



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

633 3rd Street, Eureka, CA 95501

Phone: (707) 269-1700 Toll-Free (800) 931-7323 Fax: (707) 269-1777

E-mail: info@redwoodenergy.org Web: www.redwoodenergy.org

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Jefferson Community Center Auditorium
1000 B Street, Eureka, CA 95501

March 12, 2024
Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

ADDITIONAL EASTERN HUMBOLDT LOCATION FOR THIS MEETING

*Member Luna Latimer will attend this meeting via teleconference from the Mid-Klamath Watershed Council building conference room in Orleans, next to the Post Office:
38150 State Highway 96, Orleans, CA, 95556.*

Any member of the public needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting or access the meeting materials should email LTaketa@redwoodenergy.org or call (707) 269-1700 at least 3 business days before the meeting. Assistive listening devices are available.

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, all writings or documents relating to any item on this agenda which have been provided to a majority of the Community Advisory Committee, including those received less than 72 hours prior to the Committee's meeting, will be made available to the public at www.RedwoodEnergy.org.

NOTE: Speakers wishing to distribute materials to the Committee at the meeting, please provide 17 copies to the Board Clerk.

THIS IS A HYBRID IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING.

The Community Advisory Committee meets in-person. When attending, please socially distance as much as possible and be courteous to those who choose to wear a mask.

To participate in the meeting by phone, call (669) 900-6833 or (253) 215-8782. Enter webinar ID: 822 2338 1610. **To participate in the meeting online**, join the Zoom webinar at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82223381610>.

To comment by phone or online during the public comment periods, raise your hand in the online Zoom webinar, or press star (*) 9 on your phone. When it is your turn to speak, a staff member will ask you to unmute your phone or computer. You will have 3 minutes to speak, subject to the Chair's discretion.

You may email written comments to PublicComment@redwoodenergy.org. Please write the agenda item number in the subject line. Comments will be included in the meeting record but not read aloud during the meeting.

Meeting participation may be easier if you download the Zoom application, but you do not need to install Zoom on your computer. After clicking the webinar link above, click "start from your browser."

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Agenda Item / What	How / Action <u>Underlined actions</u> indicate that a vote is needed.	When																
1. Open	<p><u>Roll Call:</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Norman Bell</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Luna Latimer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elizabeth Burks</td> <td>Ethan Lawton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deborah Dukes</td> <td>Dennis Leonardi, Chair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Colin Fiske</td> <td>Kit Mann</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Larry Goldberg</td> <td>Emily Morris</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Honar</td> <td>Jeff Trirogoff</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richard Johnson</td> <td>Jerome Qiriazzi, V. Chair</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Kris Mobley, Board Liaison</td> </tr> </table> <p>Remote member participation:</p> <p><u>Action (if needed): Approve teleconference participation request for this meeting by committee member pursuant to Brown Act revisions of AB 2449 due to an emergency circumstance to be briefly described.</u></p> <p>Review meeting agenda and goals.</p>	Norman Bell	Luna Latimer	Elizabeth Burks	Ethan Lawton	Deborah Dukes	Dennis Leonardi, Chair	Colin Fiske	Kit Mann	Larry Goldberg	Emily Morris	Chris Honar	Jeff Trirogoff	Richard Johnson	Jerome Qiriazzi, V. Chair		Kris Mobley, Board Liaison	6-6:05 p.m. (5 min.)
Norman Bell	Luna Latimer																	
Elizabeth Burks	Ethan Lawton																	
Deborah Dukes	Dennis Leonardi, Chair																	
Colin Fiske	Kit Mann																	
Larry Goldberg	Emily Morris																	
Chris Honar	Jeff Trirogoff																	
Richard Johnson	Jerome Qiriazzi, V. Chair																	
	Kris Mobley, Board Liaison																	
2. Non-Agenda Item Public Comment	<p>This item is provided for the public to address the Committee on matters not on the agenda. At the end of public comments, the Committee may respond to statements, or refer requests requiring action to the Executive Director or the Board of Directors.</p>	6:05 – 6:10 p.m. (5 min.)																
3. Consent Calendar	<p>All matters on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine by the CAC and are enacted in one motion. There is no separate discussion of any of these items. If discussion is required, that item is removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately. At the end of the reading of the Consent Calendar, CAC members or members of the public can request that an item be removed for separate discussion.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">3.1. <u>Approve February 13, 2024, CAC Special Meeting Minutes.</u></p>	6:10 – 6:15 p.m. (5 min.)																
4. Items Removed from Consent Calendar	<p>This time is set aside for discussion of items removed from the Consent Calendar.</p>	6:15 – 6:20 p.m. (5 min.)																

Agenda Item / What	How / Action <u>Underlined actions</u> indicate that a vote is needed.	When
5. Humboldt Sawmill Biomass Discussion	<p>Action: Hear presentations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wendy Ring, Humboldt Coalition for Clean Energy • Richard Engel, RCEA Power Resources Director reporting on RCEA’s Biomass Technical Advisory Group discussion • Dean Kerstetter, Humboldt Sawmill Company • Yana Valachovic, Forest Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension in Humboldt & Del Norte Counties • Brian Wilson, North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District <p>Discuss and <u>make a recommendation to RCEA’s Board of Directors.</u></p>	6:20 – 7:20 p.m. (60 min)
6. Executive Director’s Report	Action: Hear an update from RCEA Executive Director Matthew Marshall.	7:20 – 7:25 p.m. (5 min)
7. Member and Board Liaison Reports	<p>This time is provided for Committee members and the Board Liaison to share information on topics not on the agenda. At the end of member reports, the Executive Director will set requests requiring action to a future agenda or refer requests to staff or the Board.</p> <p>7.1. Board Liaison 7.2. Committee Members</p>	7:25 – 7:30 p.m. (5 min.)
8. Close & Adjourn		7:30 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR CAC MEETING – Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Jefferson Community Center Auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA 95501.

This page
intentionally
left blank.



**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT
Agenda Item # 1**

AGENDA DATE:	March 12, 2024
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Member Teleconference Participation

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 State of Emergency ended on February 28, 2023, and RCEA Board and CAC meetings returned to meeting in-person at a physical location, with allowances under existing Brown Act rules or new AB 2449 Brown Act rules should a Board or CAC member need to participate from a remote location for certain reasons. If another state of emergency is declared, these bodies may be able to return to completely remote meetings.

SUMMARY

CAC members may attend up to two meetings per year from a remote location without making the location accessible to the public for the following reasons:

1. "Just cause"
 - a. To provide childcare or caregiving need to a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner;
 - b. Due to a contagious illness that prevents the member from attending in-person;
 - c. Due to a need related to a physical or mental disability as defined in Government Code sections 12926 and 12926.1 not otherwise accommodated; and
 - d. Due to travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.
2. "Emergency circumstance" due to a physical or family medical emergency that prevents the member from attending in person.

If the CAC member would like to attend the meeting remotely due to an emergency circumstance, the committee will take action by majority vote to approve the member's remote participation. A vote is not necessary for a request to attend remotely for just cause. A brief description, protecting the member's (or member's family member's) medical privacy, needs to be provided in both cases.

The remotely participating CAC member needs to publicly disclose at the meeting before any action (vote) is taken, whether anyone 18 years of age or older is present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the individual's relationship with the CAC member.

If the CAC member anticipates needing to participate remotely for more than 2 meetings per year or for non-just cause or emergency reasons, staff recommends arranging for a publicly and ADA accessible space with visual and audio meeting capabilities from which to participate in keeping with previous Brown Act teleconference meeting requirements.

Staff asks to be notified one-week in advance, if possible, of remote meeting attendance so the member's publicly and ADA accessible remote meeting address can be published in the agenda, as may be required per Brown Act open meeting laws.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve teleconference participation request for this meeting by committee member pursuant to Brown Act revisions of AB 2449 due to an emergency circumstance to be briefly described.



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

633 3rd Street, Eureka, CA 95501

Phone: (707) 269-1700

Toll-Free (800) 931-7323

Fax: (707) 269-1777

E-mail: info@redwoodenergy.org

Web: www.redwoodenergy.org

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

February 13, 2024 - Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Community Advisory Committee Chair Dennis Leonardi called the hybrid in-person and teleconference meeting to order on the above date at 6:01 p.m. at the Jefferson Community Center auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA. The agenda for this meeting was posted on February 9, 2024.

Members present:

Norman Bell
Deborah Dukes
Colin Fiske
Larry Goldberg
Richard Johnson
Luna Latimer

Ethan Lawton
Dennis Leonardi, Chair
Kit Mann (arrived 6:13 p.m.)
Emily Morris (remote participation)
Jerome Qiriazzi
Jeff Trirogoff

Members absent: Elizabeth Burks, Christopher Honar

Board Liaison present: Kris Mobley (non-voting)

Staff present:

Jamie Boone, Account Services Specialist
Stephen Kullmann, Demand-Side Management Director
Sarah Lorenzini, Account Services Associate
Sally Regli, Account Services Manager
Lori Taketa, Board Clerk
Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director

Chair Leonardi introduced new CAC member Deborah Dukes, RCEA intern Sarah Lorenzini, Account Services Specialist Jamie Boone and prospective CAC members Auriah Milanes and Pliny McCovey.

Consent Calendar

3.1. Approve November 14, 2023, CAC Meeting Minutes.

Member Bell asked staff to clarify the description of Dr. Wendy Ring's citizen science air quality monitoring comment. Chair Leonardi closed the comment period.

Motion Goldberg, Second Qiriazzi: Approve November 14, 2023, CAC meeting minutes.

The motion passed with the following vote: Ayes: Bell, Fiske, Goldberg, Johnson, Latimer, Lawton, Leonardi, Morris, Qiriaz, Trirogoff. Noes: None. Abstain: Dukes. Absent: Burks, Honar. Mann.

5. CAC Annual Report and Work Goals

Deputy Executive Director Verbeck reported. The Annual Report Subcommittee reviewed the annual report and the committee gave initial input on continuing the previous year's work goals at the November CAC meeting. Demand-Side Management Director Kullmann will ask the Programs Outreach Subcommittee for input on solar + battery storage incentives to help counteract the Net Billing Tariff's dampening effects on solar energy adoption. Staff will ask the Critical Facilities Subcommittee to help develop a transparent method to prioritize critical facilities for resilience funding after work for a grant to install solar and battery storage at remote fire stations subsidies. No member of the public commented on this agenda item.

Motion Latimer, Second Lawton: Adopt Community Advisory Committee annual report and CAC 2024-25 work goals for presentation to the RCEA Board of Directors for approval on February 22, 2024.

The motion passed with the following vote: Ayes: Fiske, Goldberg, Johnson, Latimer, Lawton, Leonardi, Mann, Morris, Qiriaz. Noes: None. Abstain: Bell, Dukes, Trirogoff. Absent: Burks, Honar.

6. Rate Increase Messaging Input

Account Services Manager Regli presented information about the current electricity rate increases and public messaging on the RCEA website. Members offered feedback on how to make the information more understandable and useful by simplifying the language, highlighting RCEA's benefits to the community, differentiating RCEA from PG&E, and featuring ways people can control their electricity bills prominently. Members requested links to information for business, agriculture and solar customers.

Member of the public and contractor Auriah Milanes pointed to shortcomings of RCEA's rates being tied to rates set by a for-profit, investor-owned utility, and suggested the rate increase webpage include a pie chart on the generation rate increase causes. Chair Leonardi closed the comment period.

7. Policy Platform Input

Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager Faith Carlson described the purpose of the Policy Platform and the process to develop it. She reviewed this year's proposed changes.

Members expressed:

- Appreciation for including transmission and distribution access advocacy in the platform,
- A request for platform language advocating for policies that further RePower strategic plan goals, even when RCEA has no operational control over those policy

- areas, and
- An observation that purchasing power from Humboldt Sawmill Company goes against RePower strategic plan goals.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

8. Deputy Executive Director's Report

Deputy Executive Director Verbeck reported on committee member reappointments and the Board's formation of a CAC at-large nomination subcommittee to recommend appointees at their March meeting. CAC Chair and Vice Chair appointments will be made at the May CAC meeting due to delays in filling the many expiring and new seats.

The March CAC meeting will be dedicated to a discussion of RCEA's power purchase agreement with Humboldt Sawmill Company. As requested, the CAC will have the opportunity following the presentations and discussion to make recommendations to the RCEA Board of Directors.

9. Member and Board Liaison Reports

Director Mobley expressed appreciation for CAC members' passionate engagement and knowledge and will communicate to the Board the committee members' requests to appoint a Rio Dell CAC member.

Member Latimer requested SWELL program messaging to share with the public in response to queries she has received. Vice Chair Qiriazi stated he was leaving the CAC after eight years of service and expressed appreciation to the group for the work they do. Member Lawton expressed support for internships at RCEA, thanked outgoing CAC members for their work and requested certificates of appreciation for exiting members.

Chair Leonardi adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Lori Taketa
Clerk of the Board

This page
intentionally
left blank.



REDWOOD COAST Energy Authority

STAFF REPORT Agenda Item # 5

AGENDA DATE:	March 12, 2024
TO:	Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Richard Engel, Power Resources Director Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Humboldt Sawmill Biomass Discussion

BACKGROUND

In response to concerns expressed by community members at previous Community Advisory Committee meetings, CAC members requested an opportunity to hear presentations by biomass energy, public health and other biomass-related stakeholders from Humboldt County. Most concerns are specific to emissions from the Humboldt Sawmill Company's (HSC) Scotia biomass plant that provides about 20% of RCEA's electric portfolio for its Community Choice Energy (CCE) program. CAC members further requested the opportunity to make a recommendation to the RCEA Board of Directors in response to information heard by the CAC.

Since launching its CCE program in 2017, with biomass included as part of the portfolio since inception, RCEA has made several adjustments to the CCE program in response to community concerns about emissions:

- A clause was included in RCEA's power purchase agreement from the outset in 2017 allowing RCEA to terminate the agreement if HSC fails on a continuing basis to operate its plant in compliance with applicable laws.
- In updating its strategic plan in 2019, RCEA added several bioenergy-related strategies, including:
 - creation of a Biomass Technical Advisory Group (BTAG)
 - investigation of the impacts of biomass emissions
 - planning for a long-term transition away from direct combustion of forest-derived biomass and toward lower-impact uses of biomass.
- RCEA established the BTAG in 2023 with membership representing diverse stakeholders and convened meetings of the group to seek guidance on topics related to local biomass energy.
- Acting on the strategic plan goal to investigate biomass emissions, RCEA staff with support from the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District have begun to deploy ambient air quality sensors in the vicinity of the HSC plant and elsewhere. Data and findings from this project will be made public.
- RCEA engaged Humboldt State University's (now Cal Poly Humboldt) senior capstone engineering class in 2020 to analyze alternative uses of local biomass; the class's

findings are now posted on RCEA's website (<https://redwoodenergy.org/power-resources/>).

- RCEA entered into a memorandum of understanding with HSC in 2021 under which HSC provides annual reporting to RCEA on its feedstock use and sources, power production, and emissions, as well as HSC's efforts to investigate alternative uses for the residual material produced by its sawmill. The reports are made available to the BTAG and the CAC for review before being presented to the RCEA Board.
- Members of RCEA's Board of Directors and Community Advisory Committee have toured the HSC sawmill and power plant to better understand how these facilities are operated and how emissions are controlled.
- RCEA adjusted its premium REpower+ portfolio beginning in 2021 to exclude biomass; this portfolio which is available for an added cost of \$0.01/kWh above RCEA's base REpower portfolio (equivalent to about \$5 per month for an average residential account) now includes only carbon-free renewable resources. If enough RCEA customers opted up to REpower+, RCEA's need for biomass power in its portfolio could be substantially reduced.

SUMMARY

At this meeting, the Community Advisory Committee will hear presentations by:

- Wendy Ring, Humboldt Coalition for Clean Energy
- Richard Engel, RCEA Power Resources Director reporting on RCEA's Biomass Technical Advisory Group's discussion on this issue
- Dean Kerstetter, Humboldt Sawmill Company
- Yana Valachovic, Forest Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension in Humboldt & Del Norte Counties
- Brian Wilson, North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District.

On March 1, 2024, RCEA convened a meeting of its Biomass Technical Advisory Group. Among other participants, attendees included representatives of Humboldt Sawmill Company, the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District, and local environmental groups that have raised air quality concerns. This provided a forum for participants including RCEA staff to better understand how the NCUAQMD enforces air quality regulations, what measures HSC is taking to control or reduce its emissions, and where the environmental groups perceive shortcomings in air quality enforcement.

The RCEA Board of Directors has asked to receive a report on the outcomes of the Biomass Technical Advisory Group's discussion and follow-up discussion by the CAC on this topic at the Board's March 28 meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Discuss and make a recommendation to RCEA's Board of Directors.



REDWOOD COAST
EnergyAuthority

STAFF REPORT
Agenda Item # 6

AGENDA DATE:	March 12, 2024
TO:	Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Matthew Marshall, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Executive Director's Report

SUMMARY

Executive Director Matthew Marshall will provide updates on topics as needed.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. (Information only.)

This page
intentionally
left blank.