



Draft Minutes

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, September 16, 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:

- 1343 Fairview Ct, Livermore CA 94550
- 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):

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

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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.

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