



Draft Minutes

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, November 18, 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
3602 Thornton Ave. Fremont, CA 94536
Starbucks at 1857 11th St. Tracy, CA 95376
1234 W Oak St, Stockton CA, 95204
24015 Wilcox Ln, Hayward, CA 94541

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, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, DiFranco, Harper, Lutz and Chair Souza

Not Present: Members: Swaminathan, Lakshman, Pacheco, Kaur and Hernandez

Vice-Chair Souza served as Chair for this meeting.

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.

(3:54) Public Comment – Audrey Ichinose urged Ava to persevere in its clean energy work, especially given anticipated challenges to climate action. She stated that Ava’s mission is supported by the communities that it serves.

(5:14) Public Comment – Susan Silber, a Berkeley resident, urged Ava to allocate a significant portion of its 2023-24 budget surplus toward resilience hubs. Silber spoke about the need for additional funding beyond existing solar and storage programs to support schools, community centers, and health clinics.

C3. (7:21) Approval of Minutes from October 15, 2024

Member Weiner motioned to approve the minutes. Member Balkisson seconded the motion, which was approved 7/0/0/5 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

Yes: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkisson, Stephenson, Harper, Lutz, and Chair Souza

No: none

Abstain: none

Recuse: none

Not Present: Members Swaminathan, Lakshman, Pacheco, Kaur and Hernandez

C4. (8:27) CAC Chair Report

CAC Chair Souza spoke about the success of the October Meet and Greet and Strategic Planning Session. She encouraged members to be proactive in exploring innovative technologies, fostering local job opportunities, and addressing community needs. Chair Souza also spoke about anticipated future discussions on topics such as resilience hubs, offshore power, and local workforce development.

C5. (14:30) CAC Work Plan Update (CAC Action Item)

Alex DiGiorgio spoke about a proposed CAC work plan, which categorizes priorities into recurring board items, non-recurring topics like local development, and CAC-initiated ad hoc projects. He also spoke about the committee's role as in providing feedback to the board on agenda items and also researching topics for presentation to the board.

Member Lutz motioned to approve the Work Plan Update with updates to the Work Plan Update category titles as follows:

- 1. Category 1 "Recurring Board Items" to be renamed to "Recommendations to the Board on Recurring Items"**
- 2. Category 3. "CAC initiated Items" to be renamed to "CAC initiated items for recommendations to the Board"**

Member Landry offered a friendly amendment that Category 2 include a link to the document titled "Responses Collected from the CAC Member Survey", from the October 15, 2024 CAC Agenda Item C4. CAC Strategic Planning Session power point (<https://avaenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/C4.-CAC-Strategic-Planning-Session.pdf>).

Member Lutz accepted the friendly amendment.

Member Weiner seconded the motion, which was approved 7/0/0/0/5 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

Yes: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Harper, Lutz, Souza

No: n/a

Abstain: n/a

Recuse: n/a

Not Present: Members Swaminathan, Lakshman, Pacheco, Kaur and Hernandez

C6. (1:14:41) 2024 Legislative Year in Review (Board Informational Item)

2024 Legislative session update

Todd Edmister and **Dan Chia** provided a comprehensive overview of Ava Community Energy's legislative activities during 2024, highlighting the organization's positions and outcomes on key state bills related to energy affordability, decarbonization, and community choice aggregation (CCA) stability. They discussed specific legislation, such as AB 2672 and SB 130 supporting low-income energy subsidies, and addressed the fate of bills like SB 1221, which involved regulatory oversight of CCA rates. The presentation concluded with a forward-looking discussion on anticipated legislative priorities for 2025, including reauthorization of the cap-and-trade program and opportunities to strengthen relationships with newly elected officials in the state legislature.

Topics discussed by Committee Members include:

- **Member Balkissoon** inquired whether SB 1374 applied to microgrids.
- **Member Landry** asked about the details of SB 1221 and its implications for rate oversight by the CPUC.
- **Member Weiner** sought clarification on the reasons for the veto of SB 1292 and expressed interest in the transparency of certain legislative decisions.
- Members engaged in discussions about AB 1834 and the challenges related to resource adequacy and capacity procurement, with concerns raised about potential impacts on CCAs.
- **Member Lutz** asked about the possibility of reintroducing certain bills, such as AB 817, related to Brown Act flexibility for remote meetings.
- **Member Weiner** asked about opportunities for Ava to propose legislation addressing community development.
- **Member Landry** raised concerns about how federal funding changes, particularly related to the Inflation Reduction Act, might affect California's budget and Ava's operations.
- **Member Lutz** highlighted the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's NOx regulations and their implications for electrification, urging Ava to engage more actively in this area.

(2:02:53) Public Comment – Alan Marling, a Livermore resident, criticized Governor Gavin Newsom and the CPUC for alleged corruption and policies that he believes have harmed community solar efforts and benefited PG&E's interests.

C7. (2:04:31) Bill Credits (Board Action Item)

Surplus revenue bill credits

Kelly Brezovec presented an overview of Ava's plan for allocating surplus revenue from fiscal year 2023-2024 as on-bill credits, focusing on equitable distribution among residential, non-residential, and CARE/FERA customers. She outlined several options for credit distribution, with the recommended approach providing \$75 credits for CARE/FERA customers and increased allocations for other customer groups compared to previous years. The proposal aims to offset rising energy costs and maintain affordability, with potential implementation starting as early as December pending board approval.

Topics discussed by Committee Members include:

- Members, including **Member Weiner** and **Member Landry**, raised concerns about ensuring meaningful financial relief for low-income

- customers and discussed the possibility of reallocating surplus funds directly to these groups.
- **Member Lutz** asked about CARE/FERA enrollment rates
 - **Member Harper** proposed exploring broader customer input and flexibility in surplus allocation, including options like emergency funds for low-income customers and opt-out donation programs for commercial entities.
 - Members sought detailed clarification on credit amounts, particularly for small and medium businesses, and whether credits are one-time or ongoing.

Member Lutz motioned to approve Option 1 and to consider a wider range of options to spend the surplus. Member Weiner seconded the motion, which was approved 6/0/1/0/5 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present)

Yes: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Harper, Souza

No: n/a

Abstain: Member Lutz

Recuse: n/a

Not Present: Members Swaminathan, Lakshman, Pacheco, Kaur and Hernandez

C8. (2:36:41) CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items on future CAC agendas

- **Member Lutz** requested a presentation on resilience hubs to be added to a future CAC agenda.
- **Member Balkissoon** and **Chair Souza** requested to agendaize a discussion of the Local Development Business plan at a subsequent meeting.

C9. Adjourned at 8:46pm.

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, December 16, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

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