



**Community Advisory Committee
Special Retreat**

Tuesday, October 15, 2024
6:00 pm

In Person:

The Lake Merritt Room
Cal State East Bay - the Oakland Center
In the Transpacific Centre
1000 Broadway, Suite 109
Oakland, CA 94607

Or from the following remote locations:

- 4563 Meyer Park Circle, Fremont, CA 94536
- Starbucks at 1857 11th St. Tracy, CA 95376

Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84794506189>

Or join by phone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 929
205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free)
Webinar ID: 847 9450 6189

Meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the meeting materials, should contact the Clerk of the Board at least 2 working days before the meeting at (510) 906-0491 or cob@avaenergy.org.

If you have anything that you wish to be distributed to the Committee, please email it to the clerk by 5:00 pm the day prior to the meeting.

C1. Welcome & Roll Call

C2. Public Comment

This item is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on any Ava Community Energy-related matters that are not otherwise on this meeting agenda. Public comments on matters listed on the agenda shall be heard at the time the matter is called. As with all public comment, members of the public who wish to address the Committee are customarily limited to three minutes per speaker and must complete an electronic [speaker slip](#). The Committee Chair may increase or decrease the time allotted to each speaker.

C3. CAC Member/Alternate and Ava Staff ‘Meet and Greet’ Dinner

C4. CAC Strategic Planning Session

CAC will discuss priorities and consider updates to the CAC Work Plan

C5. Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2024

C6. CAC Chair Report

C7. CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items on future CAC agendas

C8. Adjourn

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on November 18, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

The Lake Merritt Room
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CAC Strategic Planning Session



1. CAC Meet & Greet
2. Strategic Planning Session:
Discussion & Review of
Survey Responses to Guide
CAC Work Plan Updates



CAC Strategic Planning Session



Goals of CAC Meet & Greet + Strategic Planning Session

- 1) Cultivate rapport & strengthen CAC relationships as we welcome new CAC members/Ava communities
- 2) Develop an updated, organized Work Plan (per JPA Sec. 4.9)
- 3) Help the CAC identify priorities and align with staff processes



Ava Community Energy Overview



History in Brief

2015

CCA Steering Committee convened & feasibility study commissioned by Alameda County

2016

Ava formed as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA)

2018

Launched service to residential and commercial customers in 11 cities and unincorporated Alameda County

2019

Cities of Tracy, Pleasanton, and Newark join JPA

2021

Began service to Cities of Tracy, Pleasanton, and Newark

2022

City of Stockton joins JPA

2023

City of Lathrop joins JPA

2024

Unincorporated San Joaquin County joins JPA; service expected to begin in 2026 (pending CPUC certification)

2025

Service begins to the Cities of Stockton and Lathrop



Community Advisory Committee Overview



Community Advisory Committee

- The CAC was established in Section 4.9 of Ava's Joint Powers Agreement
- The Committee acts in a solely advisory capacity
- CAC Members/Alts are appointed by the Board of Directors
 - They are nominated by regional Board Members, except for two (2) At Large members
- The CAC meets once a month (usually the Monday before the BOD meets)
- Examples of previous CAC discussion items:
 - Long-term energy contracts
 - Local development initiatives
 - Legislative priorities
 - Annual Ava budgeting process & value proposition
 - Branding and marketing initiatives



“ The function of the Community Advisory Committee shall be to advise the Board of Directors on all subjects related to the operation of the CCA Program as set forth in a work plan adopted by the Board of Directors from time to time, with the exception of personnel and litigation decisions. The Community Advisory Committee is advisory only, and shall not have decision making authority, or receive any delegation of authority from the Board of Directors.”

Ava Community Energy Joint Powers Authority (JPA), Section 4.9



Current CAC Structure

(Subject to adjustment to reflect new JPA members/ communities & service area expansion)

Region/ Jurisdictions	JPA Vote Share	CAC Seat Allocation	Alternate Seat Allocation
North Albany, Berkeley, Oakland, Emeryville, and Piedmont	27.7%	3	1 (OPEN)
East Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton	12.8%	1	1
South Fremont, Union City and Newark	20.1%	2	1 (OPEN)
Central Hayward, San Leandro, and Alameda County Unincorporated	18.5%	2	1
San Joaquin County Tracy, Stockton, and Lathrop	20.9%	2	1 (OPEN)
At-large		2	
Total		12	5



Current CAC Membership

Member	Region
Cynthia Landry	North
Indira Balkissoon	North
Peter Weiner (Alt)	North
Pete Stephenson	East
Jill Gile (Alt)	East
Vijay Lakshman	South
Shiva Swaminathan	South
Ernesto Pacheco	Central
Lorraine "Mickey" Souza, Vice Chair	Central
Rachel DiFranco (Alt)	Central
Harman Ratia	San Joaquin County
Davis Harper	San Joaquin County
Jim Lutz	At Large
Ed Hernandez, Chair	At Large



2018 CAC Work Plan

- In 2018, the CAC proposed adding three broad areas of focus
- **Area 1: Beneficial Pillars**
 - Social – Jobs/workforce training, community resiliency, social equity issues
 - Economic – Rates and budgets
 - Environmental – Distributed generation projects, energy efficiency, demand response, building electrification, EVs
- **Area 2: Local Opportunities**
- **Area 3: Legislative/Public Policy/Regulatory**



Work Plan Development



Strategic Planning

- **Goal**
 - Discuss the Committee's priorities and energy interest areas
 - Discuss updates to the CAC's Work Plan
- **Process**
 - To help inform today's discussion, the CAC Chair sent a survey to all Members and Alternates ahead of this meeting to collect feedback about priorities
 - 10 Members submitted responses
 - A summary of responses can be found in the agenda packet
 - The next several slides will include an overview of survey responses to key questions



Priorities

Survey Question: What do you see as the highest priorities of this Committee?

Common responses from the CAC survey:

- Advocating for Ava communities/geographic regions
- Thinking about local impact
- Providing local expertise and feedback to Ava's staff and Board
- Advocating for affordable and clean electricity



Priorities: Overview of Survey Responses

- "Rate allocation to help those in need; advocacy for steps to lower costs of renewable energy."
- "Meeting the needs of the public"
- "To advise the Ava Community Energy board and to bring issues of importance to the attention of the Board."
- "Assisting AVA Community Energy meet the goal of purchasing 100% clean power for all customers by 2030. Also to listen to the public and advising the Board of AVA on issues related to keeping electricity accessible and equitable as well as assisting the board to make decisions about investing in the communities served by AVA to transition to renewable energy."
- "Independence of Ava from PG&E (like AMP, SMUD, SVP), reduction in costs to customers."
- "Collect public opinion and advocate for the community."
- "Thinking about the the impact to communities and provide recommendations."
- "Creating affordable, clean and renewable energy for the residents and good paying local jobs in this sector"



Priorities: Overview of Survey Responses (cont.)

- “Community advisory committee members provide local expertise to advise the Board of Directors on Local Development project priorities, policy issues (affordability, clean energy procurement, etc), and community engagement needs specific to the geographic areas they represent. The committee reviews each Board of Directors agenda ahead of time and makes recommendations. The advisory body is extremely important to ensure diverse perspectives and locally specific priorities are uplifted in policy and programmatic investment decisions made by the Board of Directors.”
- “I see the CAC as a body that provides a gut check to and ground truthing of efforts being proposed and considered by the Ava staff and Board of Directors. As representatives of the community, the CAC can offer insight on community needs and priorities, suggestions for programs and services, and feedback on staff initiatives before they reach the Board for consideration.”



Energy Topics

Survey question: Please identify energy topics and/or Ava energy programs you think the CAC should focus on in the coming year?

Frequently mentioned topics in CAC survey:

- Affordability/lowering electricity bills for customers
- Equitable programming that prioritizes low-income customers and environmental justice
- Building and transportation electrification programs
- Solar and Storage incentives/programs



Energy Topics: Overview of Survey Responses

- “Rolling out local business development programs with a special focus on environmental justice communities. Keeping customers total electricity bills low.”
- “Renewable solutions coupled with energy conservation.”
- “Equitable and affordable building and transportation electrification are essential. Heat pump water and space conditioning technologies are more costly than their gas alternatives, the public is still not widely aware of the technologies, the contractor base still has significant needs for education and training, the distribution network still needs to become stronger, and upgrade efforts are targeted toward single family homeowners or commercial property owners, not tenants. Similarly, transportation electrification is still concentrated on high-end new EV models, and EV charging deployments tend to be geographically located in areas that serve these wealthier EV owners. Moderate and lower income individuals, youth, the elderly, and renters all are left out of the equation. I would like to see Ava focus on rolling out new electrification programs that are specifically designed to help moderate and low income households and renters.”



Energy Topics: Overview of Survey Responses (cont.)

- “Keeping electricity prices affordable, introducing and supporting electrification technologies that reduce GHG emission's like bidirectional charging.”
- “Rolling out solar and energy storage for the low income.”
- “Solar and wind”
- “Independence of Ava from PG&E (like AMP, SMUD, SVP), reduction in costs to customers.”
- “Resilience hubs, incentives for solar and battery storage for residents.”
- “How to reduce permitting costs and delays”



Meeting Frequency & Length

- Survey question: Do you feel that the current frequency and length of CAC meetings is optimal? Currently once a month for 2-3 hours. If no, what specific adjustments would you make to frequency and length?
- Take aways
 - 4 responses satisfied with frequency and length
 - 2 responses prefer meetings are shorter than 3 hours
 - 2 responses recommend more frequent meetings
 - Suggestion of subcommittees, if necessary



Next Steps

- CAC/staff to develop draft updates to CAC Work Plan identifying key focus areas
- Draft updates agendized for future CAC discussion/consideration
- Final updates to the CAC Work Plan must be approved by the Board of Directors





Community Energy

Appendix



Ava Community Energy Overview

Ava Community Energy (Ava) is a local community choice power supplier committed to providing Alameda County and the City of Tracy with clean, green electricity at low rates. Ava service will expand to Stockton and Lathrop in 2025.

Ava is the default provider of electricity generation service (the power plants) for all customers (residential, commercial, and municipal) in the jurisdictions we serve. Per State law (AB 117), Customers are automatically enrolled in Ava's service and are billed by PG&E.

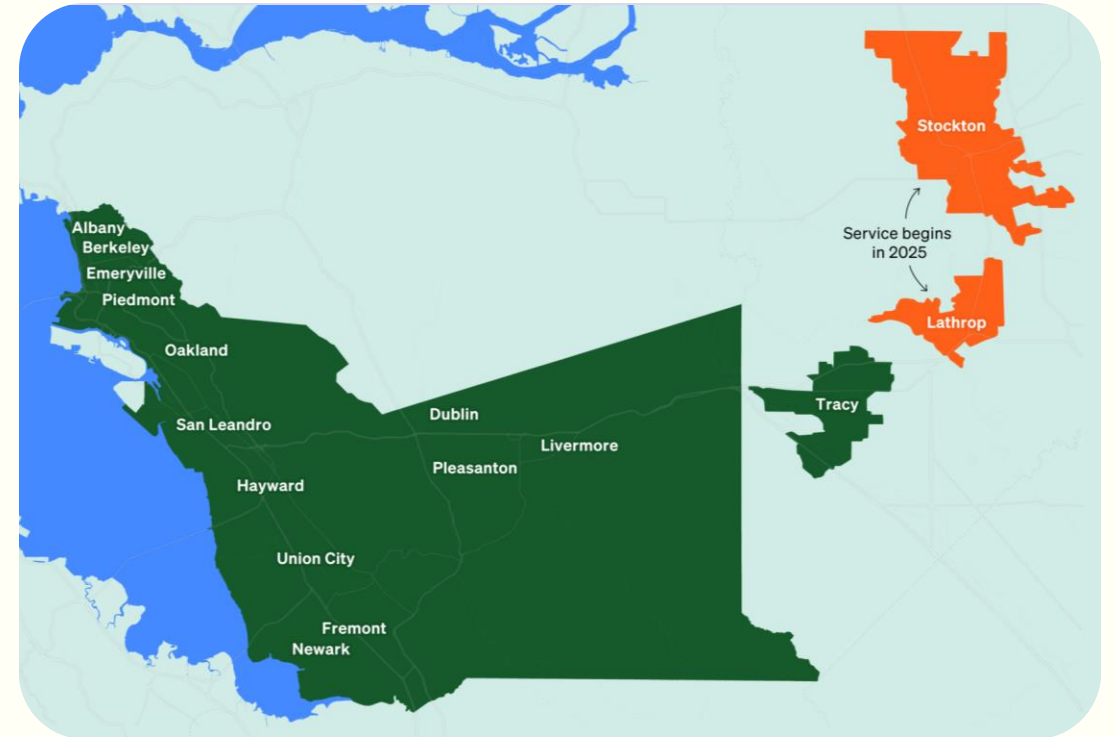
Ava is a not-for-profit public agency that reinvests earnings back into the community to create local green energy jobs, local energy programs, and clean power projects.



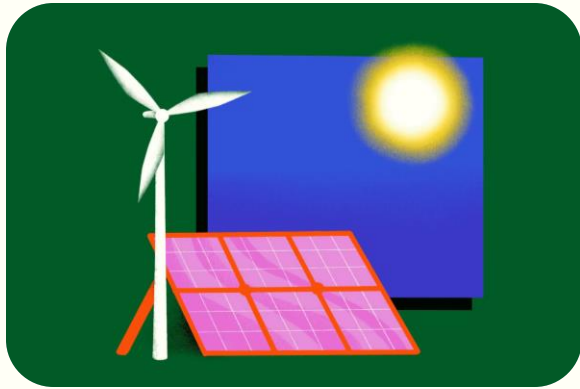
Ava Member Jurisdictions

Alameda County and the City of Tracy are members of Ava's Joint Powers Authority (JPA). In 2022, the City of Stockton joined the JPA, quickly followed by the City of Lathrop in 2023. These two San Joaquin County cities will begin service with Ava in 2025.

In July of 2024, Ava's Board approved the JPA membership request of unincorporated San Joaquin County. The County's membership is currently pending certification by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), with service expected to begin in 2026.



How it Works



Ava Buys Clean Power

Ava buys from, and is building, clean power plants. Ava sells the power to customers at low rates.



PG&E Delivers the Power

Ava's power is delivered to customers by PG&E. Customers pay PG&E for power delivery as they always have.



You Get the Power & Benefits

You benefit from clean energy, low rates, local governance, and innovative programs.



Customer Billing: How it Works

Your bill comes for PG&E every month.

A. Your Account Number

You will need this number if you change your Ava service level or choose PG&E service.

B. PG&E Delivery Charges

This is PG&E's charge to deliver electricity over their transmission lines, maintain infrastructure, and provide other services including their customer service and billing.

C. Ava Electric Generation Charges

This charge covers Ava's cost of purchasing clean electricity for customers, plus relevant local taxes.

D. Total Amount Due

This is the total amount you pay to PG&E for all charges from both PG&E and Ava.

The image shows a sample PG&E Energy Statement. A callout box highlights the account information: Account No. [redacted], Statement Date: 12/06/2023, and Due Date: 12/27/2023. Another callout box highlights the 'Your Account Summary' table, which includes: Amount Due on Previous Statement (\$283.36), Payment(s) Received Since Last Statement (-283.36), Previous Unpaid Balance (\$0.00), Current PG&E Electric Delivery Charges (\$76.63), Ava Community Energy Electric Generation Charges (48.08), Current Gas Charges (83.99), and Total Amount Due by 12/27/2023 (\$208.70). Callouts A, B, C, and D are placed next to the account number, the summary table, the generation charges, and the total amount due, respectively.

Your Account Summary	
Amount Due on Previous Statement	\$283.36
Payment(s) Received Since Last Statement	-283.36
Previous Unpaid Balance	\$0.00
Current PG&E Electric Delivery Charges	\$76.63
Ava Community Energy Electric Generation Charges	48.08
Current Gas Charges	83.99
Total Amount Due by 12/27/2023	\$208.70

Page 1: Sample Bill



What are my Options?

KEY

- Solar
- Wind
- Biomass & Biowaste, Geothermal, Eligible Hydroelectric
- Hydro
- Nuclear
- Other or Unspecified



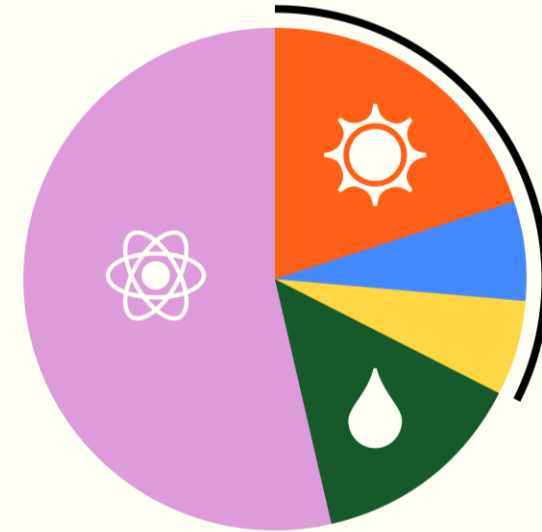
Bright Choice

55% renewable energy
at rates 5% below PG&E



Renewable 100

100% solar & wind
energy at 1/4 cent per
kilowatt-hour above PG&E
rates



PG&E



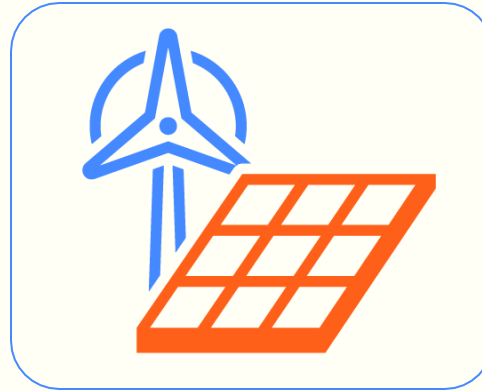
What are the Benefits?



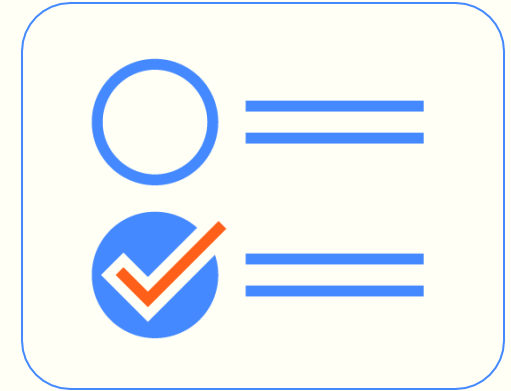
Lower Rates



Local Control & Investment



Sustainability



Customer Choice and Programs

Local Development



Transportation Electrification

- Public fast charging network
- Medium/heavy duty vehicle electrification
- E-Bike incentives



Building Electrification

- Induction stove retrofits
- Induction cooking demonstrations



Resilience

- Resilient Critical Municipal Facilities
- Resilience Hubs
- Solar + Storage Incentives



Energy Efficiency

- Commercial Energy Efficiency



Responses Collected from the CAC Member Survey

10 CAC Members/Alternates submitted responses.

What do you see as the highest priorities of this Committee?

- “Rate allocation to help those in need; advocacy for steps to lower costs of renewable energy.”
- “meeting the needs of the public”
- “To advise the Ava Community Energy board and to bring issues of importance to the attention of the Board.”
- “Assisting AVA Community Energy meet the goal of purchasing 100% clean power for all customers by 2030. Also to listen to the public and advising the Board of AVA on issues related to keeping electricity accessible and equitable as well as assisting the board to make decisions about investing in the communities served by AVA to transition to renewable energy. “
- “Independence of Ava from PG&E (like AMP, SMUD, SVP), reduction in costs to customers.”
- “Collect public opinion and advocate for the community.”
- “Thinking about the the impact to communities and provide recommendations.”
- “Creating affordable, clean and renewable energy for the residents and good paying local jobs in this sector”
- “Community advisory committee members provide local expertise to advise the Board of Directors on Local Development project priorities, policy issues (affordability, clean energy procurement, etc), and community engagement needs specific to the geographic areas they represent. The committee reviews each Board of Directors agenda ahead of time and makes recommendations. The advisory body is extremely important to ensure diverse perspectives and locally specific priorities are uplifted in policy and programmatic investment decisions made by the Board of Directors.”
- “I see the CAC as a body that provides a gut check to and ground truthing of efforts being proposed and considered by the Ava staff and Board of Directors. As representatives of the community, the CAC can offer insight on community needs and priorities, suggestions for programs and services, and feedback on staff initiatives before they reach the Board for consideration.”

Please identify energy topics and/or Ava energy programs you think the CAC should focus on in the coming year?

- “Rolling out local business development programs with a special focus on environmental justice communities. Keeping customers total electricity bills low.”
- “Renewable solutions coupled with energy conservation.”
- “Equitable and affordable building and transportation electrification are essential. Heat pump water and space conditioning technologies are more costly than their gas alternatives, the public is still not widely aware of the technologies, the contractor base still has significant needs for education and training, the distribution network still needs to become stronger, and upgrade efforts are targeted toward single family homeowners or commercial property owners, not tenants. Similarly, transportation electrification is still concentrated on high-end new EV models, and EV charging deployments tend to be geographically located in areas that serve these wealthier EV owners. Moderate and lower income individuals, youth, the elderly, and renters all are left out of the equation. I would like to see Ava focus on rolling out new electrification programs that are specifically designed to help moderate and low income households and renters.”
- “How to reduce permitting costs and delays”
- “Keeping electricity prices affordable, introducing and supporting electrification technologies that reduce GHG emissions like bidirectional charging.”
- “Rolling out solar and energy storage for the low income.”
- “Solar and wind”
- “Independence of Ava from PG&E (like AMP, SMUD, SVP), reduction in costs to customers.”
- “Resilience hubs, incentives for solar and battery storage for residents.”

Please share some examples of how your background reflects Ava’s community and how it informs the insight you’re able to provide on the Committee.

- “I grew up in Fremont and have lived in San Leandro and now unincorporated Alameda County (Hayward-Cherryland). My parents are blue collar and as a child we at times struggled with paying all the bills. As an environmentalist I am acutely aware of the challenge that many households face when considering how their money will be spent, and I want to ensure that climate solutions are available and accessible to all community members, not just those with disposable income.”

- “Previous elected, understand how people may perceive the value of Ava, if none, they would opt out.”
- “My business consults for clients to reduce emissions using energy efficiency.”
- “I have worked with community advisory committees (CACs) in my role at the Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as a Superfund Remedial Project Manager. I have also served as an Environmental Justice Project Officer and a Tribal Coordinator for USEPA. I was one of the authors and project manager of USEPA Region 1 (New England) Urban Environmental Program. CACs provided expertise, local knowledge, and experience critical to the success of my projects at EPA. They served as a voice for the community to the Agency.

I bring a professional background in environmental science, regulation, policy, greenhouse gas verification and community outreach. I have a Master of Science Degree in Geology (New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology) and a Masters of Public Administration (Harvard University). I have worked in the environmental field for 30 plus years while at the USEPA and later as a consultant to USEPA. Finally, I worked for a Designated Operational Entity, Det Norse Veritas under the Kyoto Protocol for Norway which verified carbon credits. I was also one of California’s delegates to the United Nations Climate Conference of Parties in 2008 Poznan and 2009 Copenhagen.

I have been a resident of Piedmont for the past 23 years. My children attended Piedmont Schools. I retired in 2019 and am associated with 3 groups in Piedmont and have an opportunity to be in contact with many people. I have and continue to support the City to pursue the Climate Action Plan (CAP 2.0) and other sustainability goals as a past member of a climate action group called Piedmont Connect (Connect).

As member of Connect, I worked on issues related to the Piedmont REACH Codes (REACH Codes) and the All-electric Community Pool. Overall my main input was to provide technical comments where possible to assist the City Council in evaluating the various proposals for the REACH codes as well as for the pool. For the pool, Connect explored the energy options available and concluded that an all electric net zero energy pool was possible based on available technology including solar and heat pumps. This conclusion was validated by the architects and City Council.

Currently I am a member of the Piedmont Electrification Task Force focusing on ways to reduce residential GHG emissions.

I own an almost 100 year old home which we have been electrifying and have become very familiar with some of the unique questions, frustrations, and costs associated with residential electrification. Electrification is not a one size fits all. I think I bring the knowledge and objectivity to assist from a place of technical knowledge rather than advocacy and can understand the trade-offs home owners face when trying to figure out the best and most affordable options for them.”

- “Livermore resident for 24 yrs, solar owner-1.5 years”

- "I am a senior citizen. I am an expert in permitting costs and delays."
- "I have been a resident of Alameda county, specifically Oakland for over thirty years and actively supporting energy democracy for the past dozen years."
- "I am a physicist and understand nuclear energy and related issues."
- "I've been in solar and battery storage area for now than a decade and can share different ideas on how we in CAC bring different ways to solve low income customers."
- "I am a Stockton resident who is from the Central Valley. I've built lasting cross-sector partnerships, developed an expertise in public fund development for climate projects, and have deep expertise in the Stockton community."

I worked with Stockton community leaders, policymakers, and allied organizations to facilitate Stockton's membership in Ava Community Energy. I facilitated peer-to-peer meetings between Stockton City staff and CCA member jurisdictions throughout California; coordinated a letter with Stockton EJ groups to CPUC commissioners following delays to Stockton's service launch with EBCE; studied several CCA expansions and initiatives; provided educational presentations on CCA to chambers of commerce, city councils, and graduate classes; and facilitated roundtable discussions among staff from CCAs, city officials, elected leaders, and community organizers to provide education on CCA and spur collaborative locally tailored program development.

I've also provided grant scoping and development services resulting in more than \$11M of public and philanthropic funding for regional economic development planning efforts and climate resilience hub projects in Stockton and the broader North San Joaquin Valley."

Please share any relevant information on energy-related experience or expertise that you have.

- "Building analyst with 15 years of experience in energy efficiency."
- "Worked 7 yrs in solar industry- educating home owners about PGE rates, tier-pricing and net metering. Sold batteries, solar systems and EV chargers. Many brands including Enphase and Tesla."
- "As a consultant, I orchestrated technical assistance from NREL staff to support an EJ community-led resilience hub project. At a climate policy nonprofit, I researched CPUC dockets and followed several CPUC proceedings and state legislative and regulatory decisions impacting CCAs; as a newspaper reporter, I covered PG&E PSPS events, PG&E bankruptcy; and general rate cases."

- “I have extensive knowledge of energy efficiency standards at the state and national level with strong interest in water heating and plumbing. In the past few years this has included technical efforts to electrify water heating in California.”
- “I have extensive experience with nuclear energy and nuclear-related issues.”
- “I have worked in the energy and climate sector for 15 years. I have project and program management experience in residential, commercial, and municipal energy efficiency, demand response, solar, microgrids, and electric vehicles. My current position with the City of Palo Alto Utilities is overseeing multifamily and e-mobility programs. I am also a LEED Accredited Professional in Building Operations and Maintenance, and have robust experience in community-scale greenhouse gas inventories and climate action planning. I am also well-versed in climate messaging for behavior change and have a strong sense of the types of messaging and program design elements that are necessary to make a program successful.”
- “I’ve provided several implementation recommendation for our community around the SF Bay.”
- “I represent renewable energy companies and trade associations on land use and regulatory matters.”
- “Serving Ava Community Energy board.”

Do you feel that the current frequency and length of CAC meetings is optimal? Currently once a month for 2-3 hours. If no, what specific adjustments would you make to frequency and length?

- “None”
- “3 hrs seems long”
- “I would recommend the CAC add another meeting per month to focus on individual topics relevant to Ava Community Energy such as resilience hubs, updating the Local Business Development Business Plan, decoupling generation rates from PG&E's rates, incentives for solar and storage at homes and businesses, etc”
- “I am good with the meetings varying based on need.”
- “Limiting meetings to 2 hours would be ideal.”
- “The frequency matches with the board and is appropriate.”
- “Meet every other week, come up with deliverables for each CAC member to drive adoption.”
- “Yes.”
- “Mtg length is OK, but there may be a need for subcommittees depending on how much the group hopes to accomplish together.”
- “Yes.”

Are there any barriers that regularly prevent you from participating in CAC meetings?

- “No”
- “no”
- “Not really”
- “No”
- “No.”
- “No”
- “None”
- “Commute, on occasion.”
- “Yes, I am an alternate member. I have young kids and my participation for meetings requires advance notice so that I can make sure to have adequate childcare arrangements for the evening. As an alternate I am often asked last minute to stand in for another member, where I do not have enough advance notice to publicly notice my remote location, so I must attend in person instead. I do not wish to publicly notice my home address in order to participate remotely, but understand under the Brown Act I have to. I do not wish to always notice my location just in case I am asked to fill in, but rather only post it if I know I will be filling in and cannot attend in person.”
- “The mtgs are very far away, so it's difficult to make it in person, which I would love to be able to do.”



Draft Minutes

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, September 16, 2024

6:00 pm

In Person:

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Cal State East Bay - the Oakland Center
In the Transpacific Centre
1000 Broadway, Suite 109
Oakland, CA 94607

Or from the following remote locations:

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- 4563 Meyer Park Circle, Fremont, CA 94536
- 4664 Rousillon Ave, Fremont, CA 94555
- Starbucks at 1857 11th St. Tracy, CA 95376
- 1234 W Oak St, Stockton, CA 95204

Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84794506189>

Or join by phone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

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If you have anything that you wish to be distributed to the Committee, please email it to the clerk by 5:00 pm the day prior to the meeting.

C1. Welcome & Roll Call

Present: Members: Landry, Balkissoon, Swaminathan, Lakshman, DiFranco, Kaur, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez

Not Present: Members: Hu, Stephenson and Pacheco

Director DiFranco served as an alternate for Director Pacheco (Central).

C2. Public Comment

This item is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on any Ava Community Energy-related matters that are not otherwise on this meeting agenda. Public comments on matters listed on the agenda shall be heard at the time the matter is called. As with all public comment, members of the public who wish to address the Committee are customarily limited to three minutes per speaker and must complete an electronic [speaker slip](#). The Committee Chair may increase or decrease the time allotted to each speaker.

(39:58) Public Comment: Audrey Ichinose expressed appreciation for the early advocates and current board members of Ava Community Energy and suggested that Ava periodically reflect on its roots to ensure its programs align with its foundational objectives.

(43:06) Public Comment: Brenden Pittman spoke about the use of unspecified energy in Ava's Bright Choice plan and advocated for the elimination of unspecified energy from the energy portfolio.

(47:01) Public Comment: Ayla Peters Paz Ayla thanked the Community Advisory Committee for opposing the nuclear allocation and encouraged committee members to voice their opinions at upcoming board meetings in support of renewable energy initiatives.

C3. Approval of Minutes from July 15, 2024

Member Landry motioned to approve the minutes. Member Lutz seconded the motion, which was approved 9/0/0/0/3:

Yes: Members: Landry, Balkissoon, Swaminathan, Lakshman, DiFranco, Kaur, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez

No: none

Abstain: none

Recuse: none

Not Present: Members Hu, Stephenson and Pacheco

C4. (50:28) CAC Chair Report

- **Chair Hernandez** summarized the July 17, 2024 Board of Directors meeting, highlighting public comments about resilience hubs, opposition to nuclear power, and approval of solar and storage projects.

- **Chair Hernandez** also discussed plans for an upcoming meet-and-greet with CEO Howard Chang.
- **Member Balkissoon** contributed updates on bi-directional EV charging initiatives.

C5. (1:00:18) Ballot Initiative Discussion (Board Consent Item)

Consider taking a position on Proposition 4

Todd Edmister introduced the item and outlined the limitations on advocacy by staff. Todd Edmister also provided an overview of the proposition's allocation of bond funds and addressed questions about costs and funding allocation. Committee members expressed concerns about the lack of specificity in the bond's goals, with some members advocating for a neutral stance due to the broad and ambiguous nature of the proposal. A vote was not taken for this item. The consensus was to table the discussion and revisit the issue if the Board does not take a position on the proposition.

(1:10:05) Public Comment – Brenden Pittman questioned whether Ava Community Energy should support the bond proposition, which he described as lacking specific details. Mr. Pittman urged an evaluation against Ava's founding principles and suggested that promoting "clean" energy might be more appropriate than solely focusing on "renewable" energy.

C6. (1:21:05) Hourly Pricing Pilots (Board Consent Item)

Consider resolution to participate in hourly flex pricing pilots with PG&E

Todd Edmister introduced real-time pricing pilots aimed at aligning Ava's energy costs with market rates, as part of compliance with California Energy Commission regulations. The pilots will allow customers to respond to hourly price fluctuations, including expanded options for multiple customer classes and a vehicle-to-grid integration pilot that enables energy to be sold back to the grid. He stated that the pilots offer potential financial benefits without increased risks due to bill protection measures. Committee members raised questions about the complexity of rate structures, customer engagement strategies, and technical details for automating responses to pricing changes. After discussion, the committee voted to recommend the pilots for board adoption, with the goal of gaining insights into customer behavior and refining future rate designs.

Member Balkissoon motioned to support staff's recommendation. Member Lutz seconded the motion, which was approved 8/0/2/0/3

Yes: Members Balkissoon, Swaminathan, Lakshman, DiFranco, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez

No: None

Abstain: Members Landry and Kaur

Recuse: None

Not Present: Members Hu and Stephenson

C7. (1:54:10) EV Charging Community Investment Grant (Board Consent Item)

Consider authorizing the CEO to negotiate and execute two grant agreements for the purpose of installing community-owned Electric Vehicle (“EV”) charging sites.

Heidy Ramirez introduced two proposed grants for community-owned EV charging stations, with \$300,000 allocated to both California Interfaith Power and Light and Green the Church over three years. Ms. Ramirez explained the selection process, highlighting the evaluation criteria based on the organizations' capacity, project plans, and alignment with Ava's goals. The committee raised questions about costs, maintenance, site readiness, pricing policies, and the potential for discounts for low-income customers. The committee ultimately voted to recommend the grants to the board while suggesting more engagement with the CAC and board members in future grant evaluations.

(2:08:32) Public Comment – Ayla Peters Paz spoke in support of California Interfaith Power and Light and Green the Church, citing their work on behalf of environmental justice. Ayla Peters Paz also advocated for increased funding for broader energy resources and programs for faith-based and community organizations in low-income communities.

Member Balkissoon motioned to approve staff's recommendation.

Member Lutz offered a friendly amendment to include a recommendation to discuss the programs with the CAC and board before they go out, or during the process.

Member Balkissoon accepted the friendly amendment.

Member DiFranco seconded the motion, with was approved 10/0/0/2

Yes: Members Landry, Balkissoon, Swaminathan, Lakshman, DiFranco, Kaur, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez

No: None

Abstain: None

Recuse: None

Not Present: Members Hu and Stephenson

C8. (2:20:11) CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items on future CAC agendas

- **Member DiFranco** requested that a future board agenda include a discussion on increasing the CAC's involvement in grant decision-making, pilot program design, and other program development processes to allow for more meaningful input earlier in the conversation.

- **Member Balkissoon** requested a future committee discussion to explore successful strategies from other cities for incentivizing residential electrification.
- **Member Balkissoon** also requested a future committee discussion about the pricing dynamics of renewable energy, specifically why rates for Renewable 100 remain high despite advances in solar and battery technology.

C9. Adjourned at 8:06pm.

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

The Lake Merritt Room
Cal State East Bay - the Oakland Center
In the Transpacific Centre
1000 Broadway, Suite 109
Oakland, CA 94607

Topics for future Community Advisory Committee meetings.

Here is a partial list of information I feel would help me as a CAC member have a clearer understanding of Ava Community Energy activities. This information would help me better advise the Board on important issues.

A complete list of Ava's local business development projects, with a brief description of each including indicators of success such as number of sites, number of jobs, number of dollars, number of kWhs, etc

A complete list of grants Ava has received for electrification and related projects, with a brief description of each, including funding sources, projected timeline, and some indicator of expected deliverables. And also a list of applications submitted, being developed, and being considered.

A clear description of how much Ava is paying for in-territory, in-state and out-of-state MWh and other resource attributes. Also a clear summary of the amounts of the different types of resources purchased.

A summary of the load Ava currently supplies and plans to supply. This should include a list of rate classes, numbers of customers, amount of load by city and region.

I also have a few more specific questions.

A clear description of what exactly the deal with PG&E regarding Diablo Canyon power involves, what exactly is being purchased? MWh, RA, carbon-free attributes, etc? How much does it cost compared to other sources? How do we get a copy of the contract?

What are the plans and processes envisioned for the transition away from indexing rates relative to PG&E's generation rates?

What are the plans and processes envisioned for the transition to real time pricing as mandated by the CEC/CPUC?

What are the plans and processes envisioned for the transition to hourly emissions reporting as mandated by the CEC/CPUC?

What are the plans and processes envisioned for the development of new roof-top solar and storage rates and incentives?

I would also appreciate a general discussion about improving communications with staff at Ava. This could include finding better methods to get guidance and feedback from the Board, the CAC, and customers incorporated into the planning and development processes.

Sincerely,

Jim Lutz, October 5, 2024