

Chair's Report

Ed Hernández, Chair, Community Advisory Committee

Ava Community Energy Board of Directors – November 19, 2025

Community Advisory Committee Report

- I presented the CAC's recommendations to the Board, as detailed in the attached Chair Report.
- **SmartHome Battery & Resilience Hub (Item C5):** CAC supported approval of the budget and program design, recognizing both public calls for parity in resilience hub funding and the energy benefits to residential customers. The Board subsequently approved the program unanimously **16/0/0/0/2 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present)**, reflecting strong alignment between CAC recommendations and Board action.
- **Customer Programs Roadmap CSA (Item C6):** CAC recommended rejection of the CSA with Deloitte due to ethical concerns tied to its federal contracts. CAC emphasized the importance of the roadmap process itself and urged greater investment in public engagement and customer feedback mechanisms. The Board voted **7/8/1/0/2** to reject the CSA, consistent with CAC's recommendation.
- **Legislative Wrap-up & Preview (Item C7):** CAC appreciated Ava's advocacy efforts and noted upcoming challenges in the 2026 legislative session.

Surplus Allocation, Value Proposition & CARE/FERA Credits

- The Board reviewed the **2026 Financial Forecast and Adjustments**, including surplus allocation and changes to Ava's value proposition.
- Staff presented an alternative proposal to **eliminate CARE/FERA customer credits**. This recommendation was **not supported nor voted upon** by the Board.
- I advocated to maintain these credits, consistent with CAC's intent, noting that the item had not been presented to the CAC for review — a point of frustration.
- Ultimately, the Board affirmed that CARE/FERA credits should continue, funded from **current fiscal year revenues** rather than future revenues. This decision reflects Ava's commitment to affordability, while acknowledging that future revenue challenges will require continued evaluation of Ava's overall value proposition.

- I underscored the importance of framing surplus allocation in ways that reflect community priorities and CAC input, ensuring that equity and resilience remain central to Ava’s financial planning.

Procurement Policy Discussion

- Chair Marquez requested that a **procurement policy** be added to a future Executive Committee agenda in January.
- The intent is to explore how Ava develops and mitigates policy direction in contracting, with specific reference to revisiting the Customer Programs Roadmap consultant contract.
- Chair Marquez emphasized that Ava should not support organizations implicated in harmful practices — described in the meeting as “kidnapping people” — underscoring the ethical dimension of procurement decisions.

Closing Notes

- CAC’s role continues to be ensuring that community voices shape Ava’s strategic direction.
- I emphasized the need for transparent communication, equity-focused program design, and sustained stakeholder engagement as Ava advances its initiatives.

Appendix: Sources on Deloitte’s Federal Engagements

This appendix summarizes publicly available sources documenting Deloitte’s current and historical contracts with ICE and DHS, relevant to CAC’s recommendation on Item C6.

Federal Contract Databases

- **USAspending.gov**
 - Tracks federal awards and spending.
 - Shows Deloitte’s active contracts with ICE, including:
 - \$50.1M (2024–2029) for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) support.
 - \$24.8M (2023–2028) for ICE CIO data modernization.
 - Additional DHS-wide contracts for program support and analytics.

- **SAM.gov**
 - Official federal procurement portal.
 - Lists Deloitte’s awards under NAICS codes 541611 (management consulting) and 541512 (IT systems design).

Investigative Journalism

- **VICE News (2019)** – *“Deloitte Made Millions From ICE Contracts While Helping Clients Avoid Trump’s Immigration Crackdown”*
 - Revealed \$42M in ICE contracts in 2019.
 - Documented internal employee dissent over family separation policies.
- **The Intercept, Just Futures Law, and Mijente**
 - Advocacy groups and journalists have mapped Deloitte’s role in immigration enforcement infrastructure, including indirect support through logistics and data systems.

Public Statements and Oversight

- **Deloitte’s internal communications (2018–2020)**
 - In response to employee petitions, Deloitte stated its ICE work did not involve enforcement or family separation, and focused on administrative support.
- **Project on Government Oversight (POGO)**
 - Tracks contractor ethics and influence across federal agencies, including DHS.