Draft Minutes

Community Advisory Committee

September 14, 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:
1319 Solano Ave, Albany, CA 94706
4563 Meyer Park Circle, Fremont, CA 94536
1234 W Oak St., Stockton, CA 95204
1531 El Pinal Dr, Stockton, CA 95205
2277 Pyrenees Ave., Stockton, CA 95210
639 Martis Peak Dr, Incline Village, NV 89451

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.

Public comment letters received for Ava Community Energy meetings are posted at https://app.box.com/v/avapubliccomment.

C1. (1:47) Welcome & Roll Call

Present: Members: Bierce (North), Riley (North), Krulewitz (North), Edmunds (East), Swaminathan (South), Epperson (Central – Alternate), Harper (San Joaquin County), Halaufia (San Joaquin County), Knodt (San Joaquin County), Raj (At-Large), Roberts (At-Large), and Chair Souza (Central)

Not Present: Members: Lakshman (South)

Alternate Member Epperson served as a voting member for Central Region in **Member DiFranco's** absence.

C2. (3:51) 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 two minutes per speaker and must complete an electronic speaker slip. The Committee Chair may increase or decrease the time allotted to each speaker.

There were no speakers for public comment.

C3. (4:36) CAC Chair Report

Chair Souza provided a brief report and noted **former Vice-Chair Balkissoon's** retirement.

There were no speakers for public comment.

C4. (5:46) Minutes from July 13, 2026 meeting

There were no speakers for public comment.

Alternate Member Epperson motioned to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2026 meeting. Member Bierce seconded the motion, which was approved 12/0/0/0/1 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):
Yes: Members: Bierce, Riley, Krulewitz, Edmunds, Swaminathan, Epperson, Harper, Halaufia, Knodt, Raj, Roberts and Chair Souza
No: none
Abstain: none
Recuse: none
Not Present: Members: Lakshman

C5. (7:52) Update on Customer Programs Strategy, formerly called Roadmap (BOD Informational Item)
Updating the board on the status of the Customer Programs Strategy development process.

Annie Henderson, Chief Customer Officer, presented an update on the Customer Programs Strategy and stakeholder engagement approach, and answered questions from the Committee.

Committee discussion addressed geographic representation, engagement of community and labor stakeholders, equity metrics, and alignment with existing programs.

(1:08:48) Public Comment – Jim Lutz, former CAC member, supported the proposed public engagement approach and urged that the Customer Programs Strategy prioritize financially sustainable local energy resources and community ownership.

(1:11:58) Public Comment – Dohee Kim, Local Clean Energy Alliance, supported expanded public engagement and recommended geographically appropriate equity metrics and alignment with decarbonization and workforce policies.

(1:15:08) Public Comment – Bradley Cleveland, representing IBEW Local 595 and NorCal NECA, encouraged inclusion of construction contractors, organized labor, apprenticeship programs, and disadvantaged communities in the engagement process.

C6. (1:24:10) Approve a resolution on a suite of power related products with Sentinel Energy Center, LLC from a hybrid battery project (BOD Action Item)
Approving a Resolution of the Board of Directors of Ava Community Energy for the CEO to negotiate and execute agreements for BESS, RA and Financially Settled products.

Scott Harding, Director of Originations, presented the proposed resource adequacy and financially settled products associated with Sentinel Energy Center and a battery energy storage project, and answered questions from the Committee.

There were no speakers for public comment

Member Edmunds motioned to recommend Board approval of the proposed Sentinel Energy Center resolution. Member Knodt seconded the motion, which was approved 11/0/1/0/1 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

Yes: Members: Riley, Krulewitz, Edmunds, Swaminathan, Epperson (Alternate), Harper, Halaufia, Knodt, Raj, Roberts and Chair Souza
No: none
Abstain: Member Bierce
Recuse: none
Not Present: Members: Lakshman

C7. (2:12:04) Vice-Chair Appointment (CAC Action Item)

Chair Souza discussed the vacant Vice-Chair position. **Member Bierce** expressed interest in serving, and the appointment was deferred to the October meeting. No vote was taken.

There were no speakers for public comment

C8. (2:19:53) CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items on future Community Advisory Committee Meeting Agendas

Staff announced the September 17, 2026 California Public Utilities Commission meeting concerning the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA).

C9. (2:22:53) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:23 pm.

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

9/14/26 – Ava Community Advisory Committee
AI Generated Courtesy Summary - not official minutes
This summary has not been reviewed for accuracy

Community Advisory Committee

September 14, 2026, 6:00 PM

C1. Welcome & Roll Call

Chair Souza called the September 14, 2026 meeting of the Community Advisory Committee to order at 6:02 PM. The meeting was held in person at the Ava Community Energy Board Room, 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 2300, Oakland, California, and at various remote locations listed on the agenda.

Board Clerk Adrian Bankhead conducted roll call. A quorum was established. Members present included Member Bierce, Member Riley, Member Krulewitz, Member Edmunds, Member Swaminathan, Alternate Member Epperson, Member Harper, Member Halaufia, Member Knodt, Member Raj, Member Roberts, and Chair Souza. Members Lakshman and DiFranco were not recorded as present.

C2. Public Comment

No public comments were received in person, online, or from remote locations.

C3. CAC Chair Report

Chair Souza reported that following the previous CAC meeting, the Board of Directors held a meeting at which several items were approved. She noted that former Vice Chair Indera has chosen to retire and extended well wishes on behalf of the Committee.

No public comments were received on the Chair Report.

C4. Minutes from July 13, 2026 meeting

No public comments were received on the minutes. The minutes from the July 13, 2026 meeting were approved unanimously.

> Member Edmunds moved and Member Bierce seconded approval of the minutes from the July 13, 2026 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

C5. Update on Customer Programs Strategy, formerly called Roadmap (BOD Informational Item)

Annie Henderson, Chief Customer Officer, presented an update on the Customer Programs Strategy — formerly referred to as the Roadmap. The rebranding reflects a recognition that the strategy must remain adaptive rather than prescriptive. The core deliverable is a strategic framework comprising a program objective, strategic

priorities, success metrics, and portfolio composition targets, which will guide Ava's customer programs over the next five years. A subsequent implementation phase will develop program concepts and portfolio scenarios.

Ms. Henderson outlined a two-track engagement model. Internally, staff will form ad hoc working groups drawing from the Board of Directors, the CAC, and local municipal staff. Externally, Ava has issued a Request for Proposals for a consultant to lead targeted stakeholder outreach and public workshops. Nine conforming bids were received. Staff is recommending Option 2, the higher-engagement option comprising five in-person public workshops and a greater number of virtual sessions and stakeholder meetings, to ensure broad geographic and demographic representation.

Ms. Henderson reported that staff has already completed meetings with 17 of 18 member jurisdictions, reviewed local climate action plans, and analyzed customer survey data collected since 2020. Key themes emerging from municipal meetings include grid interconnection and capacity constraints, local economic development, municipal staff and funding limitations, building and transportation electrification needs, and affordability. Customer survey data consistently shows reliability and affordability as top priorities, with programs and incentives growing in importance.

Committee discussion highlighted the importance of geographic differentiation across the service territory, particularly between Alameda County and San Joaquin County communities. Members noted existing disparate program access, housing stock differences, regulatory environments, and differing local priorities. Member Harper recommended organizing stakeholder engagement by geography first, then by interest or constituency type. Staff confirmed that all received proposals incorporated geographic and demographic tagging methodologies.

Members also inquired about the relationship between this strategic process and Ava's existing programs. Ms. Henderson clarified that current approved programs — including the e-bike program, AVI charge DC fast charging, smart home charging, smart home battery, resilience hub initiative, and critical municipal facilities programs — continue to move forward with committed staff and budgets. The new strategic framework will guide future program development. She also noted that near-term needs, such as the Air District's proposed ban on natural gas water heater sales, are being addressed through incremental pilot proposals to be brought to the Board separately.

Member Krulewitz noted that the proposed consultant engagement would specifically address geographic diversity of input.

Public commenters, including a representative of the Local Clean Energy Alliance and a representative of IBEW Local 595 and NorCal NECA, expressed support for the engagement process and urged attention to equity metrics, state decarbonization alignment, the inclusion of construction and labor stakeholders, and a focus on disadvantaged and energy-priority communities.

This was an informational item. No action was taken.

C6. Approve a resolution on a suite of power related products with Sentinel Energy Center, LLC from a hybrid battery project (BOD Action Item)

Scott Harding, Director of Originations, presented a proposed package of transactions with Sentinel Energy Center, LLC, a jointly owned facility in Desert Hot Springs. The package includes five products: Resource Adequacy (RA) from a newly constructed 50 MW / 200 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS); RA from the existing 850 MW Sentinel natural gas peaking plant; a two-year year-ahead call option for 2031–2032; a top-4/bottom-4 financial hedge associated with the BESS; and a heat rate financial settlement hedge. All products commence January 1, 2031, with a term of ten years, except the call option. Importantly, Ava takes no physical energy from this facility; the transactions are structured as capacity and financial instruments only.

Mr. Harding emphasized that this structure mirrors two previously Board-approved deals — one for the Malaga facility (approved 2023, now operational) and one for the Tracy facility (approved 2025, commencing 2028). The addition of the BESS to the Sentinel site is projected to reduce NOx emissions by approximately 7% and displace approximately 2,000 metric tons of CO_2 equivalent per year by enabling the gas plant to run less and by absorbing excess renewable energy from the grid during midday surplus periods.

Committee discussion addressed the distinction between this BESS and the facility's existing black-start capability, the lithium iron phosphate battery chemistry confirmed to be in use (noted as posing lower fire risk compared to the technology involved in the Moss Landing incident), portfolio diversification benefits, and the role of hedging in protecting rate stability. Chair Souza encouraged the presenter to consider framing the BESS concept in accessible analogies — such as a home battery system — when presenting to the Board.

Member Swaminathan inquired about the overall percentage of load hedged by this transaction and the expected number of hours the heat rate settlement would be "in the money." Mr. Harding indicated those figures involve commercially sensitive information but offered to provide estimates separately. Member Bierce asked about Ava's stated goal to avoid long-term contracts with greenhouse gas-emitting resources; Ms. Henderson and Mr. Harding clarified that because no energy is taken from the gas plant, this transaction does not conflict with Ava's 2030 carbon-free power goal, and RA procurement is treated separately from power procurement under Ava's policy.

Chair Souza and Member Swaminathan suggested that an updated energy markets orientation — similar to the May 2021 Board retreat — be considered for newer CAC and Board members.

The Committee voted to recommend the resolution to the Board of Directors.

> Member Edmunds moved and Member Knodt seconded approval of a recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the resolution authorizing the CEO to negotiate and execute agreements for BESS, RA, and financially settled products with Sentinel Energy Center, LLC. Member Bierce abstained. The motion carried.

C7. Vice-Chair Appointment (CAC Action Item)

Chair Souza noted the vacancy in the Vice Chair position following the retirement of the former Vice Chair, and described the role as including assistance with meeting agendas, occasional chairing of meetings, and representation at Board of Directors meetings. She noted that the Vice Chair serves as a stepping stone toward the chair position, and that the term would run through the next scheduled elections in January 2027.

Member Bierce expressed interest in serving as Vice Chair for the remainder of the current term. No other members came forward. The item was noted without a formal vote taken at this meeting; Chair Souza indicated the matter would be placed on the October agenda for formal action.

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

Public Engagement Specialist Cait Cady announced that the CPUC is scheduled to take action on September 17, 2026 regarding the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) fee as a consent item at its voting meeting. She directed members to the CPUC meeting webpage for participation information and noted that a related update would also be presented at an upcoming Board subcommittee meeting. Chair Souza encouraged members who are able to attend to voice opposition to any increase in the PCIA, characterizing it as a financial burden on Ava's budget.

No requests for future agenda items were received.

C9. Adjourn

Chair Souza adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:23 PM. The next Community Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6:00 PM.