



Draft Minutes

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

January 20, 2026

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

20400 Lake Chabot Rd #303, 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.

(6:00) C1. Welcome & Roll Call

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

Not Present: Members: Weiner and Swaminathan

***Vice-Chair Souza opened the meeting.
Former Chair Hernandez joined the meeting at 7:49pm.***

C2. (10:15) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Member Lutz nominated Vice-Chair Souza for Chair and Member Balkissoon for Vice-Chair. Member Landry seconded the nomination, which was approved 8/0/0/0/3 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present)
Yes: Members: Landry, Balkissoon, Stephenson, Lakshman, Pacheco, Harper, Lutz and Vice-Chair Souza
No: none
Abstain: none
Recuse: none
Not Present: Members: Weiner, Swaminathan and Chair Hernandez

The gavel was passed to Chair Souza.

C3. 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.

(7:00) Public Comment: Jessica Tovar thanked Ava for opposing contracts with corporations that work with ICE.

C4. (17:11) Approval of Minutes from December 1, 2025

(19:39) Public Comment: Jessica Tovar spoke in favor of comprehensive notes for prior meetings.

Member Lutz motioned to approve the minutes. Vice-Chair Balkissoon seconded the motion, which was approved 7/0/1/0/3 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present)
Yes: Members: Landry, Stephenson, Lakshman, Harper, Lutz, Vice-Chair Balkissoon and Chair Souza
No: none
Abstain: Member Pacheco
Recuse: none
Not Present: Members: Weiner, Swaminathan and Hernandez

C5. (25:22) CAC Chair Report

Chair Souza provided a report on the January board meeting. The written version of the report is included in the January 20, 2026 agenda packet.

C6. (32:40) Integrated Resource Plan Overview (Board Informational Item)

Overview of upcoming Integrated Resource Plan compliance analysis and Ava supplemental analysis

Marie Foutenot, Senior Vice President of Power Resources, introduced the Integrated Resource Plan Overview item and answered questions from the committee.

(1:18:49) Public Comment: Rebecca Franke asked about the amount of energy that will become available through Ava's Virtual Power Plant program.

C7. (1:19:26) Customer Bill Updates (Board Informational Item)

Update on rates and Base Service Charge.

Annie Hendersen, Chief Customer Officer, introduced the Customer Bill Updates item and answered questions from the committee.

C8. (1:41:44) Ad Hoc Committee Update (CAC Informational Item)

Energy Affordability: Vice-Chair Balkissoon expressed frustration about Ava's limited control over rates due to being tied to PG&E's rates. The committee discussed potentially reviewing the PCIA lawsuit filed by San Diego's CCA and recommending Ava join similar efforts.

Long-Term Business Plan: Member Lutz reported they were waiting for updates on the RFP process for the customer programs roadmap, which has been delayed 3-6 months.

C9. (1:57:24) CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items on future Community Advisory Committee Meeting Agendas

Cait Cady, Public Engagement Specialist, announced:

- Ava is hosting a grants ideation community workshop on January 28th at 5:30 PM, with in-person and remote options available. RSVPs are required.
- The application for positions on the CAC is now live on the Ava website. Current members seeking reappointment should complete the form, which will be reviewed by board ad hoc committees prior to final appointments in April.

Member Landry requested an update on the call center arrangements with SMUD, following the Executive Committee's recent review.

Vice-Chair Balkissoon requested a policy update on the "do no harm" policy regarding ICE-related contracts

Member Pacheco requested a discussion about data center growth, demand impacts, and potential strategies.

Member Lutz requested the following:

- Discuss rotating meeting locations in Ava's service territory
- Agendize a discussion about Ava's energy provision for data centers.
- An update on the new RFP process for customer programs and a discussion on the RFP process for broader Ava plans on strategies to defend rate-payers from PG&E's rate-setting strategies.
- Recommendations for policies, legislation and testimony at the PUC to protect rate-payers and promote clean energy.
- CAC member attendance at CalCCA conference

Former Chair Hernandez announced that the Emerald Cities Collective Community will hold a Resilience Hub Initiative workshop on January 29th at 10am via Zoom.

C10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

1/20/26 Ava Community Advisory Committee Meeting

AI Generated Courtesy Summary

Not official minutes

Not reviewed for accuracy

C1. Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Acting Chair Sousa. The meeting was held at the Oakland Center at 1999 Harrison Street in Oakland, with remote locations available as specified in the agenda.

Roll call was taken with the following members present: Member Landry, Member Bakhtasund, Member Stevenson, Member Harper, Vice Chair Sousa, and others. A quorum was confirmed.

C2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Member Landry nominated Nikki Sousa to move from Vice Chair to Chair position, and nominated Indira Alqasson for Vice Chair. Member Cynthia seconded the motion.

Member Landry spoke in support of Chair Sousa, noting her excellent work when serving as acting chair on several occasions and her valuable contributions to ad hoc committees.

Motion: To elect Nikki Sousa as Chair and Indira Alqasson as Vice Chair. Moved by: Member Landry
Seconded by: Member Cynthia Vote: Passed unanimously

Chair Sousa accepted the position with gratitude, acknowledging she had "big shoes to fill" following Ed Hernandez's leadership. She expressed commitment to helping the CAC grow into an organization that can truly support community energy and its ideals, stating her belief in AIVA's mission to fight climate change, help the community, and lower rates for customers.

C3. Public Comment

Jessica from the Local Clean Energy Alliance and People's Clean Power Alliance addressed the committee. She reflected on the Los Angeles wildfires she witnessed last year and reaffirmed her commitment to helping AIVA create more community resilience in the face of climate change. She also expressed concern about ongoing political issues affecting communities, thanking AIVA for opposing contracts with corporations that work with ICE. Jessica emphasized the connection between war and energy resources, and voiced her continued commitment to working with AIVA to ensure the delivery of localized clean energy as originally promised to constituents.

C4. Approval of Minutes from December 15, 2025

It was noted that the minutes now include an AI-generated summary of the prior CAC meeting, though these are not considered official minutes and have not been reviewed for accuracy. The official action minutes are the portion prior to the AI summary.

Member Votes moved to approve the minutes, which was seconded.

Motion: To approve the minutes from the December 15, 2025 meeting. Moved by: Member Votes
Seconded by: Member Derek Vote: Approved with one abstention (Member Sam)

C5. CAC Chair Report

Chair Sousa presented the outgoing Chair Hernandez's report from the December 17, 2025 Board meeting. Key points included:

- The Board unanimously approved consent agenda items 4-8, which included the legislative wrap-up, Joint Powers Agreement amendments that clarified CAC roles, CAC guidance updates, on-bill credits, and future items.
- The CSA guide updates and term extensions were approved as presented, extending all CAC terms to April 30, 2026 and incorporating unincorporated San Joaquin County into the guide. The Board did not adopt the CAC's request for a one-time exception to allow Member Landry to serve an additional term.
- CEO Chang provided updates on the 2026 meeting calendar, power content label mailer, and plans for the May 2026 launch for unincorporated San Joaquin County. The customer program's strategic roadmap will be delayed 3-6 months while staff reviews procurement policies in response to concerns about Deloitte's ICE-related contracts.
- The most significant item was the 2026 financial adjustments and value proposition, with the Board facing a projected \$250 million deficit for 2026 due to steep decline in generation rates. The Board approved reallocating \$13 million in on-bill credits to the rate stabilization fund, increasing the Renewable 100 premium to 1.75 cents, reducing renewable procurement from \$10 million to \$5 million, and minimizing reserve utilization with authorization of up to \$15 million if needed.
- Chair Sousa noted that the removal of on-bill credits was disappointing, particularly given the CAC's strong support for maintaining those credits for CARE and FERA customers. However, staff and board members indicated that the mid-year budget review may provide an opportunity to revisit this issue if financial conditions improve.

C6. IRP Overview (Board Informational Item)

Marie Fontenot, Senior Vice President of Power Resources and executive sponsor of AIVA's biennial Integrated Resource Planning process, presented an overview of the IRP work. Key points included:

- The IRP is a long-term roadmap detailing how AIVA will meet future energy demand reliably and affordably while balancing supply and demand-side resources, considering costs, environmental impact, and regulatory goals.
- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) now manages resource planning for all jurisdictional entities including CCAs, with a highly prescriptive process. AIVA must submit an IRP filing every two years, with the next due on June 1, 2026 (recently changed from May).
- Marie explained that AIVA uses GenX, an open-source modeling tool with three components: capacity expansion modeling, production cost modeling, and portfolio expansion modeling.
- The IRP analysis helps AIVA identify what types of resources to add to its portfolio in the next 10-20 years, associated emissions, and estimated costs.
- Marie noted the significant projected demand growth in AIVA's territory, with approximately 20% year-over-year growth between 2027 and 2029 according to the Integrated Energy Policy Report. The high demand forecast estimates AIVA's demand could reach nearly 20 terawatts per year by 2040, compared to approximately 8 terawatts currently.
- AIVA will conduct both the required CPUC-compliant analysis and supplemental analysis with its own assumptions to better understand how changes in demand, resource costs, and other factors might affect its portfolio and customer costs.
- Past IRP filings have resulted in CPUC procurement mandates, with a recent order for an additional 6,000 MW of resources statewide to be online by 2030 and 2032.

Several committee members expressed support for bringing these analytical capabilities in-house and asked questions about how the model handles cost impacts to consumers, potential PCIA changes, and data center growth projections.

C7. Customer Bill Updates (Board Informational Item)

Annie Henderson, Chief Customer Officer, provided an update on customer bill changes:

- The rate updates for January 2026 resulted in less of an overall discount to customer bills than initially forecast—approximately 5% instead of the expected 10%. AIVA is still reducing its generation rate by about 15-21%, but changes in PCIA and delivery charges affected the total bill impact.
- Changes to Bright Choice and Renewable 100 rates approved by the Board in December will appear on customer bills with January 1 effective dates, though customers won't see these on bills until early February due to billing cycles.
- A new "Base Services Charge" (formerly called income graduated fixed charge) will appear on residential customer bills starting in March 2026. This is a flat monthly fee on the PG&E portion of bills: \$24 for most residential customers, \$12 for FERA and affordable housing residents, and \$6 for CARE customers. This charge primarily benefits higher-usage customers.
- AIVA is developing communication materials to educate customers about these changes without overwhelming them, including website content, newsletter articles, social media posts, paid digital ads, and call center talking points.

Committee members expressed concern about the complexity of explaining these changes to customers, particularly distinguishing between AIVA-controlled rates and PG&E-imposed charges, and how the new Base Services Charge might affect different customer demographics.

C8. Ad Hoc Committee Update (CAC Informational Item)

The committee discussed the status and future of various ad hoc committees:

- Energy Affordability: Member Alqasson expressed frustration about AIVA's limited control over rates due to being tied to PG&E's rates. The committee discussed potentially reviewing the PCIA lawsuit filed by San Diego's CCA and recommending AIVA join similar efforts.
- Long-Term Business Plan: Member Votes reported they were waiting for updates on the RFP process for the customer programs roadmap, which has been delayed 3-6 months.

Chair Sousa emphasized that ad hoc committees should produce tangible outputs and recommendations for the board and AIVA staff, providing community perspective and alerting the board to potential risks.

C9. CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items on future Community Advisory Committee Meeting Agendas

Kate from AIVA staff announced:

- AIVA is hosting a grants ideation community workshop on January 28th at 5:30 PM, with in-person and remote options available. RSVPs are required.
- The application for positions on the CAC is now live on the AIVA website. Current members seeking reappointment should complete the form, which will be reviewed by board ad hoc committees prior to final appointments in April.

Several potential agenda items were requested for future meetings:

- A discussion on the PCIA lawsuit and potential AIVA involvement

- Update on the call center arrangements with SMUD, following the Executive Committee's recent review
- Policy update on the "do no harm" policy regarding ICE-related contracts
- Discussion on data center growth, demand impacts, and potential strategies
- Update on the customer programs strategic roadmap process

Former Chair Hernandez announced the Community Resilience Hub Initiative workshop scheduled for January 29th at 10 AM via Zoom, encouraging CAC members to attend.

C10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM. The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM.