



**Draft Minutes**

**Community Advisory Committee Meeting**

Monday, January 13, 2025

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  
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. Welcome & Roll Call**

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

**Not Present: Members:** Weiner, Pacheco and Kaur

## **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.*

**(2:06) Public Comment – Jessica Tovar** spoke about the need for resilience investments in local communities to prepare for grid failures, power outages, and climate-related disasters. Jessica Tovar stated that the recent wildfires and power outages in Los Angeles are examples of why decentralized energy solutions are needed for emergency services.

**(4:20) Public Comment – PHM** expressed frustration over the complexity of PG&E bills.

## **C3. (6:24) Approval of Minutes from December 16, 2024**

**Chair Hernandez requested the following correction to the Chair Report:**

- **The focus of the conversation was not the SMUD contract extension but making sure that the call center is locally placed in the territory;**
- **Fix date error.**

**Vice Chair Souza motioned to approve the minutes pending Chair Hernandez’s corrections. Member Landry seconded the motion, which was approved 9/0/0/0/3 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):**

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

**No: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Recuse: none**

**Not Present: Weiner, Pacheco and Kaur**

## **C4. (8:06) CAC Chair Report**

**The CAC Chair Report** highlighted key updates, including the approval of the Piedmont Pool ESA Amendment, the work plan update, and participation in the agricultural hourly flex pricing pilot to lower energy costs. The formation of ad hoc

committees was discussed, with particular focus on energy affordability, resilience hubs, and local development planning, alongside the unanimous approval of the Emerald Cities Collective Grant to support equity-focused initiatives. Additional topics included expanding disadvantaged community programs, enhancing Ava's communication of accomplishments, and adjustments to the e-bike safety voucher program, increasing funding for helmets and safety gear for low-income participants.

#### **C5. (14:33) Chair and Vice-Chair Elections (CAC Action Item)**

**Member Landry nominated Chair Hernandez for Chair and Vice-Chair Souza for Vice-Chair. Chair Hernandez and Vice-Chair Souza accepted the nomination. Member Balkissoon seconded the nomination, which was approved 9/0/0/0/3 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):**

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

**No: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Recuse: none**

**Not Present: Weiner, Pacheco and Kaur**

#### **C6. (16:29) Allocating Funds to Ava's Building Efficiency Accelerator Program (Board Consent Item)**

Shifting unused local development funds to Ava's Building Efficiency Accelerator program

**Allison Lopez** provided an overview of Ava's Building Efficiency Accelerator Program, which is funded through CPUC ratepayer dollars. Allison explained that a budget miscalculation resulted in an over-allocation of funds, requiring Ava to return approximately \$7.9 million to the CPUC.

**(53:31) Public Comment – Jessica Tovar** spoke about the importance of the Energy Accelerator Program as a prerequisite to electrification and raised concerns about program accessibility for renters versus homeowners. Jessica also urged CCAs to more actively advocate for their programs and ratepayers at the CPUC.

#### **CAC Members discussed the following topics (selected):**

- **Member Harper** asked about how program priorities are determined and who staff talks to in communities.
- **Member Balkissoon** asked for clarification about the Oakland Clean Energy Initiative and what happened with PG&E.

- **Member Balkissoon** asked for numbers for jobs and workforce training achievements.
- **Vice-Chair Souza** asked about zoning and county rules affecting local development and suggested working with Grid Alternatives for education on solar projects.
- **Member Landry** asked about union jobs and opportunities in disadvantaged areas.
- **Member Balkissoon** asked for specific numbers on jobs and workforce people trained and suggested highlighting workforce development successes.
- **Chair Hernandez** noted the early loan repayment achievement and suggested doing more incentive programs to encourage sign-ups.

**Member Souza motioned to support reallocating \$1 million from the building electrification budget to the Building Efficiency Accelerator Program. Member Swaminathan seconded the motion, which was approved 9/0/0/0/3 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):**  
**Yes: Members Landry, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Swaminathan, Lakshman, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez**  
**No: none**  
**Abstain: none**  
**Recuse: none**  
**Not Present: Weiner, Pacheco and Kaur**

#### **C7. (1:20:40) Local Development Business Plan Review (Board Informational Item)**

Present an overview of items that were done as part of the LDBP.

**Annie Hendersen**, Chief Customer Officer, presented a comprehensive review of the Local Development Business Plan (LDBP) implemented from 2018-2023, which included approximately 70 tactical recommendations across multiple focus areas such as transportation electrification, building electrification, energy efficiency, virtual power plants, and community grants.

**(2:13:24) Public Comment - Jessica Tovar** spoke about the importance of community engagement in the Local Development Business Plan and highlighted how it was shaped by community advocacy.

#### **CAC Members discussed the following topics (selected):**

- **Member Balkissoon** asked for clarification on why PG&E did not move forward with the Oakland Clean Energy Initiative and whether there was an opportunity for Ava to revisit the project.

- **Vice-Chair Souza** asked about whether zoning and County regulations are preventing Ava from developing more local energy projects.
- **Member Landry** requested an overview of Ava's workforce development efforts.
- **Member Balkissoon** requested hard numbers on workforce training outcomes.
- **Member Balkissoon** suggested that Ava should better publicize its accomplishments, particularly in workforce development, to highlight its positive impact on local communities.
- **Chair Hernandez** noted Ava's achievements, including early loan repayments and successful programs, but acknowledged that more work needs to be done to serve communities effectively.

#### **C8. (2:17:57) Ad Hoc Committee Update (CAC Informational Item)**

- **Member Balkissoon** reported that **The Energy Affordability Ad Hoc Committee** reviewed various factors affecting energy costs, including wildfire-related expenses, cap-and-trade policies, and the complexities of PG&E billing, while also exploring potential cost-saving measures and transparency improvements in Ava's energy pricing.
- **Member Lutz** reported that **The Local Development Business Plan Ad Hoc Committee** discussed updating Ava's original roadmap by engaging the community to assess technological, political, and geographic changes. Member Lutz also spoke about the need for external resources and funding to ensure a comprehensive update.
- Additionally, **Vice-Chair Souza** stated that there is interest in forming a **Resilience Hubs Ad Hoc Committee**. **Member Lutz** and **Chair Hernandez** suggested that members plan to attend upcoming workshops and collaborate with staff to ensure community needs are incorporated into the initiative.

**(2:37:46) Public Comment – Jessica Tovar** shared a video titled “Community Driven Resilience Hubs Webinar on Sept. 9, 2020“. This video is available on Local Clean Energy Alliance's YouTube channel.

#### **C9. Adjourned at 8:41pm**

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

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