

**REGULAR MEETING of the Citizens Advisory Committee  
of the Peninsula Clean Energy Authority (PCEA)  
Thursday, December 7, 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  
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*  
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

*Participated remotely under AB 2446*

Michael Closson, Menlo Park  
Mele Heimuli, East Palo Alto

**Absent:**

Shreyas Sudhakar, Menlo Park

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brian Schmidt expressed interest in collaborating with Peninsula Clean Energy as the new Executive Director of Menlo Spark, specifically through partnering on home electrification for low-income residents in Menlo Park and local government electrification.

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

### **1. Approval of the Minutes for the November 2, 2023, Regular Meeting**

Motion Made / Seconded: Goforth / Whitehair

**Motion passed 13-0 (Absent: Sudhakar)**

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **2. Chair Report (Discussion)**

Cheryl Schaff, *Chair*, announced that Brandon Chan has resigned from the Community Advisory Committee (CAC).

### **3. Member Introductions (Discussion)**

Cheryl Schaff invited each member of the Committee to introduce themselves and answer the following questions: *What is your New Year's Resolution related to sustainability?*

### **4. Report Back from Staff Committee on Budget Surplus (Action)**

Rafael Reyes, *Senior Director of Energy Programs*, reviewed the recommendation from the Staff Committee on Budget Surplus.

Jason Mendelson, *Vice Chair*, inquired about additional funding for the on-bill financing program. Rafael explained that staff are not anticipating constraints in the budget for this program, which is why the Staff Committee on Budget Surplus did not allocate additional funds.

Diane Bailey, *Committee Member*, asked about additional funding for the Home Upgrade Program. Rafael responded that the Home Upgrade Program has a significant allocation of funds in the existing budget. As a result, the Staff Committee on Budget Surplus did not prioritize additional funding for this program.

Jason Mendelson motioned to make the following recommendation to the Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors:

*The CAC supports the recommendation from the Budget Surplus Subcommittee.*

*The CAC made the recommendation below to the Budget Surplus Subcommittee on November 2, 2023. We appreciate the full consideration of our previous recommendation by the Budget Surplus Subcommittee.*

*"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”*

*\*It has been explained to the CAC that these items are sufficiently covered by the existing budget.*

Motion Made / Seconded: Mendelson / Bailey

**Motion passed 12-0 (Absent: Sudhakar, Abstain: Huizar)**

**5. Report Back from Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors Retreat (Discussion)**

Gwen Rose, *Director of Marketing and Community Relations*, summarized the main topics and themes that emerged from the Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors Retreat on November 16, 2023.

**6. Discussion of ECO100 and Future Customer Offerings (Discussion)**

Gwen Rose provided an overview of the ECO100 product, introduced examples of customer rates offered by other community choice energy agencies, and invited Committee members to share ideas for future “green premium” products.

Kathleen Goforth, *Committee Member*, conveyed that a 24/7 zero-carbon rate would be difficult to explain and communicate to customers, especially among those believe that ECO100 provides 100% renewable energy at every hour. Kathleen inquired about potential local projects and expressed interest in leveraging a “green premium” product to build new resources locally.

Jason Mendelson expressed interest in a customer product that supports individual or community storage. Jason considers the MCE Local Sol rate to be attractive because it helps customers benefit and save money in the long term.

Desiree Thayer, *Committee Member*, prefers customer products that can accommodate participation from all interested customers. Additionally, Desiree appreciated that local governments had the opportunity to opt into ECO100 and serve as a model for residents.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

John McKenna expressed interest in a customer product that creates more renewable resources on the grid, rather than using additional revenue to pay for existing renewable resources. John shared enthusiasm for the example from MCE because it facilitates new renewables and benefits the customer through a fixed

rate. John agrees with Desiree's comment about creating a product that all customers can participate in. John sees a smaller benefit to the SVCE example due to existing time-of-use rates.

#### **7. Update to 2024 Customer Rates (Action)**

Leslie Brown, *Director of Account Services*, provided an update on anticipated PG&E rate changes and explained how Peninsula Clean Energy staff proposes to respond. Committee members discussed how PG&E rates impact Peninsula Clean Energy's electricity generation rates, customer bills, and opt-out rates.

##### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

John McKenna asked whether Peninsula Clean Energy has a policy to raise rates in alignment with PG&E's rate increases.

#### **8. Proposed Update to Peninsula Clean Energy Delinquent Accounts and Bad Debt Policy (Action)**

Leslie Brown discussed the proposed changes to Policy 13: Delinquent Accounts and Bad Debt Collections Policy. Leslie explained that this policy applies to customers who owe Peninsula Clean Energy for electricity generation charges after their accounts have closed.

Kathleen Goforth motioned to make the following statement to the Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors.

*The CAC expresses support for the updated policy because it is humane and would be beneficial to Peninsula Clean Energy financially.*

Motion Made / Seconded: Goforth / Huizar

**Motion passed 11-0 (Absent: Baerwaldt, Bailey, Sudhakar)**

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

Jason Mendelson reported that the Electric Vehicle Managed Charging Program Working Group is continuing to make progress.

Robert Whitehair, *Committee Member*, expressed enthusiasm for Peninsula Clean Energy's upcoming program to expand support for single-family home electrification.

Michael Closson, *Committee Member*, shared that the Local Solar + Storage Programs Working Group is continuing to research residential solar + storage programs offered by other utilities.

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

Vanessa Shin, *Senior Community Outreach Specialist*, invited Committee members to complete the annual CAC satisfaction survey.

Kirsten Andrews-Schwind, *Senior Manager of Community Relations*, shared that Peninsula Clean Energy is developing a Climate Champion Award. Kirsten also announced that the CARE/FERA bill credit will be applied to customer bills in December and January.

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

Kirsten Andrews-Schwind previewed topics for the upcoming meetings of the Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors. For January's CAC meeting, Kirsten suggested a training on the California Public Utilities Commission and other major stakeholders in the energy industry, which the CAC has requested previously.

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

No Committee Member Reports.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.