Draft Minutes

Community Advisory Committee

June 15, 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:

4563 Meyer Park Circle, Fremont, CA 94536
1234 W Oak St, Stockton, CA 95204
2277 Pyrenees Ave., Stockton, Ca 95210

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.

C1. (0:042) Welcome & Roll Call

Present: Members: Bierce, Riley, Edmunds, Swaminathan, Lakshman, DeFranco, Harper, Raj, Roberts, Vice-Chair Balkissoon and Chair Souza
Not Present: Members: Halaufia and Knodt

Member Lakshman joined the meeting at 6:15pm.

C2. 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.

(3:09) Public Comment - Jim Lutz, former CAC member, urged that the Community Advisory Committee be involved early in Ava's local development planning process and upcoming local development workshop. He stated that early CAC participation and community input would help inform long-term planning and improve the effectiveness of local development initiatives.

(5:41) Public Comment - Jessica Tovar spoke about the importance of continued community engagement in Ava's local development efforts and highlighted the Community Advisory Committee's role in advising on energy and investment decisions.

C3. (7:56) CAC Chair Report

Chair Souza reported on the May 18, 2026 Board of Directors meeting and related activities, and answered questions from the Committee.

There were no speakers for public comment.

C4. (8:17) Minutes from April 13, 2026 and May 18, 2026 meetings

There were no speakers for public comment.

Vice-Chair Balkissoon motioned to approve the minutes. Member Bierce seconded the motion, which was approved 9/0/1/0/3 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):
Yes: Members: Bierce, Riley, Edmunds, Swaminathan, DiFranco, Harper, Raj, Roberts and Chair Souza
No: none
Abstain: Vice-Chair Balkissoon
Recuse: none
Not Present: Members: Lakshman, Halaufia and Knodt

C5. (28:47) FY 2026-2027 Annual Budget (BOD Action Item)

Approve the next fiscal year budget

Senior Finance Manager Jason Bartlett presented the proposed FY 2026–2027 annual budget and answered questions from the Committee.

Public Comment

(1:47:22) Jenna Rafia-Yuan
(1:49:41) Avi Wong
(1:51:49) Jessica Tovar
(1:55:19) Alice Sung

Four speakers urged the Community Advisory Committee to recommend restoring funding to the Local Development Fund, including replacing the previously removed $10 million, and expressed concern that allocating no new funding would weaken Ava's long-term local development efforts. Speakers spoke in favor of directing investments toward equitable community programs, resilience, workforce development, grants for community organizations, and clean energy initiatives that benefit underserved communities.

1. **Vice-Chair Balkissoon moved to approve the FY 2026–2027 Annual Budget contingent on restoring the $10 million to the local development fund that was removed in December 2025. Member Bierce seconded the motion, which was approved 11/0/0/0/2 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):**
   Yes: Members: Bierce, Riley, Edmunds, Swaminathan, Lakshman, DiFranco, Harper, Raj, Roberts, Vice-Chair Balkissoon and Chair Souza
   No: none
   Abstain: none
   Recuse: none
   Not Present: Members: Halaufia and Knodt

2. **Member Bierce moved to recommend the development of a policy establishing a a minimum dollar amount for local development plus some percentage of net revenues for local development every year. The motion was seconded by Member DiFranco, and was approved 11/0/0/0/2 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):**
   Yes: Members: Bierce, Riley, Edmunds, Swaminathan, Lakshman, DiFranco, Harper, Raj, Roberts, Vice-Chair Balkissoon and Chair Souza
   No: none
   Abstain: none
   Recuse: none
   Not Present: Members: Halaufia and Knodt

C6. (2:43:30) Rosenberg's Rules of Order (CAC Informational Item)
Review Rosenberg's Rules of Order

***Chair Souza** announced that the review of Rosenberg's Rules of Order would be deferred to the July 2026 meeting.*

C7. (2:46:43) CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items on future Community Advisory Committee Meeting Agendas

Chair Souza recognized former CAC member Jim Lutz and presented him with a token of appreciation from the Committee for his ongoing engagement.

Member Brodie Roberts requested that the topic of small community organization grants be placed on a future agenda. Chair Souza suggested this topic could be the subject of an ad hoc committee, and Member Roberts indicated interest in leading that effort. The Committee discussed forming an ad hoc to explore small grants structure and policy, with the understanding that this would be formally agendized at a future meeting.

Jessica Tovar (Local Clean Energy Alliance) announced a Resilience Hub Workshop to be held on June 25, 2026 at Glad Tidings Church in South Hayward, funded by Ava Community Energy and co-hosted by the Local Clean Energy Alliance, Emerald Cities Collaborative, and the City of Hayward.

Member Brodie Roberts announced a community meeting hosted by Coalition No Coal in Oakland on June 25, 2026 at 7:00 PM at La Peña Cultural Center in Berkeley, focused on informing the public about federal funding directed toward coal operations in Oakland.

Clerk Bankhead reminded members that all written public comment would be placed in the public comment Box folder at https://app.box.com/v/avapubliccomment. Members were encouraged to keep that folder favorited and open during meetings.

C8. (2:56:27) Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, July 13, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

6/15/26 – Ava Community Advisory Committee
AI Generated Courtesy Summary - not official minutes
This summary has not been reviewed for accuracy

June 15, 2026, 6:00 PM

C1. Welcome & Roll Call

Chair Lorraine Souza called the Community Advisory Committee meeting to order at 6:03 PM on Monday, June 15, 2026, at Ava Community Energy headquarters, 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 2300, Oakland, California. Chair Souza noted that members of the public wishing to comment could use the raise hand function in Zoom or dial star 9 if joining by telephone.

Board Clerk Adrian Bankhead conducted the roll call. Members Lachman and Halufia were absent or did not respond. A quorum was confirmed.

Present: Member Beers, Member Riley, Member Evans, Member Swaminathan, Member De Franken, Member Harper, Member Raj, Member Ray, Member Roberts, Vice Chair, Chair Lorraine Souza

Absent: Member Lachman, Member Halufia

C2. Public Comment

Two members of the public provided comment during the general public comment period.

Jim Lutz, identifying himself as an Ava Community Energy customer and former CAC member, urged the Committee to ensure it is included early in Ava's local development planning process, which had been discussed at recent executive and legislative committee meetings. He emphasized that the CAC is specifically constituted to advise staff on local development issues and that early community input is critical to avoid problems that could otherwise be mitigated before the planning process advances too far. He noted that the local development plan would guide Ava's direction for the next five to ten years.

Jessica Guadalupe Tovar of the Local Clean Energy Alliance reiterated her organization's commitment to community choice energy as a racial justice issue and stressed the importance of the public having a meaningful say in how energy dollars are invested. She highlighted the value of the community advisory governance structure and called for investments that create clean energy jobs, reduce pollution, and open the clean energy economy to historically excluded communities. She invited new members to contact her at jessica@localcleanenergy.org.

No additional public comment was received online or by telephone.

C3. CAC Chair Report

Chair Souza provided a summary of key items discussed at the most recent Ava Board of Directors meeting, held two days prior.

Cal CCA Conference: Ava was prominently represented at the California CCA conference, held in Sacramento. CEO Howard and staff members Maria Fontenot, Dan Buraldi, and Dominic Prias participated as speakers. Multiple board members also attended. The conference was reported as a significant and successful event showcasing the benefits of CCAs.

San Joaquin County Launch: Howard reported that San Joaquin County service has been brought online, covering approximately 92 percent of the region. Work on solar customers remains ongoing due to the additional complexity of those accounts.

Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA): Chair Souza provided background on the PCIA, the mechanism by which PG&E recovers stranded costs from its legacy generation portfolio when customers depart to CCAs. The PCIA was unexpectedly extended by the CPUC last year, creating significant budget pressure for Ava. Ava's legislative team is pushing back, seeking verification of the value of PG&E's underlying resources. Chair Souza noted that members will frequently hear references to PCIA, market price benchmarks (MPB), and brown power in the context of Ava's finances.

Budget Update: Chair Souza noted that Ava's financial outlook has improved significantly. The originally projected $150 million shortfall was substantially reduced due to PG&E's rates not falling as sharply as anticipated and favorable market conditions. The GASB 62 rate stabilization fund is being used to normalize the budget. Total reserves stand at approximately $330 million, with $162.5 million in the rate stabilization fund untouched and approximately $83 million allocated across community and local development programs, including resiliency hubs, an e-bike program, and electrification initiatives.

Integrated Resource Planning (IRP): Chair Souza briefly described the CPUC's IRP process, which assesses whether Ava can supply sufficient electricity at peak demand while staying within emissions limits. She noted that Ava's emission factor has already dropped from 577 (in 2022) to 455 (in 2024), and that geothermal energy has emerged as a potentially attractive option in Ava's modeling.

San Leandro Default Rate Change: The City of San Leandro has requested that its default enrollment tier be changed from Renewable 100 to Bright Choice, in contrast to communities like Fremont, which have opted for a Renewable 100 default.

Chair Souza also reminded members of the importance of connecting with their respective Board representatives and briefly introduced the concept of ad hoc committees. Clerk Bankhead clarified that ad hoc committees are informal working groups of fewer than a quorum of members, convened for a limited time to research a specific question, and are not public meetings subject to noticing or recording requirements.

C4. Minutes from April 13, 2026 and May 18, 2026 meetings

Clerk Bankhead noted that a minor spelling correction had been made to the minutes of a prior meeting and that the corrected version had been posted to the public meetings page and included in members' agenda packets. One member noted for the benefit of newer members that two sets of minutes exist: the clerk's abbreviated record and a more detailed AI-assisted summary. A member abstained from the vote, citing non-attendance at the prior meetings.

> A motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026 and May 18, 2026 Community Advisory Committee meetings was made by Chair Souza and seconded by Member Bierce. The motion carried, with one abstention.

C5. FY 2026-2027 Annual Budget (BOD Action Item)

Senior Finance Manager Jason Bartlett presented the proposed FY 2026–2027 annual budget, which is scheduled for Board of Directors approval on Wednesday, June 17, 2026. The budget had previously been reviewed by the Executive Committee, the Finance Administrative and Procurement Committee, and presented in draft form to the Board in May.

Current Year (FY 2025-2026) Context: The current fiscal year, which began with a projected $150 million deficit, is now expected to close with approximately $80 million in net revenues. This improvement resulted from PG&E's rates not declining as sharply as feared following its ERA filing of May 15, 2026, along with other favorable market developments.

Revenue Outlook: Energy prices continue to soften, and Ava's generation rates for the next fiscal year are projected to decline approximately 11 percent — a benefit for ratepayers. The CPUC's Track 1 PCIA reform is considered to be at steady state for FY 2027, with no additional PCIA changes currently anticipated for the budget year, though Tracks 2 and 3 remain in scoping and present future uncertainty. Approximately $24 million from the rate stabilization fund (GASB 62 deferred revenues) will be drawn upon to keep the budget at or near breakeven.

Energy Costs and Operations: Energy operations represent approximately 94 percent of total expenses. Despite higher load, total energy costs are projected approximately 7.4 percent lower than the prior year, reflecting softer energy prices. Long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs), hedges, and resource adequacy contracts form the basis of Ava's supply portfolio. Staff noted that approximately 40 percent of supply remains in an open (unhedged) position, partly by design to provide a natural hedge against PCIA movements, with hedging ramping up as delivery months approach.

Overhead and Personnel: The budget includes five new FTE hires, with two previously approved positions having been deferred. Overhead categories include personnel, marketing and communications, legislative and legal services, professional services, and general and administrative expenses. Bartlett noted a reclassification of approximately $1.7 million in credit facility interest costs from non-operating to operating expenses due to an accounting treatment change under GAAP.

Local Development Fund: VP of Local Development JP Ross presented the status of the local development fund. The current balance stands at approximately $83.6 million, of which approximately $69.4 million is earmarked for specific programs. No new funding contribution to the local development fund is proposed in the FY 2027 budget. The $12 million planned for FY 2027 spending will commit Ava to approximately $29 million in additional future obligations. Key programs include AVACharge (EV fast charging), smart home battery, smart home charging, building electrification, and community grants. Ross noted that enrollment-based programs are difficult to forecast given the volatility of customer participation rates. Member Swaminathan raised the presentation concern that the $0 budget line for local development funding may be misleading to the public, and suggested either rewording the line item or adding clarifying language, such as "contribution to the local development fund." Bartlett acknowledged the feedback and committed to raising it with the leadership team ahead of the Board meeting.

Reserves and GASB 62: The reserve fund balance is approximately $330.8 million, representing 39.2 percent of projected next-year operating expenses, within the board-approved range of 25 to 75 percent (target: 50 percent). The rate stabilization fund holds $162 million in deferred revenues. Bartlett confirmed that approximately $18–19 million from the rate stabilization fund will be recognized to offset the forecasted budget deficit and stabilize customer rates.

Five-Year Forecast: A new directional five-year forecast was presented, projecting modest net revenue growth in subsequent fiscal years, contingent on no material changes to PCIA methodologies, stable market conditions, and continued load growth.

Member Questions and Discussion: Committee members asked substantive questions covering a range of topics, including: the volatility of the energy price forward curve; the timeline and spend-down trajectory of local development fund earmarks; the relationship between electrification program enrollment and revenue impacts; the basis for and governance of reserve fund policies; the structure of the waterfall allocation process for surplus revenues; and the rationale for holding reserves rather than returning funds to ratepayers or programs. Bartlett and Ross provided detailed responses. Kelly Birdwell Brezovec, Senior Director of Account Services, referenced the updated Financial Reserve Policy approved January 20, 2021, available on the Ava Community Energy website, as the governing document for reserve management. Member Thomas Edmunds inquired whether El Niño conditions had been factored into energy price models; Bartlett acknowledged this as a source of forecast uncertainty.

Public Comment on Agenda Item C5: Four members of the public spoke during the public comment period for this agenda item.

Jenna Rafia-Yuan called on the CAC to recommend the Board allocate a meaningful contribution to the local development fund for FY 2026–2027, arguing that without new funding the remaining balance can only support existing commitments for a limited time and that many current programs remain inaccessible to low-income community members.

Avi Wong of the People's Clean Power Alliance supported prioritizing local development funding, cautioning against the $0 allocation setting a concerning precedent. He recommended the CAC advocate for net revenue contributions to the local development fund, for expanded mid-sized community grants (in the $50,000–$100,000 range), and for exploring creative financing mechanisms such as social impact bonds and revolving funds.

Jessica Guadalupe Tovar of the Local Clean Energy Alliance underscored that not only is no new money being added to the local development fund, but that the Board's December 2025 vote also removed $10 million that had previously been allocated. She characterized the $0 line item alongside increased marketing expenditures as "insult to injury" and urged the CAC to press the Board to do more, citing the need for capacity grants to support grassroots organizations, particularly in the context of disaster resilience.

Alice Sung of Green Bank Associates called on the CAC to explore restoring at least the $10 million removed in December 2025, pointing to the improved budget outlook presented that evening, including the reduction of the expected deficit, the improved PCIA trajectory, and the significant interest income generated by Ava's holdings.

CAC Action — Motion 1: Restore $10 Million to Local Development Fund

Following public comment, discussion turned to the December 2025 Board decision to remove $10 million in unearmarked local development funds as part of deficit mitigation measures. Several members expressed the view that, given the substantially improved financial outlook, the CAC should recommend restoration of those funds. Bartlett confirmed that it would be technically feasible to restore the funds, for instance from rate stabilization fund savings, and that any such action would be a Board decision. A member noted that doing so was consistent with Ava's obligations as a Joint Powers Authority committed to community benefit.

> A motion to recommend that the Board approve the FY 2026–2027 budget contingent upon the restoration of the $10 million that was removed from the local development fund in December 2025, with the basis being that the GASB 62 rate stabilization fund draw has been reduced by approximately $14.2 million due to the improved financial outlook, was made by a Committee Member and seconded by a Committee Member. The motion carried unanimously.

CAC Action — Motion 2: Draft Surplus Allocation Policy Framework

Member Katharine Bierce raised a broader concern about the absence of a consistent, written policy governing how net revenues are allocated among reserves, local development, and customer bill relief. Several members expressed concern that the absence of such a framework results in ad hoc decisions that can disadvantage community programs when budgets are tight. Bartlett acknowledged that while operational prudence generally guides a waterfall approach — working capital first, then rate stabilization, then reserve replenishment, then local development, then customer credits — no explicit written rubric exists. He suggested the CAC recommend that some defined percentage of net revenues be allocated to local development as a consistent policy. Member Swaminathan proposed the addition of a minimum floor amount, independent of net revenue volatility. The Committee agreed that both a minimum base and a percentage of net revenues should form the structure of any future policy.

> A motion to recommend that the Board direct staff to develop a surplus allocation policy framework that establishes a minimum annual dollar amount for the local development fund plus a percentage of net revenues to be allocated to local development on a yearly basis, with the floor amount and percentage to be determined by the Board, was made by Member Katharine Bierce and seconded by Member Rachel DiFranco. The motion carried unanimously.

C6. Rosenberg's Rules of Order (CAC Informational Item)

Chair Souza announced that, due to the time expended on the budget item, the review of Rosenberg's Rules of Order would be deferred to the July 2026 meeting. Members were asked to obtain a copy of the rules from the Box folder circulated by Clerk Bankhead and to review them in advance of the next meeting. Clerk Bankhead noted he would recirculate the folder link and was developing a simplified, easy-to-remember URL for the CAC's shared materials.

C7. CAC Member and Staff Announcements including requests to place items on future Community Advisory Committee Meeting Agendas

Chair Souza recognized former CAC member Jim Lutz and presented him with a token of appreciation from the Committee for his ongoing engagement, including attending the Cal CCA conference at his own expense. Lutz expressed that, based on the evening's discussion, he felt Ava is in good hands.

Future Agenda Items: Member Brodie Roberts requested that the topic of small community organization grants be placed on a future agenda, noting it had been raised both in public comment and in Member Bierce's original motion language. Chair Souza suggested this topic could be the subject of an ad hoc committee, and Member Roberts indicated interest in leading that effort. The Committee discussed forming an ad hoc to explore small grants structure and policy, with the understanding that this would be formally agendized at the next meeting.

Announcements:

Jessica Tovar announced a Resilience Hub Workshop to be held on June 25, 2026 at Glad Tidings Church in South Hayward, funded by Ava Community Energy and co-hosted by the Local Clean Energy Alliance, Emerald Cities Collaborative, and the City of Hayward. She invited CAC members to attend and to share information with resilience hub organizations in their communities.

Member Brodie Roberts announced a community meeting hosted by Coalition No Coal in Oakland on June 25, 2026 at 7:00 PM at La Peña Cultural Center in Berkeley, focused on informing the public about federal funding directed toward coal operations in Oakland.

Clerk Bankhead reminded members that all public comment submitted via the Google Form during meetings, as well as written submissions, would be placed in the public comment Box folder. Members were encouraged to keep that folder favorited and open during meetings. A member raised the question of how to share informational articles with the broader Committee without violating the Brown Act; Clerk Bankhead suggested either routing such materials through the Chair's report as an agenda item or submitting them as public comment for the shared folder.

C8. Adjourn

Chair Souza adjourned the meeting at 8:59 PM. The next Community Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM.