



**Draft Minutes**

**Community Advisory Committee Meeting**

December 15, 2025

6:00 pm

**In Person:**

Board Room

Ava Community Energy

1999 Harrison St, Ste 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

**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

*Meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the meeting materials, should contact the Clerk of the Board at least 2 working days before the meeting at (510) 906-0491 or [cob@avaenergy.org](mailto:cob@avaenergy.org).*

*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. (8:00) Welcome & Roll Call**

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

**Not Present: Members:** Swaminathan and Pacheco

**C2. (9:00) 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.*

**(9:49) Public Comment: Dohee Kim**, representing Emerald Cities Collaborative and Local Clean Energy Alliance, spoke regarding the smart home battery program and resilience hub initiative.

**C3. (13:48) Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2025**

**Vice-Chair Souza motioned to approve the November 17, 2025 minutes.**

**Chair Hernandez seconded the motion which was approved 8/0/1/0/2**

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

**Yes: Members: Landry, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Lakshman, Harper, Lutz,**

**Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez**

**No: none**

**Abstain: Members Weiner**

**Recuse: none**

**Not Present: Members Swaminathan and Pacheco**

**C4. (16:20) CAC Chair Report**

**Chair Hernandez provided a verbal report on the December board meeting.**

**C5. (22:20) Allocation of surplus revenue from Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to on-bill credits for CARE/FERA customers (Board Action Item)**

Adopt a resolution for allocation methodology of on-bill credits for CARE/FERA customers based on FY2024-2025 surplus revenues.

**Kelly Birdwell Brezovec**, Senior Director of Account Services, introduced the Allocation of surplus revenue from Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to on-bill credits for CARE/FERA customers item and answered questions from the committee.

**(35:12) Public Comment – Daniela Suarez**, representing the Local Clean Energy Alliance, spoke in support of the \$80 credit for all CARE/FERA customers, and encouraged Ava to develop long-term solutions for low-income households struggling with energy bills.

**(36:29) Public Comment – Jessica Tovar**, representing Local Clean Energy Alliance, asked a clarifying question about how credits work when they exceed the bill amount.

**(38:06) Public Comment – Audrey Ichinose**, explained why it is important for staff to explain to the public why they are getting the bill credit.

**Chair Hernandez motioned to support the staff recommendation – Option A at the \$80 bill credit level. Member Landry seconded the motion which was approved unanimously 9/0/0/0/2 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):**  
**Yes: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Lakshman, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez**  
**No: none**  
**Abstain: none**  
**Recuse: none**  
**Not Present: Members Swaminathan and Pacheco**

**C6. (46:44) CAC Guide Updates & Term Extensions (Board Consent Item)**

Update the CAC Guide to include Unincorporated SJC and other operational improvements. Extend all current terms to 4/30/26.

**Cait Cady**, Public Engagement Specialist, introduced the CAC Guide Updates & Term Extensions item and answered questions from the committee.

**Chair Hernandez** opened the public comment period and there were no questions.

**Vice-Chair Souza motioned to support the update to the CAC Guide and term extensions. Member Balkissoon seconded the motion.**

**Chair Hernandez offered a friendly amendment for the board to consider extending Member Landry's term for another term as a special accommodation. The friendly amendment was accepted.**

**The motion with Chair Hernandez's friendly amendment was approved unanimously 9/0/0/0/2 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):**  
**Yes: Members: Landry, Weiner, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Lakshman, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Souza and Chair Hernandez**  
**No: none**  
**Abstain: none**  
**Recuse: none**  
**Not Present: Members Swaminathan and Pacheco**

**C7. (1:08:46) Statement Regarding the CSA Strategic Roadmap (CAC Action Item)**

**Member Balkissoon** introduced the Statement Regarding the CSA Strategic Roadmap item and answered questions from the committee.

**Chair Hernandez** opened up the public comment period and there were no comments.

**Member Weiner motioned to support the CAC statement, and to replace the word “ownership” with ‘buy-in’. Member Landry seconded the motion which was approved 9/1/0/0/2 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):**

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

**No: Member Stephenson**

**Abstain: none**

**Recuse: none**

**Not Present: Members Swaminathan and Pacheco**

**C8. (1:30:17) 2026 Financial Adjustments, including value proposition (Board Action Item)**

Approve a portfolio of actions to address 2026 financial forecast

**Annie Hendersen**, Chief Customer Officer, introduced the 2026 Financial Adjustments, including value proposition item and answered questions from the committee.

**Chair Hernandez** opened up the public comment period and there were no comments.

**Member Weiner motioned adopt the staff recommendation – scenario B, but to exclude the \$10 million reduction in purchasing renewable energy. Member Landry seconded the motion.**

**Member Lutz offered a friendly amendment to increase the value proposition from 1.5 cents/kWh to 1.75 cents/Kh for the Renewable 100 premium. The friendly amendment was accepted.**

**The motion which was approved 7/1/1/0/2 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):**

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

**No: Member Stephenson**

**Abstain: Member Lakshman**

**Recuse: none**

**Not Present: Members Swaminathan and Pacheco**

**C9. (3:25:25) Ad Hoc Committee Update (CAC Informational Item)**

**No updates were presented.**

**C10. (3:26:00) CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items on future Community Advisory Committee Meeting Agendas**

**Member Lutz** reiterated Member Pacheco's request for a discussion on the impacts of AI and data centers on Ava's service territory and potential responses. Member Lutz emphasized wanting to understand not just the impacts but potential responses from Ava, including the possibility of not serving data centers and ensuring they pay for their interconnections rather than having costs socialized.

**Member Lutz** also asked about CAC members attending the Cal CCA conference at reduced rates.

**Chair Hernandez** requested a report in January or February on resilient hub enrollment efforts, including challenges, opportunities, and progress spending the first million of the \$3.75 million allocated.

**Chair Hernandez** also mentioned that the January and February 2026 CAC meetings would be held on Tuesdays rather than Mondays due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Presidents' Day holidays.

**C11. Adjourn**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:27pm.**

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

# 12/15/25 Ava Community Advisory Committee Meeting

AI Generated Courtesy Summary

Not official minutes

Not reviewed for accuracy

## Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting of the Community Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:02 PM on December 15, 2025, in the board room at Ava Community Energy in Oakland, California, with some members joining remotely via Zoom. Roll call was conducted with Members Landry, Weiner, Baucusen, Stevenson, Harper, Lewis, Vice Chair Susan, and Chair Hernandez all present and establishing a quorum.

## Public Comment

A public comment was provided by a representative from Emerald Cities Collaborative and Local Clean Energy Alliance regarding the smart home battery program and resilience hub initiative. The speaker offered two recommendations: 1) that Ava Community Energy consider ways to keep virtual power plant program revenues internally rather than through the current partnership with Lunar Energy, and 2) that the distribution of the solar and storage incentive program (first \$1 million of the \$3.75 million allocated) prioritize disadvantaged communities, areas with high PSPS (Public Safety Power Shutoff) events, and communities with limited existing green infrastructure resources. The speaker highlighted examples of sites that need upfront capital costs to transition into resilience hubs.

Chair Hernandez acknowledged the comment and indicated that the committee would look to discuss these recommendations in the new year, potentially agendaizing them for January or February with staff support.

## Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2025

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 17, 2025 meeting. Chair Hernandez mentioned that new AI technology would be implemented soon to assist with taking more detailed minutes.

Motion: Vice Chair Susan moved to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2025 meeting.

Second: Member Hernandez

Vote: The motion passed with Member Weiner abstaining as she was not present at the November meeting.

## CAC Chair Report

Chair Hernandez reported on the Ava Community Energy Board of Directors meeting held on November 19, 2025. The Board unanimously approved the smart home battery resilience hub program (16 in favor, none opposed), aligning with the CAC's recommendation.

The Board voted 7-8-1 against the CSA consulting agreement with Deloitte, consistent with the CAC's recommendation based on ethical concerns related to Deloitte's federal contracts with DHS and ICE. Chair Hernandez had shared documentation of Deloitte's federal engagements with the Board.

Regarding the 2026 federal forecast and adjustments, staff had presented an alternative proposal to eliminate CARE/FERA customer credits, which was not supported by the Board. Chair Hernandez noted that the CAC had not been asked to review this item, but he had advocated strongly to maintain the credits. The Board affirmed that CARE/FERA credits would continue to be funded from current fiscal year revenues.

Chair Hernandez also reported that Chair Marquesse requested a procurement policy be added to a future executive committee meeting in January to establish clear direction on contracting and revisit the customer programs roadmap consultant issue.

## Allocation of surplus revenue from Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to on-bill credits for CARE/FERA customers

Kelly Birdwell Brezovic, Senior Director of Account Services, presented this item. She explained that the Board had previously allocated 10% of the FY 2024-2025 surplus budget (approximately \$13 million) for on-bill credits for CARE/FERA customers, with 90% going to the rate stabilization fund.

Staff recommended providing the same credit amount (about \$80) to all active CARE/FERA customers (Option A). An alternative Option B would provide different credit amounts based on length of service, with newer customers in Stockton and Lathrop (enrolled in April 2025) receiving approximately \$25 and longer-term customers receiving about \$100.

Ms. Brezovic explained that while the communities had different enrollment timelines, customers in Stockton and Lathrop used nearly double the electricity of other Ava communities during the summer months, which made a uniform credit more equitable. She also noted that CARE/FERA customers had received credits in previous years (January 2025: \$100; November 2023 and August 2022: \$50).

During discussion, members asked about the differences between CARE and FERA programs. Ms. Brezovic explained that FERA customers have slightly higher income qualification guidelines and receive a slightly lower discount than CARE customers, though both groups are considered disadvantaged.

The committee also inquired about the Rate Stabilization Account, which has significantly more money allocated to it than customer credits. Ms. Brezovic clarified that the 90/10 split had already been decided by the Board in September.

Member Harper supported equal distribution, noting that about 41% of Stockton's customer base receives energy assistance, and many households struggle with substandard living conditions and utility debt. She suggested using the bill credit as a way to show support for the new customer base and help keep people enrolled.

Public comments from representatives of the Local Clean Energy Alliance supported the equal \$80 credit for all CARE/FERA customers, while also encouraging Ava to develop long-term solutions for low-income households struggling with energy bills.

Motion: Chair Hernandez moved to support staff's recommendation of Option A, providing an \$80 credit to all CARE and FERA customers.

Second: Vice Chair Susan

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

## CAC Guide Updates & Term Extensions

Kate from Ava staff presented recommendations to update the Community Advisory Committee guide. The changes included:

- Adding another seat to the CAC (bringing the total to 13) to reflect the inclusion of unincorporated San Joaquin County, which recently joined the JPA
- Making administrative updates to the CAC guide to improve operational efficiency
- Extending all current CAC terms through April 30, 2026

Kate explained that the composition of the CAC is determined by regions based on JPA vote shares, which are calculated from annualized load for each jurisdiction. With the addition of unincorporated San Joaquin County, the San Joaquin County region would have a larger presence on the CAC.

The updates would also standardize terms with May 1st as the start date for all CAC terms going forward. The next recruitment period would launch in January 2026 with appointments to be approved by the Board in April 2026, effective May 1st.

During discussion, members sought clarification on term limits. Kate confirmed that regional members can serve up to 4 terms, while at-large members are limited to 2 terms, with current at-large members able to serve one additional term beyond that limit.

Motion: Vice Chair Susan moved to approve the staff recommendations to update the CAC regional seat allocations to include unincorporated San Joaquin County, make administrative updates to the CAC guide, and extend all current CAC terms to April 30, 2026, with a friendly amendment to recommend that Member Landry (who would otherwise term out) be allowed to serve one additional term.

Second: Member Weiner

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

## Statement Regarding the CSA Strategic Roadmap

Members Inder, Hernandez, and Susan presented a draft letter to the Board regarding the Customer Strategic Roadmap. The letter expressed appreciation for staff efforts on the roadmap, which the CAC considers a high priority. The letter listed nine critical projects encompassed by the work and supported the Board's decision not to move forward with the proposed contractor (Deloitte).

The letter emphasized that the CAC supports the overall goals of the customer program strategic roadmap and agrees with developing a policy framework that promotes "no fear" in support of future RFPs. It recommended getting the roadmap back on track quickly with an organization that respects immigrants as core constituents, or considering developing the program in-house if a suitable contractor cannot be found.

Member Inder explained that the committee wanted to highlight the good work staff is doing and clarify what the CAC considers high-priority issues. They also wanted to express support for the Board's decision regarding the contractor and emphasize that immigrants are a core constituency who should be respected.

Motion: Member Weiner moved to approve the letter to the Board with a modification to change the word "ownership" to "buy in" when referring to community engagement with Ava's programs.

Second: Member Landry

Vote: The motion passed with Member Stevenson voting no.

## 2026 Financial Adjustments, including value proposition

Annie Henderson, Chief Customer Officer, presented a detailed financial forecast and proposed adjustments to address a projected \$250 million deficit in 2026. She explained that PG&E's rates are expected to decrease by approximately 30% while the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) is increasing, significantly impacting Ava's revenue.

Ms. Henderson presented three scenarios (A, B, and C) with staff recommending Scenario B, which included:

- Utilizing the entire rate stabilization fund of approximately \$150 million
- Decreasing the Bright Choice discount from 5% to 0.5% and increasing the Renewable 100 premium from \$0.0025 to \$0.015 per kWh
- Reducing renewable energy credit procurement targets (which would result in a decrease from 81% to about 73% carbon-free power)

- Reducing the local development fund budget by \$10 million (from funds not earmarked for specific programs)
- Reducing operating expenditures by \$3.5 million
- Using \$15-30 million from reserves

Ms. Henderson emphasized that customers would still see an overall bill reduction of about 11% despite these changes due to the significant decrease in PG&E rates. She also noted that the renewable energy target reduction would be temporary and Ava still intends to achieve 100% carbon-free power by 2030.

During discussion, committee members expressed concerns about reducing renewable energy procurement and increasing the Renewable 100 premium. Member Weiner moved to recommend Scenario B with two modifications: 1) no reduction in renewable energy credit procurement, and 2) increasing the Renewable 100 premium to \$0.0175 per kWh rather than \$0.015 to partially offset the cost of maintaining renewable energy procurement.

Several members emphasized that Ava's focus on renewable energy is its "calling card" and a key differentiator from PG&E. Others expressed frustration with the PCIA structure and suggested the agency needs to fight this at the regulatory level.

Motion: Member Weiner moved to recommend Scenario B with two modifications: 1) no reduction in renewable energy credit procurement, and 2) increasing the Renewable 100 premium to \$0.0175 per kWh.

Second: Member Landry

Vote: The motion passed with Member Stevenson voting no and Member Lochman abstaining.

## Ad Hoc Committee Update

No formal updates were presented, as the energy affordability ad hoc committee report was included in the meeting packet.

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

Members requested future agenda items including:

- Discussion on the impacts of AI and data centers on Ava's service territory and potential responses
- A mid-year report on the resilient hub initiative and VPP enrollment through Emerald Cities Collective and Local Clean Energy Alliance

Chair Hernandez also mentioned that the January and February 2026 CAC meetings would be held on Tuesdays rather than Mondays due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Presidents' Day holidays.

## Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM. The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM.