



Draft Minutes
Community Advisory Committee Meeting
May 19, 2025
6:00 pm

In Person:
Conference Room 5
Ava Community Energy
1999 Harrison St
Suite 2300
Oakland CA 94612

Or from the following remote locations:
1343 Fairview Ct, Livermore CA 94550
4563 Meyer Park Circle, Fremont CA 94536
1234 W Oak St, Stockton CA, 95204
1743 140th Ave., San Leandro CA 94578
20361 Concord Ave, 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
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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, Lakshman, DiFranco, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez

Not Present: Member Swaminathan

Please note that Harman Kaur is no longer a member of the Community Advisory Committee.

*In Member Pacheco's absence, **Alternate Member DiFranco** served as the voting representative for the Central District.*

Member Lakshman joined the meeting at 6:25pm.

At 6:00pm, **Chair Hernandez** passed the gavel to **Vice-Chair Souza** and left the meeting.

C2. (6:10) 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 was no public comment for this item.

C3. (6:23) Approval of Minutes from April 14, 2025

Member Lutz motioned to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Souza seconded the motion, which was approved 9/0/0/0/2 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

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

No: none

Abstain: none

Recuse: none

Not Present: Swaminathan and Lakshman

C4. (7:54) CAC Chair Report

Chair Hernandez reported on recent updates from CEO Chang, including Ava's sponsorship of an all-electric Habitat for Humanity housing project in Hayward, the launch of a Smart Home Charging Program with nearly 1,000 vehicles

enrolled, and the successful phased enrollment of 120,000 customers in Stockton and Lathrop with opt-outs under 5%. He noted that the CAC voted 7-2, with one abstention, to oppose a staff-recommended letter in support of SB 540, which the Board later rejected by a vote of 5-9-1-2. Board members expressed interest in receiving more detailed briefings or a potential workshop on prepaid financing before considering future approvals. The report also previewed the upcoming 2025–2026 budget discussions, highlighting regulatory uncertainty and a CPUC rulemaking that could significantly reduce local development funding if implemented. Finally, Chair Hernandez confirmed that the full budget presentation will return to the CAC next month for a recommendation and noted that SB 540 is currently in the California Legislature’s suspense process, pending further action.

(19:20) Chair Hernandez handed the gavel to Vice-Chair Souza and left the meeting.

C5. (21:21) 2025 State Legislative Bills (Board Action Item)

Request approval for bill positions.

Sam Sadle, Ava’s Principal Legislative Manager, presented Ava’s May 2025 legislative update, summarizing the current timeline for bills, the Governor’s May budget revision, and Ava’s recommended positions on pending legislation. He explained that the state faces a \$12 billion deficit and that the Governor’s proposal includes a renaming and restructuring of the cap-and-trade program—now “cap-and-invest”—while significantly reducing allocations from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). Staff initially screened over 2,300 bills, narrowing the list to 35 of interest and ultimately recommending support or monitoring positions on 28, based on alignment with Ava’s mission, operational impact, and legislative influence.

(1:04:06) Public Comment – Colin Cook Miller, speaking on behalf of the Reclaim Our Power Utility Justice Campaign, urged the CAC to recommend that the Ava Board support SB 332, which would fund a feasibility study on transitioning for-profit utilities like PG&E to not-for-profit models.

Selected topics raised by Community Advisory Committee members

- **Member Lutz** recommended Ava support several bills not currently endorsed by staff, including AB 1167, SB 24, SB 500, AB 13, and AB 740, citing their potential to improve affordability, transparency, and ratepayer protection.

- **Member Lutz and Vice-Chair Souza** spoke in support of endorsing SB 332, which would fund a study to evaluate transitioning investor-owned utilities to not-for-profit models.
- **Member Lutz** argued that PG&E's frequent and opaque rate increases negatively affect Ava's reputation, as customers often cannot distinguish between PG&E and Ava on their bills. He suggested that Ava support legislation that improves rate transparency and consumer protections.
- **Member Balkissoon** proposed that Ava's legislative evaluation framework include protection of Ava's reputation and ratepayer interests, in addition to operational and policy alignment.
- **Member Lutz** referenced prior discussions in the Affordability Ad Hoc Committee and requested that staff present their analysis of PG&E's rate increases to the full CAC.

Member Lutz motioned to approve staff's recommendation and to move the following bills from the "monitor" to "support" position:

AB 1167

SB 24

SB 332

SB 500

AB 740

AB13

Member Balkissoon seconded the motion.

Member Lakshman offered a friendly amendment to move AB 942 from the "monitor" to "oppose" position.

Member Lutz and Member Balkissoon accepted Member Lakshman's friendly amendment.

The motion was approved 9/0/0/0/2 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

Yes: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Lakshman, DiFranco, Harper, Lutz and Vice-Chair Souza

No: none

Abstain: none

Recuse: none

Not Present: Swaminathan and Chair Hernandez

C6. Critical Municipal Facilities Update (Board Action Item)

Request approval for bill position.

JP Ross, Vice President, Local Development, Electrification and Innovation, presented an update on Ava's Critical Municipal Facilities (CMF) solar and storage program, requesting Board authorization to proceed with eight projects in

Berkeley, Fremont, Hayward, and Livermore. Ava will own the assets directly and contract with McMillan Electric as the EPC contractor, with an \$8 million allocation from the Local Development Fund to cover capital and early project risk. The program is designed primarily to enhance resilience, with modest bill savings (~0.5% over 25 years), and it includes backup power and battery incentives for participating cities. JP outlined key risks—such as tariff volatility, ITC uncertainty, and the NEM 2.0 deadline—and described how Ava is working to mitigate them, including with liquidated damages provisions and equipment pre-ordering.

Member Weiner motioned to approve the staff's recommendation.

Member Landry seconded the motion, which was approved 9/0/0/0/2 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

Yes: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Lakshman, DiFranco, Harper, Lutz and Vice-Chair Souza

No: none

Abstain: none

Recuse: none

Not Present: Swaminathan and Chair Hernandez

C7. Ad Hoc Committee Update (CAC Informational Item)

Energy Affordability Ad Hoc Committee

Member Balkissoon presented the findings and reflections of the Energy Affordability Ad Hoc Committee, which explored the causes of rising electricity rates and their impact on Ava's mission and customers. The committee examined PG&E's business model, wildfire mitigation costs, and rate transparency, emphasizing that Ava is at reputational risk if customers don't see meaningful savings. Members expressed concern that investor-owned utilities are incentivized to overspend due to guaranteed profit margins, while ratepayers bear the burden for infrastructure and climate-related costs. The committee recommended greater transparency, legislative advocacy to shift wildfire costs away from ratepayers, and stronger protections for consumers—including evaluating Ava's own financial risks from escalating utility costs.

Member Balkissoon urged Ava to work collaboratively with staff and experts to develop an action plan based on the ad hoc committee's findings, particularly in anticipation of future rate increases and regulatory changes.

Local Development Business Plan (LDBP) Ad Hoc Committee

Member Lutz reported that the LDBP Ad Hoc Committee has been meeting regularly—currently on the first Wednesday of each month—and is conducting stakeholder listening sessions to inform its recommendations. The committee plans to synthesize this input into a future public presentation for the CAC and the Board, though this work will likely take several more months. He raised

concerns about the accessibility of early LDBP materials, including draft work products, webinars, and public comments from the pre-launch period when Alameda County was developing the LDBP. Lutz noted that while the foundational LDBP and JPA documents are still available on Ava's website, older interim materials and community input appear to be missing.

C8. CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items on future Community Advisory Committee Meeting Agendas

- **Member Lutz** requested that the Local Development Business Plan Ad Hoc Committee be added to a future agenda for a brief update, once the committee has more material to share.
- **Vice-Chair Souza** announced that Resilience Hub community engagement efforts are underway, with presentations gathering public input to inform hub design and implementation.
- **Member Lutz** asked whether additional Resilience Hub events were planned, and **Member Landry** requested that CAC members be notified earlier when those events are scheduled.

C9. Adjourned at 8:38pm

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

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