arrived at 6:51 p.m.*  
Michael Closson, Menlo Park  
Kathleen Goforth, San Carlos  
Mele Heimuli, East Palo Alto  
Gail Lee, San Bruno  
Margaret Li, South San Francisco *arrived at 7:35 p.m.*  
Jason Mendelson, Redwood City, Vice Chair  
Cheryl Schaff, Menlo Park, *Chair*  
Desiree Thayer, Burlingame  
Robert Whitehair, San Mateo

*UC Merced, Sustainability Research and Engineering (SRE) 458, 5200 North Lake Rd.,  
Merced, CA 95340*

Daniel Baerwaldt, Los Banos

**Absent:**

Aurelio Huizar, Burlingame  
Shreyas Sudhakar, Menlo Park

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robert Whitehair, *Committee Member*, announced that he partnered with BayREN to invite realtors to tour his all-electric home.

**ACTION TO SET THE AGENDA AND APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. Approval of the Minutes for the September 14, 2023, Regular Meeting**

Motion Made / Seconded: Closson / Bailey

**Motion passed 11-0 (Absent:** Chan, Huizar, Li, Sudhakar)

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**2. Chair Report (Discussion)**

No Chair Report

**3. Member Introductions (Discussion)**

Cheryl Schaff, *Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair*, invited each member of the Committee to introduce themselves and answer the following question: *Which topics related to energy in California would you like to better understand?*

**4. Distributed Energy Resources Framework and Future Programs (Action)**

Rafael Reyes, *Director of Energy Programs*, explained the concept of distributed energy resources (DERs) and how it relates to Peninsula Clean Energy's goals. Rafael also reviewed an analysis on power outages in San Mateo County and opportunities for increasing customer resilience. Committee members discussed the benefits and challenges of deploying DERs in Peninsula Clean Energy's service territory.

Michael Closson, *Committee Member*, inquired about the Green Mountain Power program that supports installation of home batteries in Vermont. Rafael commented that Peninsula Clean Energy would not benefit from cost savings on the distribution system, since the agency only provides electricity generation.

Desiree Thayer, *Committee Member*, expressed support for coupling end use storage with other emergency preparedness actions.

Gail Lee, *Committee Member*, raised bidirectional charging as a potential solution for energy storage.

**5. Peninsula Clean Energy Net Billing Tariff Policy (Action)**

Connor Prince, *Senior Analyst, Account Services*, provided an overview of Peninsula Clean Energy's proposed Solar Billing Plan. Committee members discussed how this policy will impact the economics of installing solar systems at residences. Connor explained that the intention of the policy is to incentivize energy storage at homes.

Diane Bailey, *Committee Member*, highlighted the benefits of solar and storage systems for individuals as well as the electricity grid. Diane inquired about the

financial impacts of this policy. Connor noted that excess solar generation will be credited at a lower amount.

## **6. Report Back from Staff Committee on Budget Surplus (Discussion)**

Steven Booker, *Committee Member*, summarized the ideas and considerations discussed by the Staff Committee on Budget Surplus, including implementing electricity bill discounts for low-income customers, increasing resilience through microgrids, deploying portable heat pump equipment, and developing other programs.

Cheryl Schaff noted that issuing a rebate is an opportunity for raising positive awareness of Peninsula Clean Energy. Jason Mendelson, *CAC Vice Chair*, asked whether the Staff Committee has considered increasing the 5% discount on electricity generation compared to PG&E's rates. Steven replied that the Staff Committee's recommendation is to maintain the current 5% discount.

Diane Bailey expressed support for funding portable appliances as well as deploying batteries in areas that are highly impacted by power outages. Jason inquired about supporting a pilot microgrid program these areas.

Anticipating an increased interest in financing and home electrification, Diane suggested expanding the Zero Percent Loan program.

## **7. Community Advisory Committee Meeting Scheduling for 2024 (Discussion)**

Kirsten Andrews-Schwind, *Senior Manager of Community Relations*, requested input on the scheduling of Community Advisory Committee meetings in 2024. Committee Members expressed satisfaction with scheduling CAC meetings two weeks prior to the meetings of the Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors.

## **8. Working Group Overview and Reports (Discussion)**

Jason Mendelson reported that the Building Electrification Working Group and Electric Vehicle (EV) Managed Charging Program Working Group are meeting regularly.

Desiree Thayer shared that the Education Initiatives Working Group reviewed current school programs and future opportunities in Los Banos.

Michael Closson reported that the Local Solar + Storage Programs Working Group will research solar and storage programs implemented by other utilities and entities.

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

Vanessa Shin, *Community Outreach Specialist*, shared upcoming community events, including the Electric Home Tour, East Palo Alto Electric Vehicle Showcase, and Burlingame Citizens Environmental Council workshop.

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

Kirsten Andrews-Schwind previewed topics for the upcoming meetings of the Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors. Kirsten recommended a discussion on the future of the ECO100 product and an overview of the upcoming Peninsula Clean Energy Board Retreat.

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

Gail Lee announced that SunShares provides a solar and battery storage discount to residents of San Mateo County, noting that the deadline to sign up is November 15.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.