



Draft Minutes

Community Advisory Committee

July 13, 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

1531 El Pinal Dr, Stockton, CA 95205

1021 West Acacia St., Stockton, California 95203

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.

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

C1. (0:09) Welcome & Roll Call

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

Not Present: Members: Swaminathan (South)

Alternate Member Epperson served as a voting member for Central Region (DiFranco).

C2. (1:58) 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.

(2:04) Public Comment - Jim Lutz, a former CAC member, encouraged the Committee to engage actively in Ava's planning process for long-term local development programs. He noted that local development was a foundational goal of the Joint Powers Authority that created Ava and urged that the agency expand its revenue streams beyond electricity charges. He proposed programs—such as leasing balcony solar and storage systems—designed to reduce customers' total energy bills at no upfront cost, and stated that any such planning process must be inclusive and broad-based to build sustainable, community-supported programs.

(5:31) Public Comment - Douglas Spaulding, an Ava customer in San Leandro and a beneficiary of the Ava Bike Electric program, raised two issues: the prospect of installing local EV charging stations, and concerns about the proliferation of AI data centers in communities served by Ava, including San Leandro and Hayward. He expressed concern about the environmental impacts of data centers and called on Ava to consider a moratorium on new data centers pending a fuller understanding of their ramifications.

C3. (9:43) CAC Chair Report

C4. (25:56) Minutes from June 15, 2026 meeting

There were no speakers for public comment.

Member Bierce noted a minor internal staff notation on page 3 that required correction.

Vice-Chair Balkissoon motioned to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2026 CAC meeting as corrected. Member Riley seconded the motion, which was approved 11/0/1/0/1 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

Yes: Members: Bierce, Riley, Edmunds, Lakshman, Epperson, Harper, Halaufia, Raj, Roberts, Vice-Chair Balkissoon and Chair Souza

No: none

Abstain: Member Knodt

Recuse: none

Not Present: Member Swaminathan

C5. (28:07) Ava Bike Electric Extension (BOD Action Item)

Approving a Resolution to add funding and extend the e-bike rebate program for one additional year

Transportation Electrification Manager Brett Wiley presented a staff proposal to extend the Ava Bike Electric program by 12 months through calendar year 2027 and to add \$2 million to the program budget, drawn from already board-approved but unearmarked vehicle electrification funds.

(42:14) Public Comment – Jim Lutz spoke in support for the e-bike program and asked whether staff had data on the number of miles participants have ridden and the amount of additional electricity sales associated with charging e-bikes.

(44:22) Public Comment – Jessica Tovar expressed concern about allocating additional Local Development Business Plan funds to the e-bike program without first providing a detailed accounting of the remaining fund balance. Tovar also noted that e-bikes may remain unaffordable for some community members even with rebates and encouraged consideration of the overall allocation of remaining local development funds before approving additional program funding.

Member Riley motioned to approve the staff recommendation. Member Bierce seconded the motion, which was approved 12/0/0/0/1

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

Yes: Members: Bierce, Riley, Edmunds, Lakshman, Epperson, Harper, Halaufia, Knodt, Raj, Roberts, Vice-Chair Balkissoon and Chair Souza

No: none

Abstain: none

Recuse: none

Not Present: Member Swaminathan

C6. (1:08:49) EcoBlock Grant (BOD Action Item)

Approving a Resolution Authorizing Funding for the EcoBlock Neighborhood Electrification Project

Vice President of Local Development JP Ross presented a consent item appearing on the upcoming Board of Directors agenda.

(1:13:44) Public Comment – Fangxue Zheng

(1:15:31) Public Comment – Jim Lutz

(1:17:53) Public Comment – Jessica Tovar

Fangxue Zheng, Jim Lutz, and Jessica Tovar spoke in support of the EcoBlock project while raising concerns about allocating Local Development Fund resources outside of a transparent and competitive public grant process. They encouraged Ava to provide adequate public notice and opportunities for review before significant funding decisions, ensure equitable access to grant funding throughout Ava's service territory, and consider mechanisms to replenish funds used for projects such as EcoBlock or establish a reserve for similar funding needs.

Member Bierce motioned to approve the EcoBlock grant with a request that the Chair make sure to express the CAC's numerous reservations about the process around transparency. Vice-Chair Balkissoon seconded the motion.

Member Harper added the friendly amendment that the Chair request that the Board directs staff to create a first draft policy framework for rapid response grant making, including:

- a. roles and responsibilities,**
- b. key points of contact,**
- c. recommend if there's an ad-hoc group that needs to be set up.**

Member Bierce and Vice-Chair Balkissoon accepted Member Harper's friendly amendment.

The amended motion was approved 9/1/2/0/1 (yes/no/abstain/recuse/not present):

Yes: Members: Bierce, Riley, Harper, Halaufia, Knodt, Raj, Roberts, Vice-Chair Balkissoon and Chair Souza

No: Member Edmunds

Abstain: Members Lakshman and Epperson

Recuse: none

Not Present: Member Swaminathan

C7. (1:56:36) Ad Hoc Discussion (CAC Informational Item)

Chair Souza introduced a discussion on the formation of new CAC ad hoc committees.

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

- **Vice Chair Balkissoon** requested a future agenda item on the comparison of Ava's Bright Choice and 100% Renewable product offerings, including costs, emissions, and the implications of any municipal reconsideration of those products for Ava.
- **Member Roberts** noted that he would be meeting with Ava's Community Engagement team to explore partnership opportunities with K–12 schools and offered to report back at the September meeting.
- **Member Riley** requested a future discussion on the impact of recent federal DOE guidance that eliminated consumer rebates for replacing gas appliances with electric ones, and the implications for customers midway through electrification. She also inquired whether Ava had a mechanism to proactively communicate which incentive programs are at risk from federal policy changes versus those protected under California or county-level authority.

C9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:00 pm.