



# 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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## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**January 14, 2025  
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 hybrid meetings. 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 include the agenda item number in the subject line. Do not include personal contact information in the body of your email. Comments will be included in the meeting record but not read aloud at 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 MEETING AGENDA

<b>Agenda Item / What</b>	<b>How / Action</b> <small>Underlined actions indicate that a vote is needed.</small>	<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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Colin Fiske</td> <td>Kit Mann</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Benjamin Fordham</td> <td>Pliny McCovey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Honar</td> <td>Michael Shackelford</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richard Johnson</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Kris Mobley, Board Liaison</p> <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	Colin Fiske	Kit Mann	Benjamin Fordham	Pliny McCovey	Chris Honar	Michael Shackelford	Richard Johnson		6-6:05 p.m. (5 min.)
Norman Bell	Luna Latimer															
Elizabeth Burks	Ethan Lawton															
Deborah Dukes	Dennis Leonardi															
Colin Fiske	Kit Mann															
Benjamin Fordham	Pliny McCovey															
Chris Honar	Michael Shackelford															
Richard Johnson																
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><b>3.1. <u>Approve November 12, 2024, CAC Meeting Minutes.</u></b></p> <p><b>3.2. <u>Approve CAC 2024 annual report for presentation to RCEA Board of Directors.</u></b></p> <p><b>3.3. <u>Adopt 2025 CAC Annual Meeting Calendar.</u></b></p>	6:10 – 6:15 p.m. (5 min.)														

<b>Agenda Item / What</b>	<b>How / Action</b> <u>Underlined actions</u> indicate that a vote is needed.	<b>When</b>
4. Items Removed from Consent Calendar	This time is set aside for discussion of items removed from the Consent Calendar.	6:15 – 6:20 p.m. (5 min.)
5. Wave Energy Update: CorPower Grant Proposal Letter	<b>Action:</b> Hear an update on RCEA participation in ocean and wave energy development. (Information only)	6:20 - 6:35 p.m. (15 min.)
6. Annual Report on Humboldt Sawmill Company Biomass Use	<b>Action:</b> Summary of the CAC’s discussion will be presented to the Board. (Information only)	6:35 – 7:20 p.m. (45 min.)
7. Executive Director’s Report	<b>Action:</b> Hear Executive Director’s update. (Information only)	7:20 – 7:25 p.m. (5 min.)
8. 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.  8.1. Board Liaison  8.2. Committee Members	7:25 – 7:30 p.m. (5 min.)
9. Close & Adjourn		7:30 p.m.

**NEXT REGULAR CAC MEETING** – Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 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:	January 14, 2025
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 MEETING**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

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

Vice Chair Ethan Lawton called the hybrid in-person and teleconference meeting to order on the above date at 6:05 p.m. at the Jefferson Community Center Auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA. The meeting agenda was posted on November 8, 2024.

#### **Members present:**

Norman Bell

Deborah Dukes

Colin Fiske

Benjamin Fordham

Christopher Honar, Chair

Richard Johnson

Ethan Lawton, Vice Chair

Dennis Leonardi

Pliny McCovey

**Members absent:** Luna Latimer, Kit Mann, Michael Shackelford.

**Board-nominee vacancies:** Fortuna, Rio Dell, Yurok Tribe

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

#### **Staff present:**

Brytann Busick, Community Strategies Manager

Marisha Ramirez-Escareño, Account Services Manager

Sally Regli, Senior Specialist, Rate Analysis and Key Accounts

Lori Taketa, Board Clerk

Eileen Verbeck, Interim Executive Director

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

Member of the public and Biomass Technical Advisory Group member Dr. Wendy Ring emailed comments on information submitted by Humboldt Sawmill Company in its annual RCEA biomass use report. Dr. Ring expressed concern about the mill's emissions test validity, increased mill operation time and increased emissions.

Member of the public Walt Paniak submitted an article on adverse health effects of biomass combustion from ambient PM2.5.

Dr. Wendy Ring expressed concern at the meeting about HSC's permit renewal process and missed opportunities to assess whether the biomass plant meets current emissions standards. Dr. Ring stated that RCEA as an energy offtaker should be responsible for investigating environmental and health concerns with the Scotia plant.

Staff rescheduled the CAC's review of HSC's annual report to January 2025 due to Board meeting quorum issues.

### **3. Consent Calendar**

#### **3.1. Approve October 8, 2024, CAC Special Meeting Minutes.**

There was no public comment on this item.

#### **Motion Leonardi, Second Honar: Approve October 8, 2024, CAC special meeting minutes.**

**The motion passed with the following unanimous vote: Ayes: Bell, Burks, Dukes, Fiske, Fordham, Honar, Johnson, Leonardi, Lawton, McCovey. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Latimer, Mann, Shackelford.**

### **5. CAC Annual Report, Work Goal Review**

Interim Executive Director Verbeck explained the decision to postpone re-evaluation of committee work goals due to the current goals' long-term timelines, changes in staffing and the hiring of a new Executive Director who may want to revisit the goals with the Committee in the new year. Different committee members supported revising the goals to reflect the committee's work in the past 18 months and requested adding engagement with the Harbor District to prioritize wave and tidal energy development to power the harbor's development and operation. Chair Honar and Vice Chair Lawton volunteered for the ad hoc Annual Report Subcommittee to help staff edit the committee's annual report. There was no public comment on this item.

### **6. Potential Meeting Venue Change**

The committee discussed the possibility of changing meeting venues. The group agreed that the Wharfinger Building Bay Room, despite its well-lit parking area, was not a good meeting venue due to lack of easy public transportation access and awkward pillar placement. The group agreed to continue meeting at the Jefferson Community Center until staff can find another Eureka location for the committee to consider that has convenient public transportation access and comfortable seating. There was no public comment.

### **7. Update on RCEA Financials and Nuclear Allocation (Information only)**

Interim Executive Director Verbeck explained regulatory and market factors affecting RCEA's financial condition, which can change frequently and dramatically within short time frames. The CPUC's Market Price Benchmarks and the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment were explained in detail. These factors affect PG&E's and RCEA's electricity procurement charges and recently caused a positive change in RCEA's projected near term financial outlook. PG&E is lobbying against the method of calculating the market price benchmark, and RCEA's financial outlook may change again as a result. The committee discussed these factors' effects on customer bills.

Interim Executive Director Verbeck reported that the Board voted to accept the Diablo Canyon nuclear allocation under the cost savings scenario recommended in a split vote by the CAC. The Board will review accepting the allocation annually, receive a staff report on



actual cost savings provided by accepting the allocation, and direct staff on how the cost savings should be used. There was no public comment on this item.

### **8. Potential Rate Change: Cost-of-Service**

Senior Rate Analysis Specialist Regli and Accounts Services Manager Ramirez-Escareño described a proposed rate calculation method which would base electricity rates on the cost to provide electricity specifically to Humboldt County ratepayers. The current rate structure is based on a Board-set discount on PG&E's rates to serve the investor-owned utility's much larger territory and customer base with different electricity use patterns. Benefits of the cost-of-service rate model, commonly used by water and other utilities, include: stabilizing RCEA's revenue forecasts, reducing rate change frequency, and providing rate transparency and justification. This rate calculation method is being adopted by other Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) to gain some independence from investor-owned utility interests.

The committee discussed the importance of adopting the cost-of-service rate calculation model to meet Community Choice Energy program goals, how RCEA customers will still see higher bills if PG&E continues increasing distribution rates, how RCEA's customer base differs from those of other CCAs in more affluent areas, and the need for public messaging explaining the change as a way to gain some local control over energy costs. The group reiterated the need to consider and highlight the rate change's benefits to the community. There was no public comment on this item.

### **9. CAC Social Media Engagement Basics**

Community Strategies Manager Busick described best practices for amplifying RCEA's message on social media platforms and to help RCEA reach more customers with its services. Staff are increasing social media posting rates to build RCEA's brand in the community. There was no public comment on this item.

### **10. Interim Executive Director's Report**

Interim Executive Director Verbeck reported that former CAC member and incoming Executive Director Beth Burks begins work at RCEA in January. Vice Chair Lawton presented Ms. Burks with a certificate of appreciation.

Vice Chair Lawton adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Lori Taketa  
Clerk of the Board

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**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STAFF REPORT  
Agenda Item # 3.2**

AGENDA DATE:	January 14, 2025
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Eileen Verbeck, RCEA Deputy Executive Director
SUBJECT:	CAC Annual Report

**BACKGROUND**

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The CAC agreed to report the group's past year accomplishments and upcoming year goals annually to the RCEA Board of Directors beginning in 2021. The process aims to organize CAC efforts within RCEA's goals and to help the Board thoughtfully use this committee resource to support Board decision-making and agency public engagement work. In November 2022, the Committee extended the goal setting process to every two years, with possible adjustments at the midway point.

**SUMMARY**

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Staff asked that the Community Advisory Committee postpone re-evaluation of its 2025-26 work goals until mid-2025, when members will have a chance to discuss committee goals with new Executive Director Elizabeth Burks.

Previously-approved CAC work goals:

- 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.

The ad hoc Annual Report Subcommittee, comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair, has reviewed and approved the draft 2024 annual report.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Approve Community Advisory Committee annual report for presentation to the RCEA Board of Directors.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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Draft Community Advisory Committee 2024 Annual Report

**Redwood Coast Energy Authority**  
**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**2024 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE RCEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**February 2025**

The Community Advisory Committee meets every other month, supports RCEA public engagement efforts and provides decision-making support and input to the RCEA Board.

<b>2024 Committee Members</b>	<b>Representing Jurisdiction:</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
<b>Norman Bell</b>	Arcata	<b>March 2025</b>
<b>Deborah Dukes</b>	Eureka	<b>March 2025</b>
<b>Colin Fiske</b>	At-Large	March 2026
<b>Benjamin Fordham</b>	County 3 (McKinleyville Area)	March 2026
<b>Christopher Honar, Chair</b>	County 2 (Southern Humboldt)	<b>March 2025</b>
<b>Richard Johnson</b>	Trinidad	<b>March 2025</b>
<b>Luna Latimer</b>	County 1 (Eastern Humboldt)	<b>March 2025</b>
<b>Ethan Lawton, V. Chair</b>	Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District	March 2026
<b>Dennis Leonardi</b>	Ferndale	March 2026
<b>Kit Mann</b>	Blue Lake	<b>March 2025</b>
<b>Pliny McCovey</b>	At-Large	March 2026
<b>Michael Shackelford</b>	Blue Lake Rancheria	March 2026
<b>Vacancy</b>	Fortuna	March 2026
<b>Vacancy</b>	Rio Dell	<b>March 2025</b>
<b>Vacancy</b>	Yurok Tribe	March 2026
<b><u>Other 2024 Members:</u></b>		
<b>Elizabeth Burks</b>	Fortuna, January-October	
<b>Larry Goldberg</b>	At-Large, January-March	
<b>Emily Morris</b>	At-Large, January-March	
<b>Jerome Qiriazzi</b>	County 2, January-March	
<b>Jeff Tirogoff</b>	At-Large, January-March	

Committee Liaison:

Eileen Verbeck, Interim Executive Director

**I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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Dennis Leonardi and Jerome Qiriazzi served as Chair and Vice Chair through the March CAC meeting. Chris Honar and Ethan Lawton were elected to serve as Chair and Vice Chair in May 2024.

The Committee heard updates and received training on:

- a. California open meeting laws, the Public Records Act transparency law, conflicts of interest, ethical public service conduct and Statements of Economic Interest.
- b. The Income Graduated Fixed Charge
- c. The Board's decision to temporarily pause renewable energy procurement aimed at achieving 100% renewable and carbon-free energy by 2025, and market and regulatory factors informing the Board's decision
- d. The potential Cost-of-Service rate calculation change
- e. How to use social media to support RCEA public engagement efforts.

The Committee provided input and recommendations to the Board on:

- a. Electricity rate increase public messaging on RCEA's website
- b. RCEA's 2024 Regulatory and Legislative Policy Platform
- c. The RCEA contract with Humboldt Sawmill Company (Due to lack of consensus on a recommendation, a summary of dissenting views was presented to the Board.)
- d. An RCEA pilot battery storage rebate program
- e. A standardized Residential Energy Efficiency Kit (Feedback was provided directly to the Community Strategies Team and the overseeing Demand-Side Management program Technician.)
- f. The Diablo Canyon nuclear allocation.

The CAC ad hoc subcommittees accomplished the following in 2024:  
(Former subcommittee members' names are *italicized*.)

**Bond Subcommittee** (Staff Liaison: Interim Executive Director Eileen Verbeck)

Members: Colin Fiske, Richard Johnson, *Elizabeth Burks*, *Larry Goldberg*, *Jeff Trirogoff*

This subcommittee was not engaged in 2024. 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 subcommittee's previously 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 yet been released.

**Climate Action Plan Outreach Subcommittee** (Staff Liaison: Interim Executive Director Eileen Verbeck)

Members: Richard Johnson, Ethan Lawton, Michael Shackelford, *Elizabeth Burks*, *Larry Goldberg*, *Jerome Qiriaz*

- a. This subcommittee was not engaged in 2024. Instead, the entire CAC was invited to promote and provide input on the Regional Climate Action Plan during its 30-day public review period. Some CAC members also attended the County's CAP public information meeting in September.
- b. 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: Luna Latimer, Dennis Leonardi, Pliny McCovey, *Jerome Qiriazzi, Jeff Trirogoff*

This subcommittee was not engaged in 2024.

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

Members: Deborah Dukes, Luna Latimer, Dennis Leonardi, Kit Mann, Michael Shackelford, *Jeff Trirogoff*

Subcommittee members participated in a workshop with local solar installers to provide feedback on proposed RCEA battery storage rebates to address the state's changes to the net energy metering program. Further input was gathered from the entire CAC and a pilot program recommendation was forwarded to the Board.

**McKinleyville - Arcata Major Project Subcommittee** (Staff Liaison: Interim Executive Director Eileen Verbeck)

Members: Colin Fiske, Chris Honar, Richard Johnson

- a. In 2023, the subcommittee met and helped decide on follow-up actions to be performed by staff on the following community projects:
  - i. Life Plan Humboldt, We Are Up, ADU Policy Development
  - ii. McKinleyville Town Center
  - iii. Arcata Gateway Project
  - iv. Humboldt Bay Harbor Port Development
  - v. Eureka Parking Lot Housing Projects
- b. Staff work on these projects will resume as staffing capacity allows.

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

Members: Chris Honar, *Larry Goldberg, Jeff Trirogoff*

- a. The CAC formed this ad hoc subcommittee at its January 2023 meeting with the following work scope:
  1. Arrange partnership with Cal Poly Humboldt to quantify off-grid cannabis cultivation's greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Monitor the County's off-grid cannabis renewable energy fuel switching program.
  3. Develop innovative ways to encourage off-grid gas and diesel fuel use reduction.
  4. Include non-funded ways (e.g. education, project support) to reduce diesel use.
  5. Include non-cannabis grower generator users.
  6. Focus on Southern Humboldt to intersect with grid upgrade planning.
- b. 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: unassigned)

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

- a. Staff reported on their visit to Massachusetts' working offshore wind areas.
- b. Staff will engage the CAC and subcommittee on offshore wind public education and as a sounding board for public concerns.
- c. 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.

**II. GOALS FOR 2025**

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The Committee conducts its goal setting process every odd-numbered year and makes adjustments as needed at the midway point as work is accomplished and new opportunities for CAC engagement arise. The work goals below involve long project trajectories and the CAC decided to continue work on the 2023 goal list in 2024. Staff recommends continuing the goals through 2025, with a mid-year review after the new RCEA Executive Director has started.

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- 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.

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# REDWOOD COAST Energy Authority

## STAFF REPORT Agenda Item # 3.3

AGENDA DATE:	January 25, 2024
TO:	Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Lori Taketa, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT:	2025 CAC Meeting Calendar

### SUMMARY

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The RCEA Community Advisory Committee decided to meet every other month for 90-minutes beginning in January 2021 to give staff timely opportunities to solicit committee input and to allow time for member-requested agenda items. The committee meets on the second Tuesday of each odd-numbered month at 6 p.m. The proposed 2025 meeting calendar follows this meeting schedule, with a proposed alternative meeting date in November (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday) due to the Veterans Day holiday.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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Approve the 2025 RCEA Community Advisory Committee meeting calendar.

### ATTACHMENT:

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- Proposed 2025 RCEA Community Advisory Committee meeting calendar

# Redwood Coast Energy Authority Community Advisory Committee

## 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

The CAC meets regularly on the second Tuesday of each odd-numbered month. Meetings are held from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Jefferson Community Center Auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA 95501.

January 14, 2025	Regular meeting
March 11, 2025	Regular meeting
May 13, 2025	Regular meeting
July 8, 2025	Regular meeting
September 9, 2025	Regular meeting
November 4, 2025	Regular meeting (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday, due to holiday)
January 13, 2026	Regular meeting

The Community Advisory Committee meets in-person. Community members are welcome to participate in-person at the Jefferson Community Center, or online or by phone via Zoom. Meeting participation instructions are listed online at <https://redwoodenergy.org/about/public-meetings/> and at the beginning of each meeting agenda.



**STAFF REPORT**  
**Agenda Item # 5**

AGENDA DATE:	January 14, 2025
TO:	Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Richard Engel, Director of Power Resources
SUBJECT:	Ocean Wave Energy Grant Proposal Letter of Intent

**BACKGROUND**

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RCEA has long shown interest in the potential for ocean wave energy. As early as 2007, the RCEA Board submitted comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in support of Pacific Gas & Electric’s planned WaveConnect project. Wave energy’s potential contribution to a local renewable power portfolio was featured prominently in the 2013 RePower Humboldt study developed by Schatz Energy Research Center and RCEA, and RCEA included wave energy as a strategy in our 2019 strategic plan update.

**SUMMARY**

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Wave energy developer CorPower Ocean<sup>1</sup> (CorPower) recently approached RCEA staff seeking our participation in a proposal to the U.S. Department of Energy’s “Oceans of Opportunity: U.S. Wave Energy Open Water Testing”<sup>2</sup> funding opportunity. CorPower, an international company with offices in Sweden, Portugal, Norway, and Scotland, plans to pursue funding under Topic Area 3, Open Water Testing and System Validation for Utility Applications. Deployment would be off the Oregon Coast at the PacWave South wave energy test site operated by Oregon State University.<sup>3</sup>

CorPower asked that RCEA provide a letter of intent that would be included as part of the company’s proposal packet submitted to DOE. CorPower proposed RCEA play a supporting role in the following project activities:

- Participate in **Business case assessment**, including the technical and commercial aspects of adding wave energy to a clean energy mix to achieve 24/7 power supply
- Participate in **Optimal mix studies** (energy system modelling and value assessment) together with CorPower and additional modelling and offtake partners. Sharing and reviewing input data and results.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://corpowersocean.com/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://epicweb.ee.doe.gov/EPICWeb/#/public/submission/opportunityDetail/6fc227b1148f596a1d411707ff80354a>

<sup>3</sup> <https://pacwaveenergy.org/south-test-site/>

- Participate in **Site assessment for future commercial scale wave projects** along the US West coast, potentially including the Humboldt coast. Identify the most suitable sites considering resource, demand, grid, permitting, infrastructure (ports, vessels, supply chain).
- Review **Project financing** models, including **Power Purchase Agreement structures** for wave power supply.
- Review **Cost-of-energy modelling**, supporting the business case assessment.
- Review **Product Roadmap** of CorPower's wave energy technology vs demand for 24/7 clean power.
- Explore with CorPower potential for RCEA to **procure power** from the Oregon coast pilot project.

CorPower proposed that RCEA could benefit in the following ways from participation:

- Gain first-hand experience of wave power as a new source to help reach 24/7 clean electricity supply.
- Comprehensive verification of wave energy's performance, reliability, grid compliance, and cost competitiveness, along with its potential role in achieving a least-cost, 24/7 clean electricity mix under U.S. conditions.

At their December 2024 meeting, the RCEA Board authorized staff to prepare and submit a letter of intent for CorPower to include in their DOE proposal.

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

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Supporting CorPower's proposal to DOE aligns with the following strategic goal, among others:

- *4.1.12.1 Pursue Wave and Tidal Energy Development. Build on the previous WaveConnect and CalWave projects to explore and evaluate opportunities for local wave and tidal energy research, development, and pilot deployment. [Deployment under the DOE proposal would not be in local Humboldt County waters. However, lessons learned through participation in this project may prepare RCEA to support future local wave energy development.]*

#### **EQUITY IMPACTS**

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None.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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CorPower has assured RCEA staff that participation would entail no specific financial obligations. RCEA would be limited to a review role, supporting the project without cost or funding obligation other than staff time for participation in the activities described above. Staff will report back to the CAC on the success of CorPower's proposal. As noted above, RCEA staff intend to explore the potential for procuring a small portion of our power portfolio needs from the pilot project. Cost for this power is yet to be determined.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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None – information only

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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- Staff will make a presentation at the meeting about CorPower's technology and their planned DOE proposal.

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**STAFF REPORT  
Agenda Item # 6**

AGENDA DATE:	January 14, 2025
TO:	Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Richard Engel, Director of Power Resources Joseph Sloan, (former) Power Resources Specialist
SUBJECT:	Annual Report on Humboldt Sawmill Company Biomass Procurement

**BACKGROUND**

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When authorizing extension of RCEA's power purchase agreement (PPA) for biomass energy with Humboldt Sawmill Company (HSC) in April 2021, RCEA's Board directed staff to "periodically review the contract...assessing current alternate biomass uses and other environmental considerations." To create a framework for the requested periodic review, staff negotiated a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between RCEA and HSC, which the RCEA Board adopted in September 2021. One provision of the MOU is as follows:

Annually on or around May 1 and continuing until the termination of the PPA, representatives of the Parties will meet to review the terms of the PPA and to discuss the continued viability of biomass power production by the HSC facility relative to other potential or actual uses of the biomass feedstock by HSC or other entities.

The MOU also calls for HSC to provide data on plant performance on request; types, quantities, and sources of biomass feedstock; and plant emissions. HSC have generally been responsive to specific data requested by RCEA staff under the MOU. Data provided this year in response to a request from RCEA staff included:

- Monthly amounts of biomass feedstock, broken down by geographic origin (inside or outside Humboldt County) and supplier (sourced internally from Humboldt Redwood Company or Mendocino Redwood Company or externally)
- Monthly use of biomass and auxiliary diesel fuel, electric output to RCEA and for onsite use, and thermal energy recovered for industrial use
- Annual total emissions of greenhouse gases (biogenic and non-biogenic) and a number of criteria pollutants

Due to past feedback from RCEA's CAC, Biomass Technical Advisory Group (BTAG), and Board of Directors, HSC has provided more detailed reporting than in previous years. The additional reporting has increased transparency per the intent of the MOU. In response to requests last year from BTAG for more detailed and time-specific data on air emissions, this year HSC provided:

- Notices of violation from North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD) and HSC responses
- Boiler test data (opacity, emissions, oxygen)
- An AB2588 Toxic Guidance Test Report prepared for HSC by a consultant
- Source test reports on particulate, oxygen, NOx and CO emissions for the plant's three boilers
- Plant throughputs as reported to North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District

As a reminder, the MOU's purpose is not to terminate or otherwise override the terms of the PPA. As the MOU states: "This MOU does not and is not intended to supersede, replace, or subordinate any provisions, representations, covenants, rights, or obligations in the PPA." While the MOU does not allow for early termination of the biomass PPA, it could help form a pathway for alternative use of the biomass plant's feedstock material once the current PPA's term expires.

The third of the annual meetings between RCEA and HSC staff per the MOU took place at HSC's Scotia headquarters on July 18, 2024. RCEA staff reviewed the materials provided by HSC and shared them with BTAG members, then convened a meeting of the BTAG in August 2024 to review and comment on the materials. The materials are available for review on the Energy Sources page of RCEA's website at <https://redwoodenergy.org/about/energy-sources/> under the Local Biomass Energy subheading.

## **SUMMARY**

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### 2024 HSC Data Review by BTAG

BTAG members raised a number of important questions and comments about the scope and content of HSC's reporting:

- Members asked for clarification on what counts as "mill waste" – if this is derived only from marketable logs or also from slash piles
- One member commented that the air emissions data provided by HSC is very granular and it would be helpful to see this data aggregated in order to better see patterns such as how emissions change seasonally or diurnally
- Members wanted to better understand what decisions the RCEA Board is trying to make based on the information HSC provides under this MOU
- One member noted that the three key concerns that have been heard from the community regarding the HSC plant are about criteria pollutants from the plant, greenhouse gas emissions, and what role the plant's operation may play in the health of Humboldt Redwood Company's forestlands. If the feedstock is almost entirely mill waste, the member stated that the link to forest health is minimal. With regard to the criteria pollutants, the member was interested to hear more from the community immediately surrounding the plant and what concerns they might have
- One member stated that particulates from the plant are having harmful health impacts far from the plant, so air quality monitoring near the plant is not telling the whole story.

Staff asked the BTAG members what important information they considered to be missing from HSC's reporting. The members noted:

- For the years 2021-2023, PM 2.5 and PM 10 particulate data were missing. Dean Kerstetter from HSC said he would follow up on providing these data if available. Staff will request that this data be included in the 2025 reporting.
- One member noted to North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District staff that the moisture content of the feedstock that was used for testing plant emissions was drier than the plant's feedstock on average so might result in lower emissions not representative of normal plant operation. They requested that the testing be re-done with feedstock having more typical moisture content. RCEA staff is unaware if the tests have been re-done.

For next year's reporting cycle, BTAG meeting participants asked if HSC can disclose how much of the material used in the plant is sourced from thinning operations vs clearcuts, in order to better understand how much the plant's operation can be seen as contributing to forest health.

#### HSC's Role in RCEA's Power Portfolio

The financial value of the HSC contract has changed markedly since 2017, when RCEA first contracted with HSC at a price somewhat above market value in the interest of having an operational local renewable resource in our portfolio at the time of launching our community choice energy (CCE) program. Since then, RCEA has successfully negotiated a lower contract price in exchange for a longer contract term. This, combined with the increasing prices of resource adequacy and green energy attributes, and continuing volatility in energy prices, has made the contract yet more attractive relative to the market.

In terms of compliance, RCEA's experience during the first seven years of the CCE program has been that new renewable energy and complementary energy storage projects have seen numerous delays and cancellations. This has put our procurement compliance at risk and highlights the value of having some pre-existing resources such as HSC and the Snow Mountain hydro project in our portfolio while we strive to get those new projects built.

The California Public Utilities Commission has introduced the Slice of Day resource adequacy framework in 2024, which becomes binding on power providers in 2025. This framework requires power providers to demonstrate sufficient generating capacity in each hour of the year. Baseload resources such as biomass are of great value in achieving slice of day compliance, filling gaps during times of day and seasons when clean but intermittent resources such as wind and solar are not sufficient to meet State reliability mandates.

One purpose of the MOU is to explore with HSC possible alternative uses of the biomass feedstock. At the annual RCEA-HSC meeting and at the BTAG meeting, HSC staff gave updates on their plans for developing new facilities at their existing Ukiah operation. Currently they are considering a first phase smaller biomass cogeneration plant, and as a potential second phase a hydrogen production plant that would use thermal energy from the cogeneration plant to convert biomass feedstock into marketable hydrogen. HSC has applied to PG&E's Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff (BioMAT) program which would offer premium pricing

for energy from the cogeneration plant. BioMAT contracts are only available to small plants (maximum 5 megawatts nameplate and 3 MW to grid). At this time, HSC does not consider a Humboldt hydrogen facility as commercially feasible, due to limited local market for hydrogen relative to the minimum plant scale that HSC deems commercially viable.

RCEA presents the data from HSC and the summary of the BTAG review to the CAC for transparency and discussion. Staff will summarize CAC discussion of the HSC reporting for presentation to the RCEA Board later this month.

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

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RCEA's consultations with HSC in implementing the terms of the MOU are in keeping with the following strategies in the RePower Humboldt plan:

- 4.1.11.3 Investigate the Impacts of Biomass Emissions
- 4.1.11.6 Plan for a Long-Term Transition Away from Direct Combustion of Forest Derived Biomass and Toward Lower-Impact Uses of this Material

Review of HSC's reporting by BTAG is in keeping with the RePower Humboldt plan's direction:

4.1.11.4 Establish a Biomass Technical Advisory Committee

#### **EQUITY IMPACTS**

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Not applicable.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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None – information only.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Information item only. Summary of the CAC discussion will be presented to the Board.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

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HSC MOU

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN  
REDWOOD COAST ENERGY AUTHORITY AND  
HUMBOLDT SAWMILL COMPANY REGARDING  
ALTERNATIVE USES OF MATERIALS USED FOR  
BIOMASS POWER GENERATION**

THIS is a MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ("MOU") setting forth the understanding between Redwood Coast Energy Authority ("RCEA") and Humboldt Sawmill Company ("HSC"), regarding the periodic assessment of alternate biomass feedstock uses and other environmental considerations during the term of an existing power purchase agreement between RCEA and HSC.

**Background**

1. RCEA and HSC (the "Parties") have been parties to power purchase agreements since 2017, under which HSC sells renewable biomass power to supply RCEA's community choice aggregation program for Humboldt County electricity users. The current power purchase agreement is dated April 27, 2017, and was amended on March 1, 2019, May 1, 2021, and June 1, 2021 ("PPA").
2. Renewable biomass power provides a needed and financially viable local means of disposing of residual material produced by Humboldt County's forest products industry.
3. Members of the RCEA Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and members of the public have asked that RCEA consider the environmental and public health impacts of local generation of biomass power and explore alternative, lower impact uses of the feedstock material currently used by the plant.
4. The RCEA Board of Directors (the Board) at its April 22, 2021 meeting approved an amendment to its PPA with HSC, extending its term until May 31, 2031. In approving that extension of the PPA term, the RCEA Board directed staff to "periodically review the contract with Humboldt Sawmill Company, assessing current alternate biomass uses and other environmental considerations."
5. RCEA staff discussed with the CAC at their May 11, 2021 meeting the creation of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between RCEA and HSC to implement the RCEA Board's direction to staff mentioned above. CAC members proposed that such an MOU should include a commitment from HSC to share feedstock supply and plant operation data helpful in assessing alternative biomass uses, and that the assessment consider both financial and non-financial benefits of such alternative uses, including avoided carbon emissions.

**Mutual Understandings**

1. Annually on or around May 1 and continuing until the termination of the PPA, representatives of the Parties will meet to review the terms of the PPA and to discuss the continued viability of biomass power production by the HSC facility relative to other

potential or actual uses of the biomass feedstock by HSC or other entities. Such uses to be considered might include but not be limited to those recently analyzed on RCEA's behalf by a consultant and by a team of Humboldt State University engineering students<sup>1</sup>:

- a. Soil amendments, including compost, mulch, and biochar;
  - b. Energy products, including gasification, torrefied wood, and wood pellets;
  - c. Chemical products, including ethanol, nanocellulose, and bioplastics; and
  - d. Other products, including construction materials, pulp for tissue manufacture, and wastewater treatment media
2. HSC will make available to RCEA upon request current or recent data on the types, quantities, and quality of feedstock material used by the plant, to the extent such data is tracked by HSC; the facility's heat rate expressed in million British Thermal Units of biomass fuel consumed per megawatt-hour of electric power generated; and the associated plant emissions reported to regulatory authorities, to the extent disclosure of such data does not directly place HSC at a competitive disadvantage in its forest products or power sales business activities, or cause HSC to violate confidentiality agreements it may have with its various business partners. Data should be made available showing monthly quantities, and disaggregated to show how material is sourced from within or outside Humboldt County, and whether it is sourced internally from the Humboldt Redwood Company and Mendocino Redwood Company family of companies, or externally from other suppliers.
  3. RCEA and HSC will observe the confidentiality provisions (section 10.6) in the PPA with regard to any data deemed confidential by either party that is exchanged in fulfillment of this MOU.
  4. HSC has engaged a consultant to analyze alternative uses of the biomass residuals produced by the company. This consultant is examining pathways to commercialization for alternative technologies and determining their financial viability. HSC will make the results of the consultant study available to RCEA when it is completed.
  5. This MOU does not and is not intended to supersede, replace, or subordinate any provisions, representations, covenants, rights, or obligations in the PPA.

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://redwoodenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Biomass-Humboldt-RCEA-1\\_19-FINAL-1.pdf](https://redwoodenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Biomass-Humboldt-RCEA-1_19-FINAL-1.pdf) and <https://redwoodenergy.org/power-resources/> (expand "Read more about Biomass" section and scroll to "Humboldt State University Capstone Class on Alternative Biomass Uses").

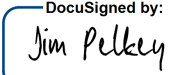
### Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding

Humboldt Sawmill Company

Redwood Coast Energy Authority

Name: Jim Pelkey

Name: Matthew Marshall

Signature:  0F0FEB424317402...

Signature:  71854927A198432...

Date: 9/30/2021

Date: 10/1/2021

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REDWOOD COAST  
**Energy**Authority

**STAFF REPORT**  
**Agenda Item # 7**

AGENDA DATE:	January 14, 2025
TO:	Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Elizabeth Burks, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Executive Director's Report

**SUMMARY**

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Executive Director Elizabeth Burks will provide updates on topics as needed.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

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None. (Information only.)

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