



Draft Minutes
Community Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, December 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
2720 Castro Valley Blvd Castro Valley, CA 94546

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. (2:15) Welcome & Roll Call

Present: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Lakshman, Pacheco, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez

Not Present: Members: Swaminathan and Kaur

C2. (3:00) 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.

There were no speakers for public comment.

C3. (3:36) Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2024

Member Lutz requested the following correction:

- **For Item C7 – Bill Credits, change the primary motion-maker from Member Lutz to Member Balkissoon.**

Vice Chair Souza motioned to approve the minutes pending Member Lutz's correction. Member Balkissoon seconded the motion, which was approved 8/0/2/0/2 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

Yes: Members Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Harper, Lutz, Vice Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez

No: none

Abstain: Members Lakshman and Pacheco

Recuse: none

Not Present: Members Swaminathan and Kaur

C4. (6:54) CAC Chair Report

Chair Hernandez reported on key actions from the November Board meeting, including approvals for Resilience Hub technical assistance, SolarAPP+ services, energy efficiency regulatory reporting, and extending the SMUD contract with a focus on local services. In the CEO Report, Howard Chang highlighted progress on installing 200 free induction cooktops for low-income households to improve air quality, with 70 applications received, and updates on the Fremont Renewable 100 program launching for residential customers in 2025 and commercial/industrial in 2026. Ava has signed over 18 GW of clean energy agreements, totaling \$37 billion in contracts and creating 36,000 union jobs across California.

Chair Hernandez also discussed the Greenbridge PPA, which supports renewable energy and storage projects for municipal facilities in several East Bay cities. On the budget surplus allocation, the Board adopted option two, which provides a \$100 CARE/FERA credit.

C5. (12:37) Ad Hoc Committee Formation (CAC Action Item)

Alex DiGiorgio introduced the formation of ad hoc committees as a key element of the updated work plan, which is scheduled for board approval. He explained that these committees would allow members to focus on high-priority topics, develop proposals, and bring recommendations back to the full committee for discussion.

(1:51:30) Member Weiner motioned to form an ad hoc committee on energy affordability with Member Balkissoon as Chair and membership including Members Lutz, Harper, Lakshman and Weiner. Alternate Member DiFranco will be asked to join the ad hoc. Member Landry seconded, and the motion was approved 9/0/0/0/3 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

Yes: Members Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Pacheco, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez

No: none

Abstain: none

Recuse: none

Not Present: Members Swaminathan, Lakshman and Kaur

(2:00:25) Member Landry motioned to form an ad hoc committee for the Local Development Business Plan with Member Lutz as the Chair and membership including Members Landry, Pacheco, and Lakshman. Member Weiner seconded the motion which was approved 9/0/0/0/3

(yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

Yes: Members Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Lakshman, Pacheco, Harper, Lutz, and Chair Hernandez

No: none

Abstain: none

Recuse: none

Not Present: Swaminathan, Kaur and Vice-Chair Souza

Vice-Chair Souza returned to the meeting at 8:05pm and confirmed that she would also join the Local Development Business Plan ad hoc committee.

C6. (54:25) Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC) Grant Agreement (Board Action Item)

Requesting approval to award a grant to ECC (and negotiate the grant agreement) of up to \$300k over 18 months for the Resilience Hub grant initiative

Heidy Ramirez presented on the **Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC) Grant Agreement** and highlighted its focus on supporting the development of resilience hubs through community-driven input and engagement. The grant, totaling \$300,000 over 18 months, includes deliverables such as workshops to define resilience hubs, a readiness tool to assess potential sites, and the identification of 30-50 eligible locations for technical assistance and solar and storage incentives.

(1:30:22) Public Comment – Alya Peters Paz expressed gratitude to the Community Advisory Committee for their commitment to learning about resilience hubs and spoke about the importance of collaboration to advocate for resources and funding.

CAC Members discussed:

- **Member Weiner** sought clarification on the tangible outcomes of resilience hubs and their practical community benefits.
- **Vice-Chair Souza** asked about resilience hub benefits, budget impacts, and the ad hoc committee's role in supporting the initiative.
- **Member Balkissoon** spoke about the importance of learning from and supporting the experienced community organizations involved.
- **Member Landry** spoke about resilience hubs as safe spaces during emergencies with services like food refrigeration, heating, and air filtration.
- **Member Harper** suggested ensuring equitable representation across Ava's service area and engaging groups already performing resilience hub functions.
- **Member Lutz** asked how the grant addresses Stockton and East County areas.
- **Chair Hernandez** discussed contingency budget needs and proposed the ad hoc committee actively engage in workshops and outreach.
- **Member Pacheco** advocated for future grants to require neutrality agreements for applicants regarding employee unionization.

(1:31:31) Member Lutz motioned to support the staff's recommendation.

Member Pacheco seconded, and the motion was approved 9/1/0/0/2

(yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present)

Yes: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Lakshman, Pacheco, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez

No: Member Stephenson

Abstain: none

Recuse: none

Not Present: Members Swaminathan and Kaur

C7. (2:05:21) CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items on future CAC agendas

- **Member Pacheco** requested a discussion on offshore wind policy, to be scheduled for February 2025.
- **Chair Hernandez** announced the upcoming elections for chair and vice-chair to be scheduled for January 2025.
- **Member Balkissoon** requested a discussion about creating an annual report for Ava Community Energy, focusing on showcasing value metrics such as union jobs created, gigawatts of power generated, cost savings, and other achievements.
- **Member Lutz** suggested including details in the annual report, such as the number of customers on Renewable 100, testimonials from the community, and summary statistics about Ava's impact.
- **Chair Hernandez** asked the clerk to help agendize the discussion around creating an annual report.

C8. Adjourned at 8:15pm.

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

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