



# Redwood Coast Energy Authority

633 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Eureka, CA 95501

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

E-mail: [info@redwoodenergy.org](mailto:info@redwoodenergy.org) Web: [www.redwoodenergy.org](http://www.redwoodenergy.org)

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**Redwood Coast Energy Authority Office**  
**633 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Eureka, CA 95501**

**April 14, 2020**  
**Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

## **COVID-19 NOTICE**

### **RCEA OFFICES WILL NOT BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR THIS MEETING**

Pursuant to California Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 and the Humboldt County Health Officer's March 30, 2020, Shelter-in-Place Order, the Community Advisory Committee meeting will not be convened in a physical location. CAC members will participate in the meeting via an online Zoom video conference.

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**Observe the Meeting:** To maximize public safety and enable access, members of the public may observe the meeting online at <https://zoom.us/j/477709819> or listen to the meeting by phone at (669) 900-6833 or (253) 215-8782. Enter webinar ID 477 709 819 followed by the # sign.

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**Submit Public Comment:** Members of the public may provide comment before and during the meeting by emailing [PublicComment@redwoodenergy.org](mailto:PublicComment@redwoodenergy.org). Emailed comments should identify the agenda item in the subject line. Comments received before the agenda item is heard will be read into the record, with a maximum allowance of 3 minutes (approximately 500 words) per comment, subject to the Chair's discretion. Comments received after the agenda item is heard and before the meeting's end will be included in the meeting record but not read aloud during the meeting.

Written comment may also be mailed to 633 Third Street, Eureka, CA 95501, "ATTN: 4/14/20 CAC Meeting." Comments should identify the agenda item at the top of the comment and be postmarked by the meeting date to be included in the meeting record.

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In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any member of the public needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting or access the meeting materials should email [Ltaketa@redwoodenergy.org](mailto:Ltaketa@redwoodenergy.org) or call (707) 269-1700 at least 3 business days before the meeting. Advance notification enables RCEA staff to make their best effort to reasonably accommodate access to this meeting and its materials while maintaining public safety.

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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](http://www.redwoodenergy.org).

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>What / Action</b>	<b>When</b>
1. Open	<p>Roll Call: Richard Johnson  Norman Bell Luna Latimer  Jerome Carman Dennis Leonardi, Vice  Colin Fiske Kit Mann  Larry Goldberg, Chair Craig Mitchell  Pam Halstead Kathy Srabian  Tom Hofweber Matty Tittman</p> <p>Stephen Avis, Board liaison</p> <p><b>Review meeting agenda and goals.</b></p>	6 - 6:05 (5 min)
2. Approval of Minutes	<b>Action: Approve minutes of January 14, 2020, meeting.</b>	6:05 - 6:10 (5 min)
3. COVID-19	<b>Receive report on RCEA's COVID-19 response. (Information only)</b>	6:10 – 6:30 (20 min)
4. RCEA Customer Programs	<b>Receive report on RCEA customer programs. (Information only)</b>	6:30 – 6:55 (25 min)
5. Public Safety Power Shutoff	<b>Receive update on PSPS response efforts. (Information only)</b>	6:55 – 7:15 (20 min)
6. Non-Agenda Item Public Comment	This item is provided for the <i>public</i> to address the Committee on matters not on the agenda. At the end of public comments, the Committee will respond to statements, set requests requiring action to a future agenda, or refer requests to staff.	7:15 – 7:20 (5 min)
7. Member Reports	This time is provided for <i>Committee members</i> 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.	7:20 – 7:25 (5 min)
8. Close & Adjourn	Summarize actions, outcomes, Board communication items, next steps	7:25 - 7:30 (5 min)

**NEXT REGULAR CAC MEETING** – RCEA Offices, 633 Third Street, Eureka, CA 95501  
Tuesday, July 14, 2020, 6 - 7:30 p.m.



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**Redwood Coast Energy Authority Office**  
**633 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Eureka, CA 95501**

**January 14, 2020**  
**Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING** **DRAFT MINUTES**

The agenda for this meeting was posted on January 11, 2020. Community Advisory Committee Vice Chair Larry Goldberg called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

### Members present:

Norman Bell  
Jerome Carman  
Colin Fiske  
Larry Goldberg, Vice Chair  
Pam Halstead

Tom Hofweber  
Dennis Leonardi  
Kit Mann  
Kathy Srabian  
Robin Smith, Board Liaison

### Members absent:

Richard Johnson  
Craig Mitchell

Luna Latimer  
Matty Tittman, Chair

### Staff present:

Mike Avcollie, Demand-Side Projects Manager  
Nancy Stephenson, Community Strategies Manager  
Lori Taketa, Clerk of the Board

### **Minutes Approval**

Member Pam Halstead corrected an error in the December 10, 2019, special meeting draft minutes where Margaret Tauzer's name was misspelled.

Vice Chair Goldberg invited public comment. No one came forward to speak. Vice chair Goldberg closed public comment.

**Motion Halstead, Second Bell. Minutes of the November 12, and December 10, 2019 special meetings were approved as corrected by consensus.**

### **Oral Communications**

Vice Chair Goldberg invited public comment.

Member of the public Jesse Noell stated that RCEA is not fulfilling its mission statement because the agency buys high-impact, utility-scale wind and biomass power, and that rooftop solar, hot water storage and vehicle-to-grid energy are better ways to fulfil the mission statement. Mr. Noell added that providing jobs in Humboldt County should be part of the agency's mission statement and that by helping 50,000 homes install solar power storage systems, RCEA would enable a large reduction in fossil fuel use.

Member of the public Rick Pelren stated that microgrid and vehicle-to-grid advances and the ability to balance the grid with solar and storage make this an exciting time to solarize Humboldt and suggested policy makers attend solar conventions or host one on distributed solar arrays.

He stated that only one microgrid has been built since RCEA's inception, that the County needs as much solar as possible but that Humboldt County has a "closed for solar" sign due to RCEA's solar opposition.

Vice Chair Goldberg closed the oral communications period.

The committee members discussed how solar is one important part of a sustainable energy solution in Humboldt County but not the sole solution due to the scale of energy generation required, the high cost of providing energy when the sun is not shining, and the time required to build storage infrastructure at the required scale. The committee members expressed the need for education explaining the science behind different energy options and stated that the RePower Humboldt plan explains cost-effective, practical and available options in depth. Members requested efforts to correct misperceptions that RCEA discourages solar energy development, and the need to emphasize the agency's work with international energy experts at the Schatz Energy Research Center on the airport microgrid and other projects. Community Strategies Manager Nancy Stephenson stated that RCEA is launching a series of workshops beginning in February on solar battery backup systems and microgrids. The workshops will be videotaped for on-demand viewing and workshop information will be shared in regular newspaper columns.

### **Annual Meeting Calendar**

Staff Clerk Taketa outlined the proposed calendar of regular Community Advisory Committee meetings for the next year based on the Board of Directors' Operating Guidelines and the CAC's Charter.

Vice Chair Goldberg invited public comment. No one came forward to speak. Vice chair Goldberg closed public comment.

**Motion Mann, Second Halstead. By consensus, the Committee unanimously approved the 2020 Community Advisory Committee annual meeting calendar.**

### **Selection of Chair/Vice Chair**

Staff Clerk Taketa recounted the committee leadership selection process from the CAC Charter. The committee members discussed whether a member could serve as chair or vice chair for two consecutive years then serve in the other role the following year and determined this was acceptable in the interest of providing continuity of leadership. Vice Chair Goldberg was nominated to serve as chair and member Leonardi was nominated to serve as vice chair. Both stated a willingness to serve.

Vice Chair Goldberg invited public comment. Member of the public Dave Carter thanked vice chair Goldberg for his service. Vice Chair Goldberg closed public comment.

**Motion Carman, Second Hofweber. By consensus, the Committee unanimously appointed Larry Goldberg and Dennis Leonardi to serve as Community Advisory Committee chair and vice chair, respectively, for terms beginning April 14, 2020, and ending April 13, 2021.**

### **RCEA Resiliency Initiatives (Information only)**

- Board Public Safety Power Shutoff Subcommittee (on islanding Humboldt County)

Demand Side Project Manager Mike Avcollie presented a staff report on the RCEA Board Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Ad Hoc Subcommittee's first meeting on January 9, 2020. The subcommittee's goal is to work with PG&E to island and maintain electrical service to Humboldt County during power shutoffs and to have a plan in place before the next fire season. Staff

Manager Avcolle reported that PG&E was granted an Air Quality Management District load variance permit allowing Humboldt Bay Generating Station (HBGS) to perform black start testing in mid-December. The subcommittee and staff compiled a list of questions for PG&E Senior Manager, Humboldt & North Valley Divisions Carl Schoenhofer in the wake of the test and will request a tour of HBGS to better understand islanding challenges.

Schatz Energy Research Center Managing Engineer Dave Carter provided information on power shutdowns, the grid, and how HBGS engines would need to operate at low levels in different modes when islanding to respond to constantly fluctuating load demands, which is difficult in smaller grids.

The committee discussed:

- how Southern Humboldt might not benefit from islanding as much as Northern Humboldt due to transmission line configuration and the lack of resources to energize the southern grid section
- the importance of powering metropolitan areas, hospitals, Open Door facilities and other emergency first responders
- the uncertainty about whether biomass power plants would need to go offline during islanding
- the 15% rule of thumb grid limit on solar energy due to solar energy fluctuations
- why the solar energy limit cannot be increased if PG&E has a 100% solar option, and if the 15% rule of thumb limit can be increased through new technology

CAC members requested:

- participating in the HBGS tour
- a CAC member to participate in a non-voting capacity at future PSPS Subcommittee meetings
- a substation map
- that the subcommittee find out which substations will be powered first when islanding
- finding out whether the islanding Humboldt County will have customer bill impacts
- finding out whether HBGS protection settings need to be changed when islanding.

Member of the public Jesse Noell expressed the need to keep hospital and fire department substations energized.

Member of the public Rick Pelren stated that PG&E has the ability to choose which substations to power and that it would be good to know of any PG&E emergency plans.

- Airport Solar Microgrid Project (islanding critical facilities)

Schatz Energy Research Center Managing Research Engineer Dave Carter reported on the Airport Solar Microgrid Project and explained how the low-inertia, inverter-based microgrid can support grid frequency without the spinning online resource that was previously required. When built at substations, microgrids can allow for greater than 15% rooftop solar penetration along grid feeder lines.

The airport's electricity account will be credited in compensation for energy produced in one part of the solar array and the rest of the array will be direct coupled to a Tesla DC battery pack which can manage the large energy fluctuations caused by clouds and makes the system 100% dispatchable. RCEA invested \$6 million and the CEC contributed \$5 million to this community-scale project which must be economically viable in order to be replicable.

A completed study confirmed the project will have no glare impacts, project partners are close to signing a PG&E interconnection agreement and the goal is to begin construction this summer. Upon inquiry by a committee member, Mr. Carter stated that the CAC could help by asking County Supervisors to make the project a high priority and to impress upon the FAA its importance to the community. Mr. Carter commended RCEA staff for their work and willingness to take a risk on the project and stated that PG&E has been a large project partner.

- CPUC Self-Generation Incentive Program (for customer battery storage rebates)

Staff Manager Avcollie reported on the CPUC's changes to its Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) tax credits for battery purchases, expanding the definition of critical facilities that may qualify. To qualify for the resiliency adder, customers must have experienced two PSPS events. Those most likely to benefit from this program are critical and local agency facilities with solar, and low-income residents. With resiliency adders, the program may potentially pay for battery storage. Twelve schools and local agencies have contacted RCEA about battery installation after the PSPS events. Residential applications will be accepted beginning March 1, and the commercial and public agency program begins April 1. A public workshop on the program will be held on Tuesday, February 4 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center.

Colin Fiske left at 7:41 p.m. Robin Smith and Pam Halstead left at 7:43 p.m.

Chair Goldberg noted that an inverter that can operate on battery power is required for grid-tied solar systems to add battery backup.

Kathy Srabian left at 7:55 p.m.

### **Member Reports**

Member Carmen noted that a sidebar recommendation in the RePower Humboldt document was mistakenly attributed to the CAC and requested a more formal process when publishing committee recommendations. Mr. Carman also requested an update on Citizen Sourced Programs that were initiated in 2018 for the next CAC meeting.

Chair Goldberg adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Lori Taketa  
Clerk of the Board



**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STAFF REPORT  
Agenda Item # 3**

AGENDA DATE:	April 14, 2020
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Matthew Marshall, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	RCEA COVID-19 Response Report

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**BACKGROUND**

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). Executive Order 25-20 issued on March 12 mandated compliance with state and local public health official measures, including imposition of social distancing measures, to control the disease's spread.

On March 19, the Humboldt County Health Officer directed all individuals living in Humboldt County to shelter in their residences except to provide or receive certain essential services or engage in essential activities, and further ordered all non-essential businesses to cease operations at physical locations. On the same date, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 directing all 40 million California residents to stay at home indefinitely except for workers in the 16 critical infrastructure sectors identified by the Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) who are required to maintain continuity of operations for these vital systems and facilities. RCEA procures power for Humboldt County residents, an essential service, and is part of the critical energy infrastructure sector.

RCEA offices were closed to the public on March 16 and staff were reassigned to work from home to reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission. Some staff continue to access the office to maintain critical functions such as accounts payable and receivable, collecting deliveries and mail, and processing payroll. Public-facing staff continue to provide services to the public via email and phone.

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**SUMMARY**

To address customer needs during this emergency, staff have published a frequently updated webpage on the RCEA website, "COVID-19 Updates from RCEA" at <https://redwoodenergy.org/covid-19/>.

The webpage contains information customers should know about:

- Customer shutoff moratoriums for both PG&E and RCEA customers who are unable to pay their bills,
- Redwood Community Action Agency's HEAP (Home Energy Assistance) Program for PG&E bill-payment assistance,

- PG&E's CARE (California Alternate Rates for Energy) Program for qualifying customers to receive a 20% discount on gas and electricity,
- Assistance with determining whether changing electricity rate plans will save money as customers spend more time at home, and
- How to save energy while sheltering-in-place.

Information and links will be updated as new resources become available. Community members can be directed to <https://redwoodenergy.org/covid-19/> to learn about the different available assistance programs. RCEA staff will also continue to be available to supply information by calling (707) 269-1700 or by emailing [info@redwoodenergy.org](mailto:info@redwoodenergy.org).

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

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None - information only.



**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STAFF REPORT  
Agenda Item # 4**

AGENDA DATE:	April 14, 2020
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Matthew Marshall, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Update on RCEA Programs

**SUMMARY**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated public health orders have impacted a range of RCEA programs. That said, RCEA continues to implement those programs that fall under the definition of essential services and also continues with other program work and planning activities that can be performed by staff remotely while complying with the current social distancing and shelter-in-place rules:

1. **Community Choice Energy (CCE) Program:** The CCE program continues to provide service as usual, though the health crisis is resulting in decreased customer loads. It is anticipated that there will likely be revenue impacts from both reduced loads as well as a potentially large number of customers having difficulty paying their bills on time.

At the upcoming April RCEA Board of Directors meeting staff anticipates presenting a number of solar power purchase agreements for approval:

- 100MW, 15-year contract with EDP Renewables for the Sandrini Solar project in Kern County, currently scheduled to complete construction and come online in 2022.
- Five applications for local, wholesale solar projects have been submitted to RCEA's feed-in-tariff program. Staff is currently reviewing these applications and will be presenting one or more of these projects to the Board for approval.

2. **Energy efficiency and other demand-side management programs:** The majority of RCEA's energy efficiency program work has been suspended. Public works construction is allowable under the health order rules for essential infrastructure, and so some work continues on local government projects that were already in progress to the extent feasible and appropriate under the current situation.

During this period of program suspension, RCEA demand-side management staff are focusing their near-term efforts on planning for a number of new programs that staff will hopefully be able to launch later this year as scheduled, including RCEA-administered energy efficiency programs funded through the California Public Utilities Commission, a restructured PG&E partnership program, and CCE-funded programs.

3. **Electric transportation:** The CCE-funded electric bike rebate program is slated to launch this month, to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day.

RCEA is continuing to operate and maintain its electric vehicle charging station network (vehicle fueling is considered essential community infrastructure). State-funded technology upgrades and expansion of the charging network is in progress, though the timeline for this work is being impacted by the pandemic.

4. **Planning:** RCEA continues to support the County-led effort to develop a multi-jurisdiction climate action plan for the County of Humboldt and local Cities. The goal is to complete the plan by the end of the year, though there is some uncertainty to the timeline due to the pandemic.

The County has also asked that RCEA take the lead in exploring bond options to support local energy resilience and independence. Due to the current infeasibility of a general obligation bond (which would be repaid through an increase in property taxes), this effort will be focused on potential revenue bond projects (which are repaid with revenue from the project and so do not require any tax increases).

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

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None - information only.



# REDWOOD COAST Energy Authority

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT Agenda Item # 5

AGENDA DATE:	April 14, 2020
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Matthew Marshall, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Public Safety Power Shutoff Update

### SUMMARY

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Following the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events last fall, PG&E committed to an effort to put in place the ability to “island” the Humboldt County electricity grid and keep the power on by running the Humboldt Bay Generation Station during PSPS events that require deenergizing the transmission lines into the County.

PG&E is making progress toward this goal and has been conducting a range of testing associated with operating the Humboldt Bay plant in islanded mode, with the objective of being prepared to provide power to the majority of Humboldt County customers in time for the upcoming fire season.

PG&E is also pursuing the deployment of temporary mobile generators at the Hoopa and Willow Creek substations to be able to provide power to the rural customers served by those substations during any 2020 fire season PSPS event (assuming that the high fire risk conditions causing the event do not extend into those local areas).

Staff will provide a report with additional details at the meeting.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION

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None - information only.

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