

**REGULAR MEETING of the Citizens Advisory Committee
of the Peninsula Clean Energy Authority (PCEA)
Thursday, March 14, 2024
MINUTES**

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

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL**Present:**

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

Steven Booker, Half Moon Bay
Kathleen Goforth, San Carlos
Mele Heimuli, East Palo Alto
Aurelio Huizar, Burlingame
Gail Lee, San Bruno
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

Remote participation under Gov't Code § 54953(j)(2)(B) (illness):

Margaret Li, South San Francisco

Absent:

Diane Bailey, Belmont
Michael Closson, Menlo Park

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 February 8, 2024, Regular Meeting

Motion Made / Seconded: Whitehair / Thayer

Motion passed 8-0 (Absent: Bailey, Closson, Goforth, Li, Mendelson)

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Chair Report (Discussion)

Cheryl Schaff, *Chair*, summarized the previous Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting on February 8, 2024.

3. Member Introductions (Discussion)

Cheryl Schaff invited each member of the Committee to introduce themselves and answer the following questions: *What do you believe is the most effective personality trait that you bring to climate change mitigation?*

4. Recommendation on Peninsula Clean Energy Rate-Setting Methodology (Action)

Nick Bijur, *Chief Financial Officer*, explained the options for setting Peninsula Clean Energy's customer rates, including the current methodology, cost of service, and a hybrid approach. Nick reviewed the benefits and challenges of each approach. Committee members inquired about the proposed frequency of rate changes and the impact on the budget for energy programs.

Robert Whitehair, *Committee Member*, shared that Peninsula Clean Energy's lower rates help build support for electrification among local elected officials. Kathleen Goforth, *Committee Member*, expressed comfort with the staff proposal if it does not unduly constrain the development of new programs. Committee members discussed how PG&E rate increases impact customer perceptions of Peninsula Clean Energy.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Kabat asked whether solar customers would be considered as a separate customer class under the proposed hybrid approach. Tom suggested creating a stacked bar chart that distinguishes the different charges and explains where Peninsula Clean Energy generation discount would be applied.

5. Recommendation on Proposed Changes to Net Energy Metering (NEM) 1 and 2 Program (Action)

Leslie Brown, *Director of Account Services*, explained the proposed changes for Net Energy Metering customers whose solar systems generate more value in excess energy than they have consumed.

Committee members discussed the opportunities to engage with customers who generate excess solar energy and over \$20,000 in credits, such as encouraging them to install batteries. Leslie clarified the challenges with retrofitting a solar system with batteries, including the high cost and need for infrastructure upgrades. Desiree Thayer, *Committee Member*, recommended outreach to these customers to encourage electrification.

Jason Mendelson, *Vice Chair*, asked whether aligning Peninsula Clean Energy and PG&E's true up is feasible as an opportunity to improve messaging. Connor Prince, *Senior Analyst, Account Services*, explained that this would require an overhaul of the current billing system as well as increased coordination with PG&E.

The CAC made the following recommendation to the Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors:

The PCE Community Advisory Committee supports the staff recommendation regarding changes to the NEM annual cash out policy, and asks PCE to encourage the excessive solar generators to fully electrify their facilities, add battery storage, and/or explore the potential for microgrids.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick DeGolia requested clarification on whether the cash out is managed on a meter-by-meter or customer-by-customer basis.

Motion Made / Seconded: Goforth / Mendelson

Motion passed 10-0 (Absent: Bailey, Booker, Closson)

6. Review of Peninsula Clean Energy Outreach Talking Points (Discussion)

Kirsten Andrews-Schwind, *Associate Director of Community Relations and Climate Equity*, reviewed Peninsula Clean Energy key messages, talking points around energy programs and bill discounts, and other outreach tips for communicating with the public.

7. Community Advisory Committee Participation in Spring Community Outreach (Discussion)

Kirsten Andrews-Schwind invited Committee members to support Peninsula Clean Energy's upcoming community outreach at tabling events.

8. Solar + Storage Programs Working Group Update (Discussion)

Jason Mendelson presented an overview of research conducted by the Solar + Storage Programs Working Group. Jason requested that Committee members share examples or models of other solar and storage programs. Peter Levitt, *Programs Manager, Distributed Energy Resources*, expressed gratitude for the working group's research and efforts.

9. Working Group Overview and Reports (Discussion)

Robert Whitehair shared that the Building Electrification Working Group has meet to discuss alternative approaches and policies for building electrification.

10. Marketing and Community Liaison Update (Discussion)

No Marketing and Community Liaison Update.

11. Upcoming Topics for Discussion (Discussion)

Kirsten Andrews-Schwind previewed topics for the upcoming meetings of the

Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors. Robert Whitehair requested an overview of the energy performance and air quality approaches for building electrification, now that the model codes have been published. Kirsten suggested a discussion on ideas for the next round of CAC working groups. Cheryl Schaff requested an update on the CAC recruitment process.

12. Committee Members' Reports (Discussion)

Robert Whitehair announced an upcoming home electrification workshop at the San Mateo Library on April 2.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.