



# Redwood Coast Energy Authority

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

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## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING**

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

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

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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. Assistive listening devices are available.

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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).

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

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### **THIS IS A HYBRID IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING.**

The Community Advisory Committee has returned to in-person meetings, with online and phone participation options. When attending CAC meetings, 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 to raise your hand. You will continue to hear the meeting while you wait. 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.

**You may email written comments** to [PublicComment@redwoodenergy.org](mailto:PublicComment@redwoodenergy.org). **Please identify the agenda item number in the subject line.** Comments will be included in the meeting record but not read aloud during the meeting.

While downloading the Zoom application may provide a better meeting experience, Zoom does not need to be installed on your computer to participate. After clicking the webinar link above, click "start from your browser."

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

<b>Agenda Item / What</b>	<b>How / Action</b> <u>Underlined actions</u> indicate that a vote is needed.	<b>When</b>																
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><b><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></b></p> <p><b>Review meeting agenda and goals.</b></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><b>Actions:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>3.1. Approve November 14, 2023, CAC Meeting Minutes.</u></b></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.)																
5. CAC Annual Report and Work Goals	<p><b><u>Action: 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.</u></b></p>	6:20 – 6:30 p.m. (10 min.)																

<b>Agenda Item / What</b>	<b>How / Action</b> <u>Underlined actions</u> indicate that a vote is needed.	<b>When</b>
6. Rate Increase Messaging Input	<b>Action:</b> Review RCEA website electricity rate increase messaging. Provide input for increased comprehensibility and clarity.	6:30 – 6:55 p.m. (25 min)
7. Policy Platform Input	<b>Action:</b> Review and provide input on proposed RCEA 2024 Policy Platform prior to Board review at February 22 meeting.	6:55 – 7:15 p.m. (20 min.)
8. Deputy Executive Director's Report	Update on CAC membership reappointments, Chair/Vice Chair reappointment schedule change, Biomass Technical Advisory Group meeting schedule and upcoming biomass discussion. (Information only)	7:15 – 7:20 p.m. (5 min.)
9. Member and Board Liaison Reports	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.  <b>9.1.</b> Board Liaison <b>9.2.</b> Committee Members	7:20 – 7:30 p.m. (10 min.)
10. Close & Adjourn		7:30 p.m.

**NEXT REGULAR CAC MEETING** – Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 6 - 7:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Community Center Auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA 95501.

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

AGENDA DATE:	February 13, 2024
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Member Teleconference Participation

**BACKGROUND**

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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**

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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**

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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.



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## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

**November 14, 2023 - 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 p.m. at the Jefferson Community Center auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA. The agenda for this meeting was posted on November 9, 2023.

#### **Members present:**

Norman Bell  
Elizabeth Burks  
Colin Fiske  
Larry Goldberg  
Christopher Honar  
Richard Johnson

Luna Latimer  
Ethan Lawton  
Dennis Leonardi, Chair  
Kit Mann (arrived 6:04 p.m.)  
Jerome Qirazi  
Jeff Trirogoff

**Members absent:** Emily Morris

**Board Liaison present:** Kris Mobley (non-voting)

#### **Staff present:**

Sally Regli, Account Services Manager  
Lori Taketa, Board Clerk  
Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director

#### **Non-Agenda Item Public Comment**

Chair Leonardi noted recent public meeting disruptions and stressed the importance of respectful behavior during meetings.

McKinleyville resident Stephen Paytash recommended RCEA help residents opt up to the REpower+ carbon-free and renewable portfolio through a grant-funded program and reconsider using REpower as the default portfolio due to biomass power greenhouse gas concerns.

Committee members requested a CAC-Board meeting on RCEA's HSC biomass power purchase agreement and noted the Biomass Technical Advisory Group's role to analyze data and advise the Board on biomass issues. The CAC may comment on the BTAG's recommendations and a January County Board of Supervisors' biomass panel discussion of diverse stakeholders will also inform decision-making.

Dr. Wendy Ring's written comment opposed citizen science air quality monitoring around the Humboldt Sawmill Company biomass plant and compared the HSC plant's excessive emission incidents with those of other Northern California biomass plants.

The Chair closed the public comment period.

### **Consent Calendar**

#### **3.1. Approve September 12, 2023, CAC Meeting Minutes.**

No member of the public nor of the committee requested consent calendar item removal. Chair Leonardi closed the comment period.

#### **Motion Goldberg, Second Latimer: Approve consent calendar item.**

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

### **5. Arcata Gateway / McKinleyville Town Center Subcommittee Report**

Deputy Executive Director Verbeck reported. Staff will provide technical assistance to developers and jurisdictions on Life Plan Humboldt, We Are Up, and accessory dwelling units policy development. Staff will develop a RePower Strategic Plan cheat sheet for developers and jurisdiction planners so they can easily understand County General Plan Energy Element goals. Staff will submit comments when the County releases the McKinleyville Town Center project Notice of Preparation. Staff will submit an Arcata Gateway Project letter of support and contact the City of Eureka to find out how RCEA can support the City's parking lot housing project. Staff will work informally with the Harbor Commission to get offshore wind port developers to use commercially available zero emission equipment. The group discussed determining County support for these actions, incentives for complying developers including streamlined permitting, and how RePower strategies align with Countywide Climate Action Plan measures. Developers who comply with CAP measures may enjoy streamlined permitting.

Committee member and Humboldt County Association of Governments Executive Director Burks described the We Are Up 50-unit multi-generation, multi-ability housing project in McKinleyville. HCAOG helped this project and a micro transit project win a \$2.7 million development grant. RCEA staff will provide energy efficiency and other technical assistance for this project.

No member of the public commented on this agenda item.

### **6. Annual CAC Work Goal Setting**

Deputy Executive Director Verbeck reported on progress made by the CAC and RCEA staff on the previous year's work goals. Due to long timeframes and staffing limitations, staff recommend continuing existing work goals for the next year.



Due to Rural Regional Energy Network launch delays, staff will engage the CAC Customer Programs Outreach Subcommittee on program outreach in 2024 (goals 1 and 4). The McKinleyville Town Center / Arcata Gateway Major Project Subcommittee will continue working with staff on the current list of development projects during the next two years (goal 2). The Offshore Wind Outreach Subcommittee's work is paused while the County and CORE Hub determine their outreach roles and messaging (goal 3). The Critical Facilities Subcommittee will help staff develop an infrastructure resilience funding prioritization method and a matrix of critical facilities ranked according to funding need (goal 5). The Bond Subcommittee's work is nearing completion. Staff submitted CAC-shortlisted energy project letters of interest to the USDA for a 40% forgiveness, low-interest loan program. Staff will submit full loan applications after the USDA responds and may issue a request for proposals for energy resilience project bond development (goal 6). The Climate Action Plan Outreach Subcommittee will craft CAP information for RCEA to share with the community in 2024 (work goal 7).

The group discussed:

- RCEA providing input on the Climate Action Plan prior to the Environmental Impact Report.
- Upcoming PG&E rate increases: staff will ask committee members for messaging input.
- Power Resources staff will provide the CAC with general information and comparisons of airport microgrid, offshore wind, battery storage and other clean energy sources' cost effectiveness.

No member of the public commented on this agenda item. Chair Leonardi closed the comment period.

### **7. Net Billing Tariff (NBT): Board Decision Report**

Account Services Manager Regli reported. The CPUC's proposed decision changes customer billing for imported and exported solar electricity of on-site solar arrays. RCEA's Board decided to mirror PG&E's new billing plan and asked staff to gather information and report back on how RCEA and its customers are impacted by the new plan. The Board will consider battery incentives in the spring and reconsider RCEA's NBT billing plan in a year. Manager Regli described aspects of the NBT billing plan:

- The new NBT adopts more accurate pricing and promotes customer-sited storage.
- New NBT customer accounts will be trued up each April when eligible legacy Net Energy Metering customers receive their cash out payments.
- New solar systems will take longer to pay for themselves.
- Pairing battery storage improves new solar systems' cost effectiveness.
- Larger solar customers can now sell their Renewable Energy Credits to RCEA.
- PG&E's billing system is not operational. Current RCEA NBT customers are billed under Net Energy Metering in the interim.
- Calpine's current billing system kept RCEA from creating a customized NBT. Staff will advocate for changed solar billing when PG&E and Calpine IT systems are fully operational.

Committee members discussed:

- Creating a battery co-op for community members who do not own batteries,
- How Swell's virtual power plant program supports battery ownership with or without a solar system,
- How the State's Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) helps legacy solar system owners buy battery storage,
- Whether the new solar billing plan can take into account increased battery adoption's environmental impacts, and
- How mirroring PG&E's NBT Solar Billing Plan may negatively impact RCEA's ability to meet ambitious rooftop solar adoption goals.

Committee members asked whether RCEA could serve as a SGIP and federal Inflation Reduction Act information clearinghouse to help applicants successfully access these funds, and for a presentation on costs and benefits of battery installation. Staff will engage with the Programs Subcommittee for input on RCEA battery incentive recommendations before presenting them to the Board. There were no public comments on this agenda item.

#### **8. Member and Board Liaison Reports**

Board Liaison Mobley reported on RCEA's purchase of the 805 Third Street parking lot, site of RCEA's future offices, and praised Deputy Executive Director Verbeck for leading the purchase efforts.

Member Fiske asked that informational agenda items include opportunities for the CAC to make Board recommendations in the context of his request to agendaize a recommendation following the July HSC biomass alternate use report. Member Trirogoff asked that RCEA immediately stop buying HSC power to end public health impacts and address procurement impacts later. Staff explained that the CAC biomass discussion was postponed because the Board has no pending biomass-related decisions and key staff are on leave. The Executive Director sets the CAC meeting agenda which can include Board-requested items, per the Board Operating Guidelines and the CAC Charter. CAC members may submit agenda item requests to the Executive Director.

There was no public comment on this item.

Chair Leonardi adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Lori Taketa  
Clerk of the Board



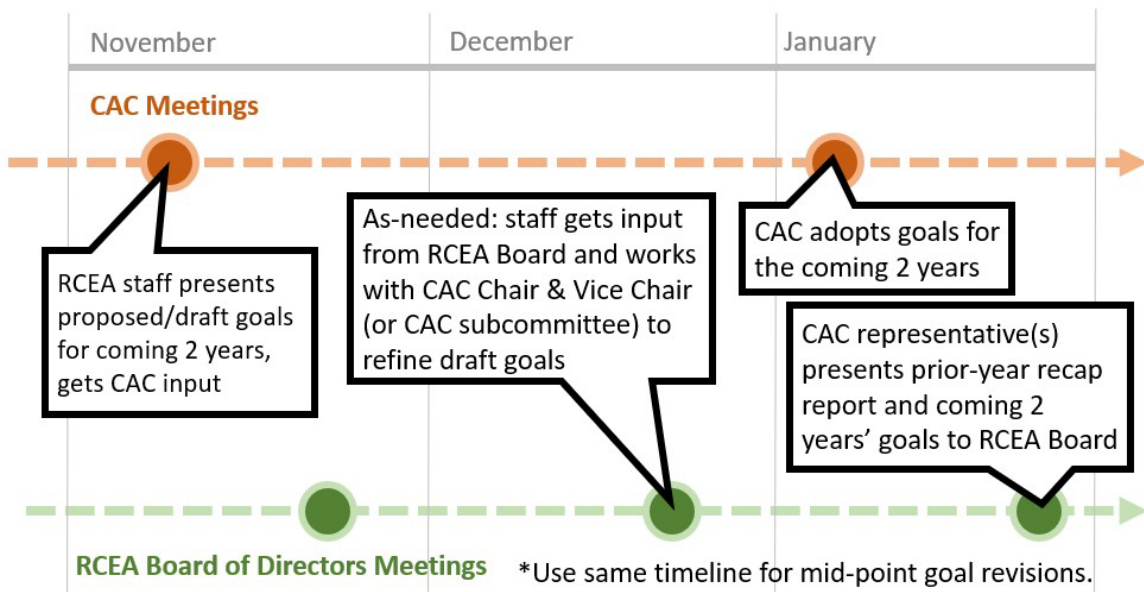
**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STAFF REPORT  
Agenda Item # 5**

AGENDA DATE:	February 13, 2024
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Eileen Verbeck, RCEA Deputy Executive Director
SUBJECT:	CAC Annual Report & 2024-25 Goals

**BACKGROUND**

At the July 2021 Community Advisory Committee meeting, the CAC agreed to report the group’s past year accomplishments and upcoming year goals annually to the RCEA Board of Directors. The aim of this process is to organize the CAC’s work within RCEA’s work goals and to help the Board thoughtfully utilize the committee as a resource to support Board decision-making and agency public engagement efforts. In November 2022, the Committee extended the goal setting process to every two years, with possible adjustments at the midway point.

**Community Advisory Committee  
Goal-setting & Board Reporting  
Biennial Timeline\***



## SUMMARY

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The Community Advisory Committee provided feedback on proposed 2024 work goals at its last meeting. The ad hoc Annual Report Subcommittee, comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair, has not suggested further changes.

Proposed next steps and timelines for CAC work goals are listed below. In anticipation of upcoming CAC membership changes, please remember that members may volunteer for or step down from subcommittees/work groups at any time.

a. **Help guide community outreach and messaging for RCEA programs.**

*CAC engagement on RCEA program messaging and outreach is ongoing. Staff will request rate increase messaging assistance at this meeting. Subcommittee input on RuralREN program planning and engagement in outreach and messaging support has been delayed until July 2024 at the earliest due to REN launch delays. Staff will be convening the subcommittee in the next month to receive feedback on offering incentives for solar battery storage to offset the impact of the Net Billing Tariff on the affordability of solar installation.*

b. **Monitor and advocate for implementation of RePower Humboldt Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy goals and notify staff of community activities and projects that may have significant impact on the ability to reach these goals.**

*Ad hoc subcommittees will be formed as new major development projects in the county are identified that may impact CAPE goals. Staff is implementing actions identified by the current Arcata Gateway/McKinleyville Town Center Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the following projects:*

- *Life Plan Humboldt/We Are Up*
- *RePower Strategic Plan cheat sheet for project developers and jurisdiction planners*
- *McKinleyville Town Center*
- *Arcata Gateway Project*
- *Offshore wind port development*
- *Accessory dwelling unit land use standards*
- *Housing development on City of Eureka owned lots.*

c. **Support and help guide offshore wind energy community outreach.**

*RCEA is waiting to engage the Offshore Wind Outreach Subcommittee until the County of Humboldt's role in educational and outreach material development has been determined. The CAC subcommittee's role is to help develop RCEA messaging and education materials complementing the County's efforts. Timing of 2024 subcommittee engagement is to be determined.*

d. **Provide input on the development of new and expanding RCEA customer programs.**

*Staff will be convening the subcommittee in the next month to receive feedback on offering incentives for solar battery storage to offset the impact of the Net Billing Tariff on the affordability of solar installation.*

- e. **Assist with identifying and prioritizing critical facilities and at-risk communities that would benefit from enhanced energy resilience infrastructure, including future microgrid deployment and/or facility-level renewable back-up power systems.**

*RCEA was awarded \$3 Million to assist rural fire stations with energy resilience. RCEA will work with project partners to design, permit and install solar + battery storage at 16 fire stations. The critical facilities list that was reviewed by the subcommittee was used to identify this first round of work. Staff are currently engaged with the project partners on implementing the grant. The CAC requested that the subcommittee continue to work with staff to help create a draft prioritized matrix of facilities needing resilience funding. Due to staff constraints during the grant ramp up, this work will not be done until late 2024.*

- f. **Finalize recommendations to the RCEA Board and County Board of Supervisors for energy-project bond and/or alternative financing opportunities, support any resulting implementation efforts as appropriate.**

*Next steps continue through 2024-25:*

- *Staff applied to the USDA for funds to develop the projects short listed by the CAC subcommittee. Staff has been awaiting a decision from the USDA prior to releasing a Request for Proposal for bond development to identify suitable financing mechanism(s) for one or more of the projects shortlisted by the Bond Subcommittee and staff.*
- *Presentation of findings to the County Board of Supervisors. CAC Bond Subcommittee sunsets.*

- g. **Help facilitate community input on the finalization and adoption of the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan.**

*The CAC Climate Action Plan Outreach Subcommittee will provide input to the RCEA and County-developed CAP outreach proposal. Timeframe for this is to be determined. Staff is engaged with the County's consultant on the revisions to the Climate Action Plan.*

The Chair and/or Vice-Chair will be enlisted to present the Community Advisory Committee Annual Report and work goals to the Board for acceptance and approval at its February 22 meeting.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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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.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Draft Community Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report and 2024-25 Work Goals

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**Redwood Coast Energy Authority**  
**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT TO THE RCEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**(For presentation in February 2024)**

The Community Advisory Committee meets on the second Tuesday of odd-numbered months, supports RCEA public engagement efforts and provides decision-making support and input to the RCEA Board.

<b>2023 Committee Members</b>	<b>Representing Jurisdiction:</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
<b>Norman Bell</b>	Arcata	March 2025
<b>Elizabeth Burks</b>	Fortuna	<b>March 2024</b>
<b>Colin Fiske</b>	At-Large	<b>March 2024</b>
<b>Larry Goldberg</b>	At-Large	<b>March 2024</b>
<b>Christopher Honar</b>	County 3 (Southern Humboldt)	March 2025
<b>Richard Johnson</b>	Trinidad	March 2025
<b>Luna Latimer</b>	County 1 (Eastern Humboldt)	March 2025
<b>Ethan Lawton</b>	Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District	<b>March 2024</b>
<b>Dennis Leonardi, Chair</b>	Ferndale	<b>March 2024</b>
<b>Emily Morris</b>	At-Large	<b>March 2024</b>
<b>Kit Mann</b>	Blue Lake	March 2025
<b>Jerome Qiriazzi</b>	County 2 (McKinleyville Area)	<b>March 2024</b>
<b>Jeff Trirogoff</b>	At-Large	<b>March 2024</b>
<b>Vacancy</b>	Eureka	
<b>Vacancy</b>	Rio Dell	
<b><u>Other Members in 2023:</u></b>		
<b>Roger Hess</b>	Rio Dell, January-July	
<b>Catherine Gurin, Vice Chair</b>	Eureka, January-July	

Committee Liaison:

Matthew Marshall, Executive Director

**I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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Dennis Leonardi was elected to serve as Chair and Catherine Gurin was elected to serve as Vice Chair in March 2023. In September, after the Vice Chair stepped down from the CAC, Jerome Qiriazzi was elected Vice Chair to serve through March 31, 2024.

The Committee heard updates on:

- a. Results of Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Offshore Wind Lease Area Auction and description of next steps
- b. RePower Humboldt Strategic Plan status (biannual report)
- c. Net Energy Metering Successor Tariff (Net Billing Tariff) changes
- d. Humboldt Sawmill Company's Annual Biomass Report to inform potential biomass alternative uses
- e. RCEA's Second E-Bike Rebate Program, developed through the CAC's previous Citizen Sourcing program idea solicitation process.

The CAC ad hoc subcommittees accomplished the following in 2023:  
(Former subcommittee members' names are *italicized*.)

**Alternative Biomass Uses – SUNSET** (Staff Liaison: Power Resources Director Richard Engel)

Members: *Katy Gurin*, Luna Latimer, Dennis Leonardi, Kit Mann, Jerome Qiriaz

At its final meeting in September 2022, the Alternative Biomass Uses Subcommittee clarified that it would not serve as the Biomass Technical Advisory Group, whose formation was called for in the 2019 RePower Humboldt RCEA strategic plan, and whose function is to advise the Board on the technical feasibility and financial, environmental and health implications of biomass use alternatives. The CAC ad hoc subcommittee provided input on what interests should be represented on the BTAG and helped develop a list of potential members. It was agreed that the BTAG's formation would trigger the CAC's Alternative Biomass Uses Subcommittee's sunset.

The CAC Alternative Biomass Uses Subcommittee sunset upon formation of the BTAG in April 2023.

**Bond Subcommittee** (Staff Liaisons: Executive Director Matthew Marshall and Legislative & Regulatory Policy Manager Aisha Cissna)

Members: Elizabeth Burks, Colin Fiske, Larry Goldberg, *Katy Gurin*, *Roger Hess*, Richard Johnson, Jeff Trirogoff

- Based on this subcommittee's 2021 and 2022 work, staff took RaiseGreen's recommendation to identify specific projects on which RaiseGreen could assist with a feasibility analysis. Staff met with McKinleyville's We Are Up community housing project organizers to assess potential solar siting. Staff determined the site was not well-suited for utility-scale solar development. Staff's further investigation of other potential micro-bond financing and traditional municipal bond projects resulted in a subcommittee short list of projects.



- In January 2023, the CAC recommended that the Board direct staff to issue a request for proposals for bond development and issuance services to identify suitable financing mechanism(s) for one or more of the shortlisted projects, allowing for additional projects to be determined at a later date, and prioritizing projects with community investment pathways. The Board approved issuing the RFP in February 2023.
- The RFP for bond development and issuance has not been released as of the writing of this report.

**Climate Action Plan Outreach Subcommittee** (Staff Liaison: Legislative & Regulatory Policy Manager Aisha Cissna)

Members: Elizabeth Burks, Larry Goldberg, *Katy Gurin*, Richard Johnson, Ethan Lawton, Jerome Qiriazzi

- a. The subcommittee met in May after the County released the Climate Action Plan Notice of Preparation for the Environmental Impact Report.
- b. The Subcommittee heard an overview of the Climate Action Plan Environmental Impact Review timeline and outreach needs from the County's Supervising Planner Michael Richardson. The group focused on developing a coordinated community outreach effort to rural property owners, addressing this community's particular climate action concerns.
- c. Next steps: RCEA will determine what resources can be dedicated to CAP outreach; RCEA and the County will jointly develop a CAP outreach proposal; the ad hoc subcommittee will provide input on this proposal.

**Critical Facilities (and At-Risk Communities) Subcommittee** (Staff liaison: Juliette Bohn)

Members: *Roger Hess*, Luna Latimer, Jerome Qiriazzi, Jeff Trirogoff

- a. Subcommittee members helped rank staff's previously compiled list of Humboldt County's critical facilities based on resilience infrastructure funding urgency. Staff presented the subcommittee-informed list to the full CAC for more input.
- b. The CAC provided valuable insight on ways to determine resiliency funding priority and asked the subcommittee to help create a clearer method for prioritizing facilities and a draft prioritized matrix of critical facilities in need of resilience infrastructure funding.

**Customer Programs Outreach Subcommittee** (Staff Liaison: DSM Director Kullmann)

Members: Colin Fiske, *Roger Hess*, Luna Latimer, Dennis Leonardi, Kit Mann, Jeff Trirogoff

Launch of the Rural Regional Energy Network, which will provide funding for new energy efficiency and other customer programs, has been delayed to 2024. This subcommittee has not yet been engaged due to the delay.

**Humboldt’s Electric Future Subcommittee - SUNSET** (Staff Liaisons: Power Resources Director Richard Engel, Community Strategies Manager Nancy Stephenson)

Members: Norman Bell, Larry Goldberg, Christopher Honar, Richard Johnson, Luna Latimer, Kit Mann, Jeff Tirogoff

- a. Assisted staff in planning and public engagement for the June 5 in-person and June 8 online community outreach events. Residents provided input as part of the two-year Integrated Resource Plan filing process at these sessions.
- b. Helped compile a community input report from public workshop exercises and discussions.
- c. Presented the report to the CAC at their July 11 meeting.
- d. **Sunset** after final Humboldt’s Electric Future report presentation to the Board of Directors at their July 27, 2023, meeting.

**McKinleyville - Arcata Major Project Subcommittee** (Staff Liaison: Executive Director Matthew Marshall)

Members: Beth Burks, Colin Fiske, Chris Honar, Richard Johnson

- a. The CAC formed this subcommittee at its May meeting to identify at a high level the following development projects’ intersection with RCEA goals: McKinleyville Town Center and Arcata Gateway Projects, City of Eureka-owned property development and accessory dwelling unit inclusion in countywide jurisdictions’ General Plans.
- b. Staff identified other significant projects warranting consideration for strategic plan intersection and impacts, including harbor development for offshore wind industry uses.
- c. The ad hoc local major project subcommittee met on August 29, 2023, and helped decide on the following staff follow-up actions:
  - i. **Life Plan Humboldt, We Are Up, ADU Policy Development** – RCEA staff will provide technical assistance directly to developers and jurisdictions to assist in aligning the development with RCEA’s strategic plan.
  - ii. **McKinleyville Town Center** – RCEA will track when the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Environmental Impact Report is released. RCEA will submit comments during the NOP.
  - iii. **Arcata Gateway Project** – Staff will provide a letter of support to the City of Arcata.
  - iv. **Humboldt Bay Harbor Port Development** – Staff will work with the Harbor Commission to encourage them to add binding language in their agreements to use commercially available zero emission equipment, which will not be dependent on cost.
  - v. **Eureka Parking Lot Housing Projects** – RCEA will reach out to Eureka City staff and council to ask what action RCEA can take to support these projects.

**Off-Grid Cannabis Greenhouse Gas Impact Subcommittee** (Staff Liaison: Juliette Bohn, Infrastructure Programs Manager)

Members: Larry Goldberg, Chris Honar, Jeff Trirogoff

- b. The CAC formed this ad hoc subcommittee at its January 2023 meeting with the following work scope:
  - i. Arrange partnership with Cal Poly Humboldt to quantify off-grid cannabis cultivation's greenhouse gas emissions.
  - ii. Monitor the County's off-grid cannabis renewable energy fuel switching program.
  - iii. Develop innovative ways to encourage off-grid gas and diesel fuel use reduction.
  - iv. Include non-funded ways (e.g. education, project support) to reduce diesel use.
  - v. Include non-cannabis grower generator users.
  - vi. Focus on Southern Humboldt to intersect with grid upgrade planning.
- c. Due to staff capacity constraints and resource considerations to not duplicate work already being done through Climate Action Plan studies or through projects addressing Southern Humboldt grid issues, staff has not met with this ad hoc subcommittee.

**Offshore Wind Outreach Subcommittee** (Staff Liaison: Executive Director Matthew Marshall)

Members: Elizabeth Burks, Larry Goldberg, Dennis Leonardi, Kit Mann, Emily Morris, Jeff Trirogoff

- a. Heard an update on offshore wind auction results in January 2023, the two lease area winning bidders and development timeline.
- b. Staff is waiting until the County of Humboldt and CORE Hub determine their role in educational and outreach material development before re-engaging the subcommittee. The subcommittee will be asked to help develop RCEA messaging and education materials to complement the County's and CORE Hub's efforts in 2024.

## **II. GOALS FOR 2024-2025**

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At their November 8, 2022, meeting, the Community Advisory Committee revised the timing of their goal setting process to be done every two years, with adjustments possible midway through the cycle. Due to the long project timeframes of many of the work goal focus areas, the CAC will continue work on the previously-adopted goal list for the 2024-25 time period and adjust goals at the midpoint if needed as goals are accomplished and new opportunities for CAC engagement arise.

- a. Help guide community outreach and messaging for RCEA programs.

- b. Monitor and advocate for implementation of RePower Humboldt Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy goals and notify staff of community activities and projects that may have significant impact on the ability to reach these goals.
- c. Support and help guide offshore wind energy community outreach.
- d. Provide input on the development of new and expanding RCEA customer programs.
- e. Assist with identifying and prioritizing critical facilities and at-risk communities that would benefit from enhanced energy resilience infrastructure, including future microgrid deployment and/or facility-level renewable back-up power systems.
- f. Finalize recommendations to the RCEA Board and County Board of Supervisors for energy-project bond and/or alternative financing opportunities, support any resulting implementation efforts as appropriate.
- g. Help facilitate community input on the finalization and adoption of the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan.

DRAFT



**STAFF REPORT**  
**Agenda Item # 6**

AGENDA DATE:	February 13, 2024
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Sally Regli, Account Services Manager
SUBJECT:	Informing Customers about 2024 Rate Increase

**BACKGROUND**

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The CAC adopted the following work goal for 2023: Help guide community outreach and messaging for RCEA programs.

CPUC has approved a substantial PG&E electric rate increase for both transmission and distribution and generation that has gone into effect on January 1, 2024. RCEA generation rates are set at a Board approved discount from PG&E's generation rate and became effective on February 1, 2024.

The PG&E bundled service (generation and transmission & distribution) rate increases of approximately 17% system average for residential and 18% for non-residential are substantial and staff expect to hear from many concerned customers in the coming months. The RCEA generation rate increase average is 7% for residential and 10% for non-residential.

**SUMMARY**

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Currently RCEA is fielding calls from customers with questions on why their rates are increasing and with requests for information on resources. Account Services has provided RCEA employees and the Board with presentations on the rate change and have trained customer service staff on appropriate response language.

RCEA has added information regarding the 2024 rate change to the website:  
<https://redwoodenergy.org/rate-changes-in-2024/>.

PG&E has also been providing customers with notifications and will start a pilot program in March that will notify customers via video about their monthly bill cost changes.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Provide input on the messaging provided on the RCEA website to ensure the agency best serves its customers' needs and communicates a message that is clear and comprehensible.

**ATTACHMENTS**

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None.

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# REDWOOD COAST Energy Authority

## **2024 RCEA Electric Generation Rate Messaging**

### **Presentation to the RCEA Community Advisory Committee February 13, 2024**

By Sally Regli, Account Services Manager  
& Jamie Boone, Account Services Specialist

# Outline

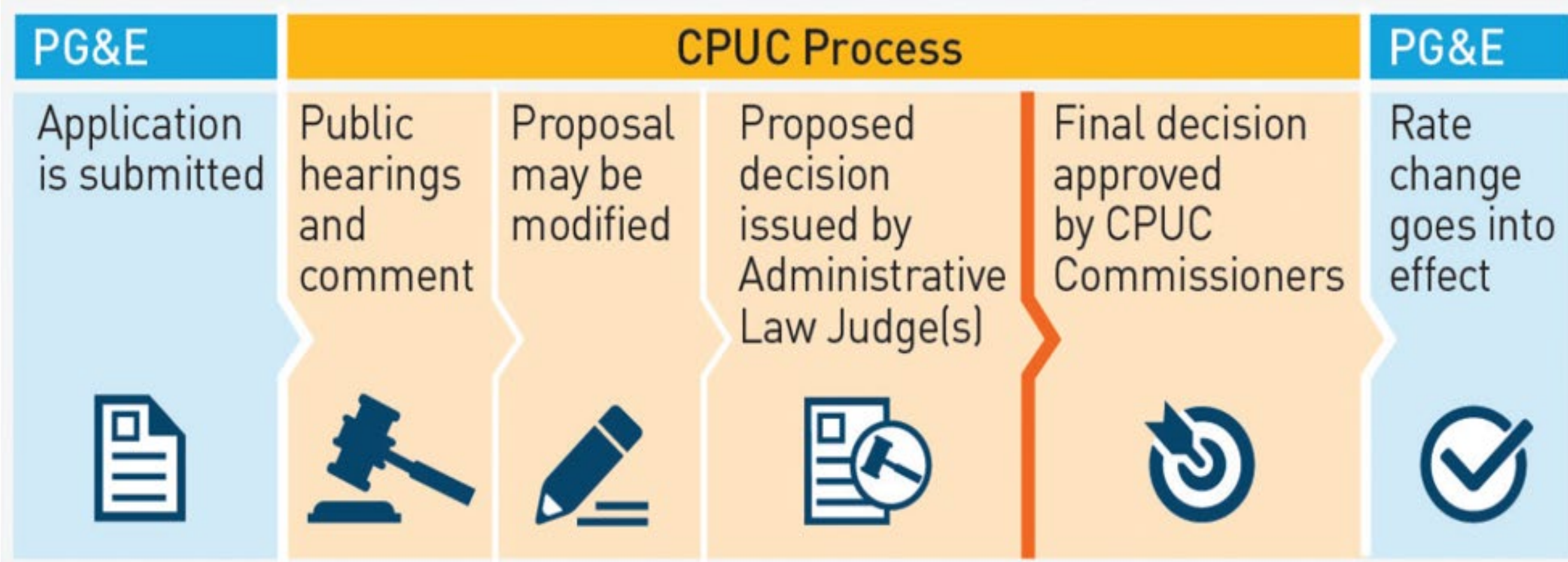
- 2024 Rate Increase Overview
  - Messaging Considerations
  - RCEA Website Message
  - Additional Customer Notifications
  - Gather CAC Feedback
- 
- A large yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.





# PG&E Rate Change Approval Process

General Rate Case (GRC) 2023-2026



Why are PG&E rates increasing? To provide funding for:

- Undergrounding Power lines
- Wildfire Risk Reduction
- Grid capacity and resilience



# RCEA Generation costs

- Board Approved Discount to PG&E Generation Rate (currently 0.5%)
- Covers Power Procurement Costs
- Build Reserves
- Supports Community Programs



Watch for RCEA rebate tags on appliances at local retailers



Fire fighters trained with a mobile and solar battery trailer that can be deployed for emergency responses in Southern Humboldt. RCEA coordinated the trailer's loan from the Empowered by Light Organization.

# RCEA messaging Considerations: Empowering Customers with Knowledge and Tools

Rate components –  
Generation vs. Transmission  
and Distribution and/or gas

Message Focus – Increase related to total  
rate vs. the additional cost from current  
rate

Cost Type Impacts -  
Bill impacts vs. rate  
impacts

Use of visual pie  
chart, graph, or  
written paragraphs

Resource  
information -  
financial help and  
energy conservation



# Current RCEA Website Information

(see handout)



REDWOOD COAST  
**Energy**Authority

[Home](#) | [Residential](#) ▾ | [Commercial](#) ▾ | [Agencies](#) ▾ | [Electricity Sources](#) ▾



## Rate Changes in 2024

Learn how PG&E's 2024 rate increase could impact you and how you can lower your bills.

Current RCEA  
Website  
Information

(see handout)

**Let's walk through the information:**

- **Rate Components**
- **Increase Message Focus**
- **Cost Impacts – Bundled vs. Unbundled**
- **Resource Information**

# Options to discuss for modifying website message

(see handout)

- Header language - “We understand .... Less formal, more human. (vs. Learn how will this impact you?)
- Call Option - “If you want more information, please give us a call” under each category of information?
- Is the information clear and concise? Visually easy to understand?
- Information Content - Should there be less information and links to FAQs?
- Target Audience - Should there be separate residential and business website pages?
- Call to Action: - How can you be heard? Add link to CPUC for public comment.

# Additional Customer Notifications about Rates

## Bill Messaging:

- Blue Bill – links to “ways to save”
- 

## Notifications:

- Email/Text/Phone – PG&E

## Bill Inserts: PG&E

- (via mail and email)

## Customer Service: RCEA and PG&E

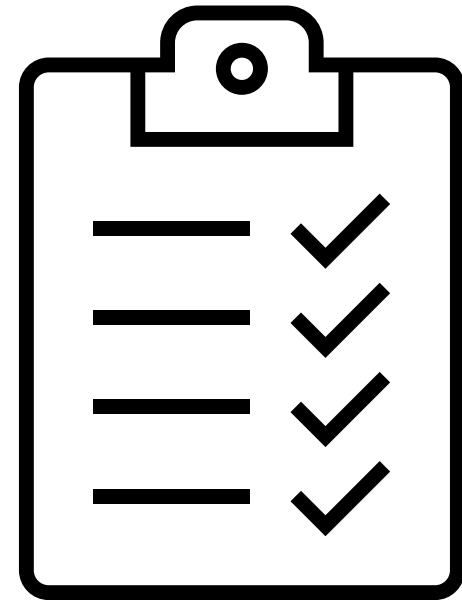
- Website and directly with CSRs





## Feedback and suggestions

- 1
- 2
- 3.
- 4.



# Thank You





**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STAFF REPORT  
Agenda Item # 7**

AGENDA DATE:	February 13, 2024
TO:	Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Faith Carlson, Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager
SUBJECT:	Draft 2024 Policy Platform

**BACKGROUND**

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On March 24, 2022, the RCEA Board of Directors adopted the RCEA 2022 Policy Platform (Platform), which was updated December 2022 after input from the Community Advisory Committee.

The purpose of the Platform is to deliver on RCEA's RePower Humboldt goals and maintain the operation of its various programs. RCEA regularly tracks policy developments in both the regulatory and legislative space to fulfill these goals.

Previously, RCEA needed Board authorization to adopt a position on any given piece of legislation. Case-by-case authorization is time-consuming and the frequency of RCEA Board meetings typically does not align with the pace of the legislative process. The ultimate purpose of establishing the Platform is to implement a more efficient and structured advocacy approach akin to what other Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) have in place. The Platform allows RCEA to be nimbler in adopting positions on legislative matters in a timely manner without full Board approval if the position is aligned with the Board-approved priorities. This Platform also helps inform RCEA's regulatory activities to ensure staff engagement aligns with the Board's priorities and RCEA's goals. As noted in the Platform, staff is authorized to engage in regulatory matters without Board consultation.

The 2023 Policy Platform and Draft 2024 Policy Platform support the following overarching policy priorities:

- To maintain local control for the purpose of preserving the ability to self-procure its power resources, and to self-determine rates and the energy programs RCEA offers to its residents, businesses, and communities it serves, through the mechanisms of local governance,
- To provide lower and more stable rates for RCEA customers,
- To provide greater economic benefits to the local community,
- To have maximum flexibility to utilize and develop local resources in the most economically efficient manner possible and with a high degree of local control,
- To maintain the financial stability of CCA operations, and
- To maintain an efficient, transparent governance structure and operations.

Additionally, the Platform will be brought to the RCEA Board of Directors for periodic review. This is an opportunity for the Board to suggest revisions to RCEA’s policy priorities.

RCEA staff is engaging the Community Advisory Committee on the Draft 2024 Policy Platform to receive input that can be considered by the Board during their February 2024 meeting.

**SUMMARY**

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RCEA staff reviewed the 2024 Policy Platform and suggested revisions which are included as redlines in the attached document.

The majority of changes reflect formatting updates and grammatical corrections.

Substantive changes are outlined below:

<b>Section (as enumerated in redline doc)</b>	<b>Previous Language</b>	<b>Updated Language</b>	<b>Reason</b>
3, 5		Resource Adequacy, PSPS, and Reliability all consolidated to same section.	Readability and conciseness.
4	“COVID-19 Response”	“Public Health Emergency and Natural Disaster Response”	To be inclusive of a greater number of emergency scenarios.
5b	“Support policies which require IOUs to notify impacted cities, counties, tribes, and CCAs of impending PSPS events.”		Deletion: redundant to 5a “Support policies which increase the notification and transparency requirements on IOUs as they implement a PSPS.”
6d		“Where new transmission or distribution infrastructure is needed, support policies that design, upgrade, and scale such infrastructure to empower community members access to resources including but not limited to renewable energy, green transportation, and rural transmission infrastructure.”	Addition: to reflect transmission and distribution access goals, while still aligning with existing language related to microgrids.

The CAC is welcome to propose additional feedback for consideration by the Board when they review the Draft 2024 Platform for adoption.

## **ALIGNMENT WITH [RCEA'S STRATEGIC PLAN](#)**

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The Platform was developed to allow RCEA to efficiently engage in regulatory and legislative development that will support RCEA's ability to implement strategies in RePower Humboldt and achieve the objectives articulated in RCEA's Mission Statement.

## **EQUITY IMPACTS**

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The Platform contains a section on "Environmental Justice" which includes "engag[ing] in policy that directly or indirectly impact the ability of rural, low-income, and underserved communities in the RCEA service territory to have affordable, reliable and clean energy."

This section also includes support for policies that "strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change" and "enable all communities [...] to participate in the decarbonization of the state's electrical grid, building stock, and the transportation sector in a cost-effective manner."

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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None.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

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- Provide input on the Draft 2024 Policy Platform for consideration by the Board of Directors during their February 2024 meeting.

## **ATTACHMENT**

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- Redwood Coast Energy Authority Draft 2024 Policy Platform Redlined.

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## REDWOOD COAST ENERGY AUTHORITY 2024~~3~~ POLICY PLATFORM

### INTRODUCTION

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Redwood Coast Energy Authority (“RCEA”) is a joint-powers authority of the cities of Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Trinidad, [the Yurok Tribe, Blue Lake Rancheria](#), County of Humboldt, and the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District. The mission of RCEA is to develop and implement sustainable energy initiatives which reduce energy demand, increase energy efficiency, and advance the use of clean, efficient, and renewable resources available in the region for the benefit of the Member agencies and their constituents.

This Policy Platform serves as a guide for regulatory and legislative engagement which is based on principles set forth in RCEA’s RePower Humboldt strategic plan. To review RCEA’s strategic plan, please see <https://redwoodenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/RePower-2019-Update-FINAL-.pdf>

This platform will be brought to the RCEA Board on an annual basis for review and input.

### AVENUES AND EXAMPLES OF ADVOCACY

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Legislation and regulation are two distinct, but related, policy tools. Legislation sets principles of public policy, while regulation implements these principles and brings legislation into effect.

Examples of RCEA legislative advocacy include submitting letters in support or opposition of specific bills, as well as meeting with legislators in the California State Senate, the California State Assembly, U.S. House of Representatives, and U.S. Senate.

Most of RCEA’s regulatory engagement takes place through the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”), the primary State agency responsible for executing legislation and issuing regulations pertinent to Community Choice Aggregation (“CCA”) operations. However, RCEA’s operations are also impacted by other state and federal agencies including but not limited to the California Energy Commission, the California Air Resources Board, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Each of these agencies develop and implement regulations that are of interest to RCEA. Examples of advocacy in this sphere include meeting with agency staff, agency decision-makers, and submitting comments in response to regulations.

## PROCEDURES

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**Regulatory Engagement:** RCEA regulatory engagement at the CPUC and other agencies is conducted at the staff level under the authority of the Executive Director in a manner consistent with RCEA’s mission, this policy platform, RCEA’s strategic plan, and any applicable RCEA policies.

**Legislative Advocacy:** The RCEA Executive Director, or their designee, is authorized to adopt positions on legislative matters in a timely manner without Board approval if the position is aligned with the issue areas described below.

Prior to adopting a legislative position, the Executive Director shall confer with the Board Chair and Vice-Chair on the matter. If both the Chair and Vice-Chair concur that the position is consistent with the Legislative Platform and/or the mission of RCEA then the Executive Director may take the position.

To keep the Board apprised of advocacy activities, staff will notify the full Board of any legislative positions taken by RCEA and deliver a quarterly report to the Board summarizing legislative engagement. Furthermore, this platform will be brought to the Board for review and input on an annual basis.

While the platform attempts to address a full range of issues of interest to RCEA, it is not intended to limit RCEA’s engagement in other issues that may impact RCEA in a positive or negative way. Issues not addressed in the platform will continue to be brought to the Board on a case-by-case basis.

## ISSUE AREAS

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### 1. Governance and Statutory Authority

RCEA will:

- a. Oppose policies ~~which that~~ limit the local decision-making authority of local governments or CCAs, including rate-setting authority and procurement of energy and capacity to serve their customers.
- b. Oppose policies ~~which that~~ limit RCEA’s ability to effectively serve its customers.
- c. Support efforts of CCAs to engage with their customers and promote transparency in their operations; ~~Similarly, RCEA will~~ oppose policies ~~which that~~ restrict or limit these abilities.
- d. Support policies ~~which that~~ make it easier for other cities and counties to form a CCA, become members of RCEA or other CCAs, ~~or expand the service area of an existing CCA~~, and oppose regulations and legislation ~~which that~~ restricts ~~which that ability~~ these abilities.

### 2. Restructuring the Electricity Utility Sector

RCEA will:

- a. Support policies and advocate for reforms to the utility regulatory and business model to transform IOUs into entities that solely provide transmission and distribution services.



- b. Support policies and advocate for reforms to the utility regulatory and business model to ensure Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) deliver greater benefits to ratepayers, increase safety and reliability, and reduce costs.
- c. Support local governments' ability to form municipal electric utilities, including supporting legislation ~~which that~~ expands opportunities for CCAs to become municipal electric utilities.
- d. Advocate for greater collaboration to occur between CCAs, tribes, local governments, and incumbent IOUs, particularly in local planning efforts related to energy, EV charging, community resource centers, and customer programs.
- e. Support efforts ~~which that~~ result in IOUs providing meter data in real time to enable CCAs to better forecast and schedule load.

### ~~3. Resource Adequacy~~

~~RCEA will:~~

- ~~a. Support the efforts of CalCCA to reform the Resource Adequacy program.~~
- ~~b. Advocate for and support efforts to remove barriers to demand response, microgrids and behind the meter resources to provide Resource Adequacy or other demand reduction value.~~

### 4.3. Power Cost Indifference Adjustment (PCIA)

RCEA will:

- a. Support ~~CalCCA~~ efforts by the California Community Choice Association (CalCCA) to increase the transparency of IOU electricity contracts ~~which that~~ provide the basis for Power Cost Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) charges which RCEA (and its customers) and other CCAs must pay.
- b. Support efforts ~~which that~~ create a pathway to ~~wind down~~ reduce and eventually phase out the PCIA.
- c. Support policies ~~which that~~ would bring stability to the PCIA and/or provide new mechanisms for CCAs to securitize PCIA charges.
- d. Oppose policies ~~which that~~ would increase or expand exit fees, including PCIA, on CCA customers.

### ~~5. Public Safety Power Shut-Offs (PSPS)~~

~~RCEA will:~~

- ~~a. Support policies which increase the notification and transparency requirements on IOUs as they implement a PSPS.~~
- ~~b. Support policies which create standards for PSPS implementation and penalties on IOUs which execute PSPS below those standards.~~
- ~~c. Support policies which create rules and procedures to ensure PSPS are implemented narrowly and only as absolutely necessary.~~
- ~~d. Support policies which require IOUs to notify impacted cities, counties, tribes, and CCAs of impending PSPS events.~~

#### 6.4. COVID-19 Response Public Health Emergency and Natural Disaster Response

- a. To the extent that it does not harm RCEA's financial health and standing, support regulatory policies, legislation, or budget appropriations to alleviate residential and commercial financial hardship caused ~~by the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergencies or natural disasters~~ that could disrupt electricity service to RCEA customers or restrict RCEA customers accessing clean energy opportunities. This could include, for example, assistance to avoid electric service disconnection or economic recovery funding for transportation electrification.

#### 5. Reliability

RCEA will:

- a. ~~Support policies that reduce outage duration and frequency of power outages and increase compliance with electric system-improve grid reliability targets.~~
- b. **Public Safety Power Shut-Offs (PSPS)**
  - i. ~~Support policies which that increase the notification and transparency requirements on IOUs as they implement a PSPS.~~
  - ii. ~~Support policies which that create standards for PSPS implementation and penalties on IOUs which that execute PSPS below those standards.~~
  - iii. ~~Support policies which that create rules and procedures to ensure PSPS are implemented narrowly and only as absolutely necessary.~~
- c. ~~that~~ **Resource Adequacy**
  - i. ~~Support the efforts of CalCCA to reform the Resource Adequacy program to improve electric system reliability at reasonable cost to ratepayers.~~
  - ii. ~~Advocate for and support efforts to remove barriers to demand response, microgrids and behind the meter resources to provide Resource Adequacy or other demand-reduction value.~~

#### 7.6. Community Resilience

RCEA will:

- a. Advocate for and support funding for programs implemented by local governments and CCAs to increase community resilience to wildfires, PSPS events and other potential service disruptions.
- b. Support policies ~~which that~~ reduce barriers to microgrid development by CCAs and other local entities including tribes and local governments.
- c. Support policies that expand the ability of non-IOU entities to develop microgrids (e.g., ensuring CCA access to ratepayer funds to develop microgrids).
- d. ~~Support policies which that increase the development of community level resources and distributed energy resources which that reduce the need for new transmission and distribution infrastructure.~~
- e. ~~d.~~ Where new transmission or distribution infrastructure is needed, support policies that design, upgrade, and scale such infrastructure to empower community members access to resources including but not limited to renewable energy, green transportation, and rural transmission infrastructure.

#### 8.7. Climate Action

### **RCEA will:**

- a. Support policies that increase resources for climate change mitigation and adaptation and support initiatives that will strengthen climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.
- b. ~~Support policies that increase resources for climate change mitigation and support initiatives that will strengthen climate change mitigation efforts.~~

### **9.8. Renewable Energy Generation Sources**

#### RCEA will:

- a. Support policies which that expand opportunities for or reduce barriers to the development of renewable energy sources, including, but not limited to, wind, solar, bioenergy, ~~battery storage,~~ small hydro, and geothermal, as well as battery storage to enable use of these renewable resources, as long as local development and siting criteria are consistent with city and county land use authority, other local and state regulatory requirements, and informed by input from tribal governments.
- b. Support policies which that expand opportunities for offshore wind, including investment in requisite infrastructure (e.g., harbor facilities and transmission) and workforce training necessary to support such development.
- c. Oppose policies which that require CCAs to purchase specific renewable energy products, thus limiting the ability of CCAs to meet local energy needs in a cost-effective manner, and in conflict with their local procurement and rate setting authority.

### **10.9. Environmental Justice**

#### RCEA will:

- a. Engage in regulatory and legislative developments which that directly or indirectly impact the ability of rural, low-income, and underserved communities in the RCEA service territory to have affordable, reliable, and clean energy.
- b. Support policies which that strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- c. Support policies that enable all communities, including emerging and historically marginalized communities, and individuals, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, age, disability, or socioeconomic status, in California to participate in the decarbonization of the state's electrical grid, building stock, and the transportation sector in a cost-effective manner.

### **11.10. RCEA Programs**

- a. Protect RCEA autonomy to administer programs, and support policies that expand opportunities for or reduce barriers to the development of RCEA programs including but not limited to:
  - i. Integrated demand side management (microgrids, distributed energy resources, demand response, energy efficiency, electrification, distributed generation and storage, vehicle-to-grid storage)
  - ii. Low-carbon transportation (advanced fuel deployment, fuel efficiency, fueling infrastructure)

- iii. Energy generation and utility services (rates and tariffs, transmission and distribution infrastructure)

#### **12.11. Local Economic Development and Environmental Objectives**

RCEA will:

- a. Support policies ~~which~~that enhance opportunities for local governments and CCAs to promote local economic and workforce development through locally designed programs ~~which~~that meet the unique needs of its member agencies and customers.
- b. Support efforts to enhance development of local and regional sources of renewable energy.
- c. Support policies ~~which~~that enable CCAs to collaborate with their member jurisdictions on local energy resources and projects to advance environmental objectives.

#### **13.12. Direct Access/Electric Service Providers**

RCEA will:

- a. Oppose policies ~~which~~that expand direct access or the ability or economic incentives for electric service providers to selectively recruit CCA or IOU customers.



REDWOOD COAST  
**Energy**Authority

# Policy Platform Updates

02/09/2024

Faith Carlson



## RCEA's Policy Platform

- Adopted March 24, 2022.
- Reflects RCEA's RePower Humboldt Plan goals through a series of positions RCEA has on electricity issues.
- Pre-Policy Platform, RCEA needed Board approval to adopt regulatory and legislative positions on a case-by-case basis which does not align with legislative and regulatory schedules.
- Allows the Board to inform regulatory and legislative priorities to ensure staff alignment.
- Updates to be brought to Board 2/22



Section (as enumerated in redline doc)	Previous Language	Updated Language	Reason
3, 5		Resource Adequacy, PSPS, and Reliability all consolidated to same section.	Readability and conciseness.
4	"COVID-19 Response"	"Public Health Emergency and Natural Disaster Response"	To be inclusive of a greater number of emergency scenarios.
5b	"Support policies which require IOUs to notify impacted cities, counties, tribes, and CCAs of impending PSPS events."		Deletion: redundant to 5a "Support policies which increase the notification and transparency requirements on IOUs as they implement a PSPS."
6d		"Where new transmission or distribution infrastructure is needed, support policies that design, upgrade, and scale such infrastructure to empower community members access to resources including but not limited to renewable energy, green transportation, and rural transmission infrastructure."	Addition: to reflect transmission and distribution access goals, while still aligning with existing language related to microgrids.



## REDWOOD COAST ENERGY AUTHORITY 20243 POLICY PLATFORM

### INTRODUCTION

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Redwood Coast Energy Authority (“RCEA”) is a joint-powers authority of the cities of Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Trinidad, the Yurok Tribe, Blue Lake Rancheria, County of Humboldt, and the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District. The mission of RCEA is to develop and implement sustainable energy initiatives which reduce energy demand, increase energy efficiency, and advance the use of clean, efficient, and renewable resources available in the region for the benefit of the Member agencies and their constituents.





### 5. Reliability

RCEA will:

a. Support policies that reduce outage-duration and frequency of power outages and increase-compliance with electric system-improve grid reliability targets.

#### b. Public Safety Power Shut-Offs (PSPS)

i. Support policies which that increase the notification and transparency requirements on IOUs as they implement a PSPS.

ii. Support policies which that create standards for PSPS implementation and penalties on IOUs which that execute PSPS below those standards.

iii. Support policies which that create rules and procedures to ensure PSPS are implemented narrowly and only as absolutely necessary.

#### c. that Resource Adequacy

i. Support the efforts of CalCCA to reform the Resource Adequacy program to improve electric system reliability at reasonable cost to ratepayers.

ii. Advocate for and support efforts to remove barriers to demand response, microgrids and behind the meter resources to provide Resource Adequacy or other demand-reduction value.

Resource Adequacy, PSPS, and Reliability all consolidated to same section.

Readability and conciseness.

“Support policies which require IOUs to notify impacted cities, counties, tribes, and CCAs of impending PSPS events.”

Deletion: redundant to 5a “Support policies which increase the notification and transparency requirements on IOUs as they implement a PSPS.”



## 6.4. COVID-19 Response Public Health Emergency and Natural Disaster Response

a. To the extent that it does not harm RCEA's financial health and standing, support regulatory policies, legislation, or budget appropriations to alleviate residential and commercial financial hardship caused ~~by the COVID-19 pandemic~~ public health emergencies or natural disasters that could disrupt electricity service to RCEA customers or restrict RCEA customers accessing clean energy opportunities. This could include, for example, assistance to avoid electric service disconnection or economic recovery funding for transportation electrification.

"COVID-19 Response"	"Public Health Emergency and Natural Disaster Response"	To be inclusive of a greater number of emergency scenarios.
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## 7.6. Community Resilience

RCEA will:

- a. Advocate for and support funding for programs implemented by local governments and CCAs to increase community resilience to wildfires, PSPS events and other potential service disruptions.
- b. Support policies ~~which that~~ reduce barriers to microgrid development by CCAs and other local entities including tribes and local governments.
- c. Support policies that expand the ability of non-IOU entities to develop microgrids (e.g., ensuring CCA access to ratepayer funds to develop microgrids).
- ~~d.~~ Support policies ~~which that~~ increase the development of community level resources and distributed energy resources ~~which that~~ reduce the need for new transmission and distribution infrastructure.
- e-d. Where new transmission or distribution infrastructure is needed, support policies that design, upgrade, and scale such infrastructure to empower community members access to resources including but not limited to renewable energy, green transportation, and rural transmission infrastructure.

“Where new transmission or distribution infrastructure is needed, support policies that design, upgrade, and scale such infrastructure to empower community members access to resources including but not limited to renewable energy, green transportation, and rural transmission infrastructure.”

Addition: to reflect transmission and distribution access goals, while still aligning with existing language related to microgrids.



REDWOOD COAST  
**Energy**Authority

Questions?



# REDWOOD COAST Energy Authority

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT Agenda Item # 8

AGENDA DATE:	February 13, 2024
TO:	Board of Directors
FROM:	Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Deputy Executive Director's Report

### SUMMARY

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Deputy Executive Director Eileen Verbeck will provide updates on CAC membership reappointments, Chair/Vice Chair reappointment schedule changes, the Biomass Technical Advisory Group's meeting schedule, an upcoming CAC biomass discussion and other topics as needed.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION

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None. (Information only.)

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