

**REGULAR MEETING of the Citizens Advisory Committee
of the Peninsula Clean Energy Authority (PCEA)
Thursday, November 2, 2023
MINUTES**

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

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Diane Bailey, Belmont
Michael Closson, Menlo Park
Kathleen Goforth, San Carlos
Aurelio Huizar, Burlingame
Gail Lee, San Bruno
Margaret Li, South San Francisco
Jason Mendelson, Redwood City, Vice Chair
Cheryl Schaff, Menlo Park, *Chair*
Robert Whitehair, San Mateo

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

Daniel Baerwaldt, Los Banos *arrived at 7:15 p.m.*

Absent:

Steven Booker, Half Moon Bay
Brandon Chan, South San Francisco
Mele Heimuli, East Palo Alto
Shreyas Sudhakar, Menlo Park
Desiree Thayer, Burlingame

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 October 12, 2023, Regular Meeting**

Motion Made / Seconded: Mendelson / Whitehair

Motion passed 9-0 (Absent: Baerwaldt, Booker, Chan, Heimuli, Sudhakar, Thayer)

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Chair Report (Discussion)

Cheryl Schaff, *Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair*, shared feedback received from former CAC members. Cheryl also reviewed the CAC attendance policy and objectives.

3. Member Introductions (Discussion)

Cheryl Schaff invited each member of the Committee to introduce themselves and answer the following questions: *What brings you joy in your work related to sustainability?*

4. Report Back from Staff Committee on Budget Surplus and Community Advisory Committee Recommendation Regarding Surplus (Action)

Rafael Reyes, *Director of Energy Programs*, summarized the previous meeting of the Staff Committee on Budget Surplus. Rafael introduced ideas that are under consideration for spending the surplus funds. Responding to Committee members' interest in on-bill financing, Rafael provided context on the planned budget for the Zero Percent Loan Program.

Cheryl Schaff asked how the surplus funds will serve low-income customers and residents who are most vulnerable to impacts of climate change. Rafael highlighted the one-time energy bill rebates for income-qualified customers, expansion of the Home Upgrade Program, and portable heat pump incentives under consideration.

Jason Mendelson, *Vice Chair*, expressed support for funding high-visibility, innovative projects that position Peninsula Clean Energy as a leader.

Robert Whitehair, *Committee Member*, observed through his outreach that the Zero Percent Loan Program is very popular. Robert conveyed support for expanding the available funds for the Zero Percent Loan Program.

Aurelio Huizar, *Committee Member*, explained that many customers have experienced difficulty with re-certifying their eligibility in the CARE/FERA discount, or were not aware that process was necessary to keep their discounts. Eligible customers have been dropped from the discount programs, sometimes without their knowledge. To better serve these income-qualified residents, Aurelio suggested identifying customers who were previously enrolled in CARE/FERA discount and considering making them eligible for CARE/FERA-related excess fund rebates.

Committee members discussed the idea to address emergency water heater replacements by loaning units. Diane Bailey, *Committee Member*, recommended

prioritizing the use of heat pump water heaters, such as 120V models, rather than gas water heaters.

Jason Mendelson made a motion to make the following recommendation to the Staff Subcommittee on Budget Surplus:

The CAC supports funding the following concepts:

- *High-visibility projects that position Peninsula Clean Energy as a leader and innovator, such as microgrids and a demonstration center*
- *Maximizing the on-bill financing program*
- *Rebate for CARE/FERA customers. When identifying customers who qualify for the energy bill rebate, evaluate customers who have been previously enrolled in CARE/FERA in addition to currently enrolled CARE/FERA customers*
- *Enhance and expand the low-income Home Upgrade Program*
- *For the Water Heater Loaner program, prioritize using heat pump water heaters over gas water heaters*

Motion Made / Seconded: Mendelson / Bailey

Motion passed 8-0 (Absent: Baerwaldt, Booker, Chan, Heimuli, Sudhakar, Thayer)

5. Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors Retreat Preview (Action)

Kirsten Andrews-Schwind, *Senior Manager of Community Relations*, introduced the main topics for the Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors Retreat on November 15.

6. Community Advisory Committee Meeting Scheduling for 2024 (Action)

Jason Mendelson made a motion to approve the proposed CAC meeting schedule for 2024.

Motion Made / Seconded: Mendelson / Closson

Motion passed 8-0 (Absent: Baerwaldt, Booker, Chan, Heimuli, Sudhakar, Thayer)

7. Working Group Reports (Discussion)

Representing the Building Electrification Programs Working Group, Jason Mendelson reported that the group discussed the participation metrics of residential energy programs. The Electric Vehicle Managed Charging Program Working Group advised on survey development and planning. Michael Closson shared that the Local Solar + Storage Programs Working Group is researching residential solar + storage programs offered by other utilities.

8. Marketing and Community Liaison Update (Discussion)

Vanessa Shin, *Community Outreach Specialist*, announced new rebates for heat pump water heaters through TECH Clean California and provided an update on the Peninsula Clean Energy Community Outreach Grant Program. Vanessa also invited Committee members to participate in a workshop on November 15 focusing on Peninsula Clean Energy's future customer offerings.

9. Upcoming Topics for Discussion (Discussion)

Kirsten Andrews-Schwind recommended a discussion on future electricity products that Peninsula Clean Energy could provide once ECO100 becomes the standard offering for customers.

Cheryl Schaff suggested a training on the California Public Utilities Commission as well as the state of Community Choice Aggregation nationally. Committee members also requested a debrief on the Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors Retreat and Staff Subcommittee on Budget Surplus.

10. Committee Members' Reports (Discussion)

No Committee Member Reports

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.