



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

633 3rd Street, Eureka, CA 95501

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

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

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

**March 11, 2024
Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

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

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

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

THIS IS A HYBRID IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING.

The Community Advisory Committee holds in-person hybrid meetings. When attending CAC meetings, please 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. A staff member will ask you to unmute your phone or computer, and you will have 3 minutes to speak.

You may email your comments to 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.

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COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING AGENDA

Agenda Item / What	How / Action <u>Underlined actions</u> indicate that a vote is needed.	When														
1. Open	<p><u>Roll Call:</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Norman Bell</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Luna Latimer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deborah Dukes</td> <td>Ethan Lawton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Colin Fiske</td> <td>Dennis Leonardi</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Benjamin Fordham</td> <td>Kit Mann</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Honar</td> <td>Pliny McCovey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richard Johnson</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Sarah Schaefer, Board Liaison</td> </tr> </table> <p>Remote member participation:</p> <p><u>Action (if needed): Approve teleconference participation request for this meeting by committee member pursuant to Brown Act revisions of AB 2449 due to an emergency circumstance to be briefly described.</u></p> <p>Review meeting agenda and goals.</p>	Norman Bell	Luna Latimer	Deborah Dukes	Ethan Lawton	Colin Fiske	Dennis Leonardi	Benjamin Fordham	Kit Mann	Chris Honar	Pliny McCovey	Richard Johnson			Sarah Schaefer, Board Liaison	6-6:05 p.m. (5 min.)
Norman Bell	Luna Latimer															
Deborah Dukes	Ethan Lawton															
Colin Fiske	Dennis Leonardi															
Benjamin Fordham	Kit Mann															
Chris Honar	Pliny McCovey															
Richard Johnson																
	Sarah Schaefer, Board Liaison															
2. Non-Agenda Item Public Comment	<p>This item is provided for the public to address the Committee on matters not on the agenda. At the end of public comments, the Committee may respond to statements, or refer requests requiring action to the Executive Director or the Board of Directors.</p>	6:05 – 6:10 p.m. (5 min.)														
3. Consent Calendar	<p>All matters on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine by the CAC and are enacted in one motion. There is no separate discussion of any of these items. If discussion is required, that item is removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately. At the end of the reading of the Consent Calendar, CAC members or members of the public can request that an item be removed for separate discussion.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">3.1. <u>Approve January 14, 2025, CAC Meeting Minutes.</u></p>	6:10 – 6:15 p.m. (5 min.)														
4. Items Removed from Consent Calendar	<p>This time is set aside for discussion of items removed from the Consent Calendar.</p>	6:15 – 6:20 p.m. (5 min.)														

Agenda Item / What	How / Action <u>Underlined actions</u> indicate that a vote is needed.	When
5. Chair/Vice Chair Selection	Action: Appoint a Community Advisory Committee chair and vice chair for terms beginning April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2026.	6:20 – 6:25 p.m. (5 min.)
6. NREN Update	Action: Hear a report on the Northern Rural Energy Network energy efficiency program launch. (Information only)	6:25 - 6:40 p.m. (15 min.)
7. Offshore Wind Outreach	Action: Hear staff presentation, discuss and provide feedback to staff.	6:40 – 6:50 p.m. (10 min.)
8. 2025 RCEA Policy Platform	Action: Provide suggestions for RCEA Policy Platform.	6:50 – 7:15 p.m. (25 min.)
9. Executive Director’s Report	Action: Hear an update on RCEA’s work from RCEA Executive Director Elizabeth Burks. (Information only)	7:15 – 7:20 p.m. (5 min.)
10. 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. Board Liaison Committee Members	7:20 – 7:30 p.m. (5 min.)
11. Close & Adjourn		7:30 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR CAC MEETING – Tuesday, May 13, 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:	March 11, 2025
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Member Teleconference Participation

BACKGROUND

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

SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION

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



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COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

January 14, 2025 - 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 p.m. at the Jefferson Community Center Auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA. The meeting agenda was posted on January 10, 2025.

Members present:

Norman Bell

Deborah Dukes

Colin Fiske

Benjamin Fordham

Richard Johnson

Luna Latimer

Ethan Lawton, Vice Chair

Kit Mann (arrived 6:14 p.m.)

Members absent: Chair Christopher Honar, Dennis Leonardi, Pliny McCovey.

Board-nominee vacancies: Blue Lake Rancheria (Michael Shackelton resigned on January 14, 2025), Fortuna, Rio Dell, Yurok Tribe.

Board Liaison present: Kris Mobley (non-voting)

Staff present:

Elizabeth Burks, Executive Director

Richard Engel, Power Resources Director

Lori Taketa, Board Clerk

Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director

2. Non-Agenda Item Public Comment

No non-agenda public comment was received at the meeting.

3. Consent Calendar

3.1. Approve November 12, 2024, CAC Meeting Minutes.

3.2. Approve CAC 2024 annual report for presentation to RCEA Board of Directors.

3.3. Adopt 2025 CAC Annual Meeting Calendar.

Executive Director Burks requested that her name be deleted from the list of members approving the November 12, 2024, CAC meeting minutes. Ms. Burks resigned from the CAC on October 18, 2024. There was no public comment on this item.

Motion Dukes, Second Latimer: Approve Consent Calendar Items 3.2 and 3.3, and the corrected November 12, 2024, CAC meeting minutes.

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

5. Wave Energy Update: CorPower Grant Proposal Letter (Information only)

Power Resources Director Engel described past ocean surface wave energy research and development in Humboldt County and RCEA's interest and participation in these efforts. In November, commercial wave energy developer CorPower Ocean asked RCEA to collaborate on a Department of Energy-funded pilot project at Oregon's PacWave wave energy test facility. RCEA could benefit by gaining first-hand experience with wave power's performance, reliability, grid compliance and cost competitiveness and by potentially diversifying RCEA's renewable power portfolio. Committee members supported CorPower collaboration and asked staff to find a way to develop and procure tidal or wave energy locally to meet the future offshore wind energy industry's large energy needs in Humboldt Bay. The group discussed the partnership's potential financial impacts to RCEA, high costs for early-development wave energy procurement and the potential scale and output of wave energy should it be developed off Humboldt County. There was no public comment on this item.

6. Annual Report on Humboldt Sawmill Company Biomass Use (Information only)

Each year, RCEA's Biomass Technical Advisory Group examines data provided to RCEA by Humboldt Sawmill Company. The information and BTAG comments are shared with the CAC and RCEA Board per an agreement made between HSC and RCEA when extending their power purchase agreement to 2031. Power Resources Director Engel shared information on the Scotia power plant's biomass feedstock sources, carbon emissions, efficiency and air quality standard compliance. Based on a Cal Fire-funded analysis, HSC plans to develop a biomass feedstock hydrogen production facility in Mendocino County. The committee members discussed: how hydrogen production's carbon footprint is similar to biomass energy's; Community Choice Energy's intention to not worsen climatic conditions; the importance and high current market price of resource adequacy, which RCEA procures at a locked-in, lower-than-current-market price through the HSC contract; and increased transparency of HSC's Scotia power plant operations resulting from the 2021 memorandum of understanding and BTAG, CAC and RCEA Board discussions. A member requested a clear standard and definition of when the HSC biomass plant is in violation of its contract with RCEA. Following legal counsel guidance, RCEA staff rely on the Air Quality Management District to determine whether the Scotia plant is operating in good standing. There was no public comment on this item.

7. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Burks reported on her first two weeks in her new role, reevaluation of the committee's goals and subcommittees, and a request for qualifications for design-build teams to provide solar and storage systems at 12 rural Humboldt County fire stations. The Kern County Sandrini solar project began operations, and the project's battery storage component will go online in December 2025. The Sandrini solar facility will supply more than 1/3 of RCEA customers' (roughly equivalent to 55,000 homes) electricity each year. The California Public Utilities Commission approved the Northern Rural Energy Network and allocated \$33 million for NREN to bring energy efficiency programs to Humboldt, Lake and Mendocino County as well as a large swath of the Sierra Nevada region served by the Sierra Business Council. RCEA, the Blue Lake Rancheria, Karuk, Yurok and Hoopa Valley Tribes and the Department of Energy Grid Development Office signed a conditional award

to lock in funds for microgrids in areas not reliably served by the electricity grid. The Foster Avenue microgrid project is under construction in the Arcata Bottoms.

8. Member and Board Liaison Reports

Member Johnson asked that the CAC meet at different locations around Humboldt County periodically to generate more interest in RCEA’s work. A developer approached the City of Blue Lake about installing a battery energy storage facility at the defunct biomass plant site. Member Mann will report back to the committee on developments.

Vice Chair Lawton adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Lori Taketa
Clerk of the Board

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

AGENDA DATE:	March 11, 2025
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Lori Taketa, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT:	Selection of CAC Chair and Vice Chair

BACKGROUND

Following procedure outlined in the Community Advisory Committee Charter, the chair and vice chair are to be selected during the first quarter of each calendar year. The term for each role shall be one year, beginning April 1 and expiring on March 31 of the following year. According to the Charter, no member will serve as chair or vice chair for more than two consecutive terms.

Current Chair Chris Honar (County 2) will end his CAC service on March 31. Vice Chair Ethan Lawton has served one term in this role and has not yet served as chair.

The CAC membership term expiration dates are as follows:

Representing Jurisdiction	Member Name	Term Expiration
At-Large	Colin Fiske	3/31/2026
At-Large	Pliny McCovey	3/31/2026
Appointed Members		
Arcata	Norman Bell*	3/31/2025
Blue Lake	Kit Mann	3/31/2027
Blue Lake Rancheria	Vacancy	3/31/2026
County 1	Luna Latimer	3/31/2027
County 2	Vacancy	3/31/2027
County 3	Vacancy	3/31/2026
Eureka	Deborah Dukes	3/31/2027
Ferndale	Dennis Leonardi	3/31/2026
Fortuna	Vacancy	3/31/2026
HBMWD	Ethan Lawton	3/31/2026
Rio Dell	Vacancy	3/31/2026
Trinidad	Richard Johnson	3/31/2027
Yurok Tribe	Vacancy	3/31/2026

* Board Member Sarah Schaefer will nominate Norman Bell for CAC reappointment at the March 27 RCEA Board meeting.

Chair duties are:

- Facilitate meetings, or request staff assistance to facilitate meetings
- On an as-needed basis, call special meetings between regularly scheduled meetings
- Encourage participation and help create a civil, collaborative environment
- Make sure each committee members' thoughts and ideas are heard and that input and feedback from the public is fairly considered for each discussion item
- Help group stay focused on task and build agreements.

The vice chair fulfils these roles when the chair is unavailable.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Appoint a Community Advisory Committee chair and vice chair for terms beginning April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2026.



**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT
Agenda Item # 6**

AGENDA DATE:	March 11, 2025
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Stephen Kullmann, Director DSM Patricia Terry, NREN Sr. Portfolio Manager
SUBJECT:	Northern Rural Energy Network (NREN) Update

BACKGROUND

The California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”) issued Decision D.24-09-031, effective September 26, 2024, approving the Northern California Rural Regional Energy Network (a.k.a. Northern Rural Energy Network, or NREN) to deliver energy efficiency programs to underserved rural customers.

RCEA, serving as Lead Portfolio Administrator, is partnering with the Sierra Business Council (SBC), Lake Area Planning Commission (Lake APC), and the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) as NREN, which will provide the following seven programs across 17 counties:

- **Residential Resource Acquisition:** energy efficiency and electrification incentives and rebates for residential customers
- **Commercial Resource Acquisition:** energy efficiency and electrification incentives and rebates for commercial customers
- **Residential Equity:** assessments and other “non-resource” services to residential customers
- **Public Equity:** assessments and other “non-resource” services to public agency customers. This program will be offered in Lake and Mendocino Counties only, because Humboldt and the Sierra Nevada Counties are covered by Local Government Partnerships implemented by RCEA and SBC.
- **Codes & Standards:** education and technical resources to increase understanding of and compliance with California’s Building Energy Efficiency Codes
- **Workforce Education & Training:** accelerates training (upskilling of existing workers and training for new workers) and increases new opportunities for employment
- **Finance:** gap and micro-loans for residential, commercial, and public agency customers.

The seven programs will be launched in a phased approach across the regions from now through 2027. NREN will be submitting a proposal for continued funding for 2028-2032. Currently, RCEA is using NREN funding to continue its equipment and heat pump rebate programs and residential efficiency kit and phone assessment services while preparing for additional service offerings. A preliminary timeline for service offerings in Humboldt County is as follows:

1st Quarter 2025:

- Residential Equipment and Heat Pump Rebates
- Residential Energy Efficiency Kits
- Residential Phone Assessments

2nd Quarter 2025

- Residential In-Home Assessments

3rd Quarter 2025

- Finance Program Needs Assessment
- Commercial Assessments and Direct Install Program (Contractor Partnership)

4th Quarter 2025

- Finance Micro and Gap Loans
- Workforce Education & Training Needs Assessment
- Codes & Standards Needs Assessment

NREN Draft Vision Statement:

At Northern Rural Energy Network, we're here to support, advise, and empower rural communities with energy efficient solutions that are easy to adopt and improve their lives. We believe everyone deserves access to tools and resources that make life better, save money, and build community resilience and energy independence. By bridging gaps and breaking down barriers, we're helping create a brighter future that feels true to the communities we serve."

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The total 2024-2027 NREN budget is \$33,139,078. Much of this will be pass through funds for implementation in the partners' respective territories. RCEA's share is approximately \$6.85M for program implementation, \$2.7M for administration, and \$1.6M for marketing.

EQUITY IMPACTS

RENs in general, and the NREN in particular, are designed to reach customers that otherwise are not being reached by existing ratepayer-funded programs. The NREN programs will ensure that hard-to-reach, disinvested, disadvantaged, and underserved rural customers are provided an equitable level of services and support of CPUC energy programs and are empowered to take action to better manage their energy use and cost through increased awareness, support resources, a trained workforce and access to financing to improve their homes and businesses.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

None – Information Only

Community Advisory Committee

Stephen Kullmann, Demand Side Management Director
Patricia Terry, Senior Portfolio Manager

Northern Rural
Energy Network



Why Regional Energy Networks

- Designed to fill gaps in service by other CPUC regulated Energy Efficiency Programs
 - Regions
 - Customer segments
 - Program type or delivery
- Not held to same cost-effectiveness requirements
- First created in 2012 with BayREN and SoCalREN
- Currently seven RENs statewide

In service to our residents, respect for rural communities, integrity in our actions, and value for our customers

- RuralREN originally proposed 3/2022 and approved 7/2023
 - Seven partners serving 31 counties
- Central and Northern partners split shortly after formation and two RENs officially formed 9/2024
- Northern California Rural Regional Energy Network (shortened to NREN) serving 14 Sierra Nevada Counties and 3 North Coast Counties
 - 4 partners: SBC, Lake APC, MCOG, RCEA



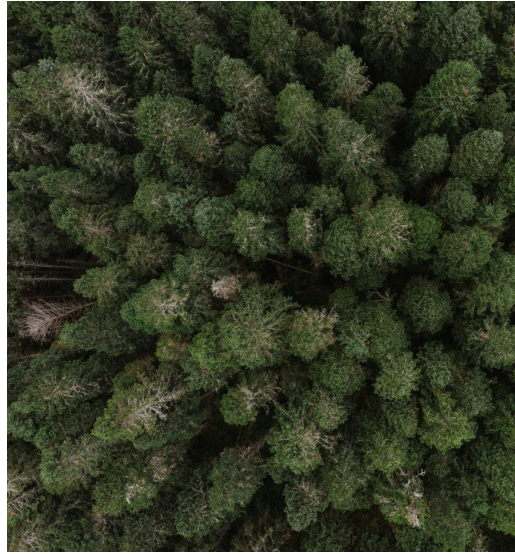
Approximate Budgets 2024-2027

Total Budget: \$33M

RCEA Programs: \$6.85M

Portfolio Administration: \$2.7M

Marketing: \$1.6M



Programs for Humboldt County Residents

- Continuing and new rebates for Residential Customers – Replacing CCE-funded rebates
 - Heat Pumps
 - Heat Pump Water Heating
 - Induction Cooking
 - Efficient Appliances
- No-cost assessments and Energy Efficiency Kits
- Outreach and education

Available Now! <https://redwoodenergy.org/programs-rebates/rebates-incentives/rebate-catalog/>

Programs for Humboldt County Businesses

- Commercial Energy Efficiency Programs
 - Designing and launching Q2 2025
 - Partner Contractor delivery
 - Potentially higher incentives available through NMEC design
 - Heat Pumps
 - Heat Pump Water Heating
 - Refrigeration
 - Lighting

More NREN Programs for Humboldt County

Workforce Education and Training

- Designing in 2025 for launch in 2026
 - Energy efficiency trainings for existing workforce
 - Partnerships with community colleges, labor groups, and others to train new workforce
-

Energy Efficiency Financing

- Designing and launching Q3 2025
 - Focusing on Gap and Micro Loans for all customers
-

Codes and Standards

- Designing in 2025 for launch later in 2026
 - Compliance assistance for local jurisdictions and contractors
 - Trainings on Energy Codes
-

+ Local Government Partnership

Humboldt County Public Agencies, Schools and Tribes are also served through RCEA's Local Government Partnership with PG&E

RCEA as Lead Portfolio Administrator

- Responsible for compliance with CPUC regulations
- Monthly, quarterly, and annual reporting
- Receive and distribute funds
- Participate in statewide committees and working groups
- Lead solicitations, contracts, and consultant management
- Begin preparing 2028-2031 Business Plan



CAC Participation

- Participation in Needs Assessments
- Regional Advisory Groups
- Outreach and Education
- Other?

Thank You





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

AGENDA DATE:	March 11, 2025
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Beth Burks, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	RCEA involvement in Offshore Wind

BACKGROUND

RePower Humboldt, Redwood Coast Energy Authority’s Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy was last updated in 2019. There are several goals and strategies within RePower Humboldt that emphasize the importance of offshore wind development to reach locally sourced and renewable energy goals.

Related goals include:

REGIONAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION

Build the clean energy sector into a cornerstone of the local economy through a breadth of strategies that include innovation, research and development, local energy-related business development, and establishing Humboldt Bay as the primary west coast hub for the offshore wind energy industry.

ENERGY GENERATION AND UTILITY SERVICES

By 2025 100% of RCEA’s power mix will be from a combination of state-designated renewable energy sources—solar, wind, biomass, small hydroelectric, and geothermal— and state-designated, net-zero-carbon-emission, existing large hydroelectric facilities.

By 2030 Humboldt County will be a net exporter of renewable electricity and RCEA’s power mix will consist of 100% local, net-zero-carbon-emission renewable sources.

Related strategies include:

4.1 POWER RESOURCES

4.1.6 Promote Energy Feasibility Studies. *Encourage and support feasibility studies of local wind, solar, hydropower, and ocean energy resources. Make recommendations on preferred alternatives that are consistent with community goals for energy security and sustainability.*

4.1.9 Power Resources: Offshore Wind

4.1.9.1 Develop Offshore Wind Energy. Work with public and private entities to develop offshore wind energy off of the north coast region's coastline, and support establishing Humboldt Bay as a west-coast hub for the offshore wind industry.

4.1.9.2 Procure Local Offshore Wind Energy. Contract for local offshore wind energy as part of RCEA's community choice energy portfolio to the extent economically feasible and compatible with portfolio diversity needs.

A CAC Offshore Wind Outreach Ad Hoc Subcommittee was formed in March 2022. Their scope of work was to advise and assist staff in implementing outreach around the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) offshore wind lease auction process. The Offshore Wind Ad Hoc Subcommittee was to sunset in the first quarter of 2023 based on the timing of the lease auction. The subcommittee met once in August 2022 and provided staff with examples of offshore wind elevator pitches and names of people who would be good to include in short social media and website videos.

One of the on-going CAC work goals is to support and help guide offshore wind energy community outreach.

SUMMARY

Staff is seeking input from the Community Advisory Committee about the preferred role of RCEA in offshore wind development. Specifically, how can RCEA work towards the goals identified in RePower Humboldt in ways that aren't being met by other groups or organizations in our community?

Staff will incorporate CAC input into an offshore wind work plan that will be presented to the RCEA Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Receive staff presentation, discuss and provide feedback to staff. No voting is required.

ATTACHMENTS

None



REDWOOD COAST Energy Authority

STAFF REPORT Agenda Item # 8

AGENDA DATE:	March 11, 2025
TO:	Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Faith Carlson, Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager
SUBJECT:	2025 Policy Platform Update

BACKGROUND

On March 24, 2022, the RCEA Board of Directors adopted the RCEA 2022 Policy Platform (Platform), which is brought to the Board periodically for updates.

The purpose of the Platform is to deliver on RCEA's RePower Humboldt goals and maintain the operation of RCEA's various programs. The Platform allows RCEA to be nimbler in adopting positions on regulatory and legislative matters in a timely manner without full Board approval if the position is aligned with the Board-approved platform. This Platform also helps inform RCEA's regulatory activities to ensure staff engagement aligns with the Board's priorities and RCEA's goals.

The 2024 Policy Platform and Draft 2025 Policy Platform support the following overarching policy priorities:

- To maintain local control to preserve 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 restructure the electric utility sector to allow for increased government ownership of energy infrastructure;
- To ensure cost effective energy service and programming;
- To ensure transmission and distribution access reliability as well as access to energy resources;
- To provide equitable and just economic, resilience, and climate benefits to the local community;
- To maintain an efficient, transparent governance structure and operations.

SUMMARY

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

Below are the substantive changes:

Location in Document	Summary of Change	Reason
1. Throughout document	Inclusion of Regional Energy Networks (“RENs”) as well as Community Choice Aggregators (“CCAs”)	RCEA is now the lead administrator for Northern Rural Energy Network (“NREN”) and intends to support this and similar programming.
2. Restructuring the Utility Sector	Section divided into cases related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing reliance on Investor-Owned Utilities (“IOUs”), reforms, Reforms for where IOU service is retained, and Direct access 	Clarifies that RCEA has a desire for a decreased role for IOUs, while clarifying IOUs’ role where a CCA or Publicly Owned Utility does not exist. Better addresses Direct Access scenario.
3. Restructuring the Utility Sector	Combination of 3 sections: Restructuring the Utility Sector, Power Charge Indifference Adjustment, and Direct Access.	Reduces redundancy, increases conciseness across the Platform.
4. Reliability	Advocacy for transmission and distribution maintenance moved from community resilience to this section.	Better aligns with current initiatives around transmission and distribution planning reform.
5. Emergency and Disaster Response	“Public Health Emergency and Natural Disaster Response” section updated to “Emergency and Disaster Response.” Language simplified.	Language simplified to allow RCEA to support policies that benefit all customers and not just our own.
6. Energy Generation Sources	Section previously titled “Renewable Energy Generation Sources.” Additional language around nuclear waste and Diablo Canyon Power Plant.	Updated to allow for advocacy around nuclear energy sources, which California defines as clean but not renewable.
7. Environmental Justice	Inclusion of language around RCEA’s Racial Justice plan.	Inclusion of Racial Justice Plan language broadens scope of this section.
8. Environmental Justice	Inclusion of language related to metrics and cost-effectiveness.	Allows RCEA to advocate for metrics that do not exclude equity customers to assess cost of programs and distribution planning.
9. RCEA Programs	Inclusion of language to protect Public Purpose Program support for energy efficiency programs as well as language around non-regulated fuels.	Based on issues observed late last year.

ALIGNMENT WITH [RCEA’S STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

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

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 to have affordable, reliable and clean energy.”

This section also includes support for policies that “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,” and support “for metrics and cost effectiveness rules that do not create a disadvantage in serving equity customers.”

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide suggestions for this and future Policy Platform updates.

ATTACHMENTS

Redwood Coast Energy Authority Draft 2025 Policy Platform, clean and redlined.



REDWOOD COAST ENERGY AUTHORITY 2025 POLICY PLATFORM

INTRODUCTION

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 that 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 based on principles set forth in RCEA’s RePower Humboldt strategic plan. To review RCEA’s strategic plan, please see [RePower Humboldt 2019 Update](#)

AVENUES AND EXAMPLES OF ADVOCACY

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, the primary State agency responsible for executing legislation and issuing regulations pertinent to Community Choice Aggregation (“CCA”) and Regional Energy Network (“REN”) 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 Independent System Operator, the California Air Resources Board, the California Department of Water Resources, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Examples of advocacy in this sphere include meeting with agency staff, agency decision-makers, and submitting comments in response to regulations.

PROCEDURES

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 through periodic reports to the Board summarizing legislative engagement.

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.

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

ISSUE AREAS

1. Governance and Statutory Authority

RCEA will:

- a. Oppose policies that limit local governments or CCA rate-setting, programming, or procurement autonomy.
- b. Oppose policies that limit CCA and REN ability to effectively and affordably serve their customers.
- c. Support policies that allow CCAs and RENs to engage with their customers and promote transparency in their operations.
- d. Support policies that make it easier for jurisdictions to form or become members of a CCA or REN and oppose regulations and legislation that restrict such ability.

2. Restructuring the Electricity Utility Sector

RCEA will:

- a. Support policies that reduce reliance on Investor-Owned Utilities ("IOUs"), such as
 - i. Policies that support governments' ability to fund or own electric infrastructure, including transmission and distribution infrastructure.
 - ii. Policies that stabilize, remove, or reduce costs associated with leaving IOU service, such as the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment or costs associated with maintaining a Provider of Last Resort.
- b. Where IOU service is retained, advocate for:
 - i. Reforms to the utility regulatory and business model to transform IOUs into entities that solely provide transmission and distribution services.
 - ii. Efforts to discourage new gas infrastructure and retire or repurpose existing gas infrastructure.
 - iii. Reforms to the utility regulatory and business model to ensure IOUs deliver effective service to ratepayers, increase safety and reliability, and reduce costs.
 - iv. Greater collaboration to occur between CCAs, RENs, tribes, local governments, and IOUs, particularly in local planning efforts related to energy resources, load planning, and programs.

- v. Increased data access to IOU data, such as customer program enrollment, meter data, and load planning data.
- c. Oppose policies that expand direct access.

3. Reliability

RCEA will:

- a. Support policies that reduce duration and frequency of power outages and improve grid reliability, such as **Public Safety Power Shut-Offs (“PSPS”)**.
 - i. Support policies that increase the notification and transparency requirements on IOUs as they implement a PSPS.
 - ii. Support policies that create standards for PSPS implementation and impose penalties on IOUs that execute PSPS below those standards.
 - iii. Support policies that call for fair and equitable treatment of non-utility owned generation during PSPS events and during related islanded operation of sections of the grid.
- b. **Resource Adequacy (“RA”)**
 - i. Support reforms to the RA program to improve system reliability at a reasonable cost to ratepayers.
 - ii. Advocate for and support efforts to remove barriers to demand response, microgrids, and behind the meter resources to provide RA or other demand-reduction value.
- c. Advocate for transmission and distribution development and maintenance to allow for reliable customer access to the grid and connection of new resources and loads.

4. Emergency and Disaster Response

RCEA will

- a. Support policies to alleviate residential and commercial financial hardship caused by public health emergencies or natural disasters that could disrupt electricity service or restrict customer access to clean energy and transportation opportunities.

5. Community Resilience

RCEA will:

- a. Advocate for and support funding for programs implemented by local governments, CCAs, and RENs to increase community resilience to wildfires, PSPS events and other potential service disruptions.
- b. Support policies 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 that increase the development of community level resources and distributed energy resources that reduce the need for new transmission and distribution infrastructure.

6. 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.

7. Energy Generation Sources

RCEA will:

- a. Support policies that expand opportunities for or reduce barriers to the development of renewable energy sources and associated infrastructure, 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. Oppose policies that require CCAs to purchase specific 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.
- c. Advocate for permanent waste solutions for nuclear plants and oppose policies that extend the life of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

8. Environmental Justice

RCEA will:

- a. Advocate for policies that align with RCEA's Racial Justice Plan.
- b. Engage in policy developments that directly or indirectly impact the ability of rural, low-income, and underserved communities to have affordable, reliable, and clean energy.
- 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 electric grid, building stock, and the transportation sector in a cost-effective manner.
- d. Advocate for metrics and cost effectiveness rules that do not create a disadvantage in serving equity customers.

9. RCEA Programs

RCEA will:

- a. Support policies that protect CCA and REN autonomy to administer programs, including but not limited to:
 - i. Integrated demand side management (including but not limited to microgrids, distributed energy resources, demand response, energy efficiency, electrification, distributed generation and storage, vehicle-to-grid storage)
 - ii. Low-carbon transportation (including but not limited to advanced fuel deployment, fuel efficiency, fueling infrastructure)
 - iii. Energy generation and utility services (including but not limited to rates and tariffs, transmission and distribution infrastructure)
- b. Protect Public Purpose Program support for energy efficiency programs.
- c. Support non-regulated fuels, such as propane, to be treated comparably with natural gas in allowing for electrification incentives.

10. Local Economic Development and Environmental Objectives

RCEA will:

- a. Support policies that enhance opportunities for local governments, CCAs, and RENs to promote local economic and workforce development through locally designed programs 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, including efforts to establish Humboldt Bay as the primary west coast hub for the offshore wind industry
- c. Support policies that enable CCAs and RENs to collaborate with their member jurisdictions on local energy resources and projects to advance environmental objectives.

DRAFT



REDWOOD COAST ENERGY AUTHORITY

20242025 POLICY PLATFORM

INTRODUCTION

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 that 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 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 ~~RePower Humboldt 2019 Update~~

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

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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”) ~~and Regional Energy Network (“REN”) 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 ~~Independent System Operator, the California~~ Air Resources Board, the ~~California Department of Water Resources, 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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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~~ through periodic reports 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.

[This platform will be brought to the RCEA Board on an annual basis for review and input.](#)

ISSUE AREAS

1. Governance and Statutory Authority

RCEA will:

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

2. Restructuring the Electricity Utility Sector

RCEA will:

- a. Support policies [that reduce reliance on Investor-Owned Utilities \(“IOUs”\), such as](#)

- i. Policies that support governments' ability to fund or own electric infrastructure, including transmission and distribution infrastructure.
- ii. Policies that stabilize, remove, or reduce costs associated with leaving IOU service, such as the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment or costs associated with maintaining a Provider of Last Resort.

b. Where IOU service is retained, advocate for ~~reforms~~:

- i. Reforms to the utility regulatory and business model to transform IOUs into entities that solely provide transmission and distribution services.

~~ii. Support policies Efforts to discourage new gas infrastructure and advocate for reforms retire or repurpose existing gas infrastructure.~~

~~ii.iii. Reforms to the utility regulatory and business model to ensure Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) deliver greater benefit effective service to ratepayers, increase safety and reliability, and reduce costs.~~

~~b. Support local governments' ability to form municipal electric utilities, including supporting legislation that expands opportunities for CCAs to become municipal electric utilities.~~

~~i.iv. Advocate for greater Greater collaboration to occur between CCAs, RENS, tribes, local governments, and incumbent IOUs, particularly in local planning efforts related to energy, EV charging, community resource centers resources, load planning, and customer programs.~~

~~c. Support efforts that result in IOUs providing meter data in real time to enable CCAs to better forecast and schedule load.~~

3. Power Cost Indifference Adjustment (PCIA)

RCEA will:

~~a. Support efforts by the California Community Choice Association (CalCCA) to increase the transparency of IOU electricity contracts which provide the basis for Power Cost Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) charges which RCEA (and its customers) and other CCAs must pay.~~

~~b. Support efforts which create a pathway to reduce and eventually phase out the PCIA.~~

~~i.v. Support policies which would bring stability to the PCIA and/or provide new mechanisms for CCAs to securitize PCIA charges Increased data access to IOU data, such as customer program enrollment, meter data, and load planning data.~~

~~c. Oppose policies which would increase or that expand exit fees, including PCIA, on CCA customers direct access.~~

4. Public Health Emergency and Natural Disaster Response

~~RCEA will~~

~~a. To the extent that it does not endanger RCEA's financial health and standing, support regulatory policies, legislation, or budget appropriations to alleviate residential and commercial financial hardship caused by 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.~~

5.3. Reliability

RCEA will:

- a. Support policies that reduce duration and frequency of power outages and improve grid reliability, such as Public Safety Power Shut-Offs (“PSPS”).

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

- i. Support policies that increase the notification and transparency requirements on IOUs as they implement a PSPS.
- ii. Support policies that create standards for PSPS implementation and impose penalties on IOUs that execute PSPS below those standards.
- iii. Support policies that ~~create rules~~ call for fair and ~~procedures to ensure~~ equitable treatment of non-utility owned generation during PSPS ~~are implemented~~ narrowly ~~events~~ and ~~only as absolutely necessary~~ during related islanded operation of sections of the grid.

~~c. Resource Adequacy (“RA”)~~

- i. Support ~~the efforts of CalCCA reforms~~ to ~~reform~~ the Resource Adequacy RA program to improve electric-system reliability at a 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 RA or other demand-reduction value.

- c. Advocate for transmission and distribution development and maintenance to allow for reliable customer access to the grid and connection of new resources and loads.

4. Emergency and Disaster Response

RCEA will

- a. Support policies to alleviate residential and commercial financial hardship caused by public health emergencies or natural disasters that could disrupt electricity service or restrict customer access to clean energy and transportation opportunities.

6.5. Community Resilience

RCEA will:

- a. Advocate for and support funding for programs implemented by local governments, CCAs, and CCAsRENS to increase community resilience to wildfires, PSPS events and other potential service disruptions.
- b. Support policies 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 that increase the development of community level resources and distributed energy resources that reduce the need for new transmission and distribution infrastructure. ~~Where new transmission or distribution infrastructure is needed, support policies that design, upgrade, and scale infrastructure to empower community access to renewable energy, green transportation, and rural transmission infrastructure.~~

7.6. 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.

8.7. Renewable Energy Generation Sources

RCEA will:

- a. Support policies that expand opportunities for or reduce barriers to the development of renewable energy sources, ~~including, but not limited to, wind, solar, bioenergy, small hydro, and geothermal, as well as battery storage to enable the use of renewable resources and associated infrastructure~~, 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 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. b.~~ Oppose policies 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.
- ~~c.~~ Advocate for permanent waste solutions for nuclear plants and oppose policies that extend the life of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

9.8. Environmental Justice

RCEA will:

- ~~a.~~ Advocate for policies that align with RCEA's Racial Justice Plan.
- ~~a. b.~~ Engage in regulatory and legislative policy developments 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 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~~ electric grid, building stock, and the transportation sector in a cost-effective manner.
- ~~d.~~ Advocate for metrics and cost effectiveness rules that do not create a disadvantage in serving equity customers.

10.9. RCEA Programs

~~Protect~~ RCEA will:

- a. Support policies that protect CCA and REN 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 (including but not limited to microgrids,

distributed energy resources, demand response, energy efficiency, electrification, distributed generation and storage, vehicle-to-grid storage)

- ii. Low-carbon transportation ([including but not limited to](#) advanced fuel deployment, fuel efficiency, fueling infrastructure)
- iii. Energy generation and utility services ([including but not limited to](#) rates and tariffs, transmission and distribution infrastructure)

[b. Protect Public Purpose Program support for energy efficiency programs.](#)

[c. Support non-regulated fuels, such as propane, to be treated comparably with natural gas in allowing for electrification incentives.](#)

11.10. Local Economic Development and Environmental Objectives

RCEA will:

- a. Support policies that enhance opportunities for local governments, [CCAs](#), and [CCAsRENs](#) to promote local economic and workforce development through locally designed programs 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, [including efforts to establish Humboldt Bay as the primary west coast hub for the offshore wind industry](#)
- e. Support policies that enable CCAs [and RENs](#) to collaborate with their member jurisdictions on local energy resources and projects to advance environmental objectives.

12. Direct Access/Electric Service Providers

RCEA will:

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



REDWOOD COAST
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Policy Platform Updates

03/11/2025

Faith Carlson

Regulatory & Legislative Policy Manager



RCEA's Policy Platform

- Adopted March 24, 2022
- Reflects RCEA's RePower Humboldt Plan
- Pre-Policy Platform, RCEA needed Board approval to adopt regulatory and legislative positions
- Annual Policy Platform update more closely aligned with Legislative session
- Updates to be brought to Board 3/27



- Recent events driving Policy Platform changes
 - Establishment of Northern Rural REN
 - Increased distribution reform efforts at the CPUC
 - Diablo Canyon Allocation
 - Increased energy affordability concerns and scrutiny of energy efficiency program funding
 - Change in federal administration



Specific Updates

- Addition of REN language to existing sections where relevant
 - “Oppose policies that limit CCA and REN ability to effectively and affordably serve their customers.”
 - “Support policies that allow CCAs and RENs to engage with customers and promote transparency in operations.”
 - “Support policies that make it easier for jurisdictions to form or become a member of a CCA or REN and oppose regulation to restrict such ability.”
 - Etc.
- Addition of fuel switching language
 - “Support non-regulated fuels, such as propane, to be treated comparably to natural gas in allowing for electrification incentives.”



Specific Updates

- Reformatting of section 2. Restructuring the Electricity Utility Sector to better clarify IOU role
- Addition of reliability language:
 - “Support policies that call for fair and equitable treatment of non-utility owned generation during PSPS events and during related islanded operation of sections of the grid.”
 - “Advocate for transmission and distribution development and maintenance to allow for reliable customer access to the grid and connection of new resources and loads.”
- Addition of equity language:
 - “Advocate for metrics and cost effectiveness rules that do not create a disadvantage in serving equity customers.”



Specific Updates

- Section 7. “Renewable Energy Generation Sources” updated to “Energy Generation Sources”
 - Nuclear power is considered clean but not renewable according to CA law
- Addition of language:
 - “Advocate for permanent waste solutions for nuclear plants and oppose policies that extend the life of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.”



Addition of affordability language

- “Oppose policies that limit CCA and REN ability to effectively and affordably serve their customers.”
- “Policies that support governments’ ability to fund or own electric infrastructure.”
- “Policies that stabilize, remove, or reduce costs associated with leaving IOU service.”

Language related to energy efficiency funding

- “Advocate for metrics and cost effectiveness rules that do not create a disadvantage in serving equity customers.”
- “Protect Public Purpose Program support for energy efficiency programs.”



- Federal actions taken that relate to energy and local government shared with Board at February meeting
- Board gave guidance to receive monthly updates on Federal activity
- Staff is engaging directly as well as through coalitions
- Additions to policy platform:
 - “Support efforts to enhance development of local and regional sources of renewable energy, including efforts to establish Humboldt Bay as the primary west coast hub for the offshore wind industry.”
 - “Advocate for policies that align with RCEA’s Racial Justice Plan.”



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Questions?

Beth Burks

From: Colin Fiske [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 11:24 AM
To: Lori Taketa
Cc: Beth Burks
Subject: Re: Missing Next CAC Meeting

Hi Lori and Beth,

Regarding the 2025 Policy Platform, I really appreciate the inclusion of the "Climate Action" section, and I think even more detail could be added, paralleling the main goals in the RePower Plan (e.g., support efforts to reduce VMT). I also think ambitious climate action should be one of the "overarching policy priorities." Here are some additional specific comments:

- Item 1a should be amended to clarify that RCEA will not oppose procurement or programming limitations that serve to further needed climate action or support equity initiatives. Local control shouldn't override all other values.
- Item 2b.ii is great. Perhaps it could be further elaborated to include support for "pruning" gas distribution pipelines in place of expensive maintenance and investing the savings in neighborhood-scale electrification. I think this is a really promising strategy that hasn't been fully appreciated.
- I would encourage adding a sub-section to Item 2b to support efforts to prohibit IOUs from using ratepayer funds to lobby legislators or regulators.
- I appreciate and support Item 7c. I understand that Item 7b as amended may also be aimed at this same issue, but the way it is worded (and its previous wording) makes it sound like RCEA would oppose future renewable procurement mandates. If that is the intent, I think it is short-sighted and counter to RCEA's broader goals of decarbonization.
- Item 9a.ii should be amended to specify support not only for ZEV-related improvements but also for transit and active transportation.
- I would support adding an item somewhere to oppose further efforts to reduce or undermine distributed generation (including rooftop solar) incentives, and to reinstate or re-strengthen those that have already been substantially weakened.

Regarding the offshore wind question, I think RCEA has a unique voice in the public discourse as the region's primary electricity provider. I think RCEA should engage in public education about the role OSW can play in replacing fossil energy (the Humboldt Bay Generating Station) and other controversial energy sources (i.e., biomass), while also keeping more of our electricity dollars local. I also think RCEA should have a significant role in educating and advocating for onshore infrastructure which maximizes the local benefits of OSW and minimizes impacts, including green port facilities, grid upgrades that will enable building & transportation electrification in capacity-constrained parts of the county, and new storage capacity to maximize the ability to dispatch electricity from OSW and other local renewables when needed.

Thanks,
Colin



REDWOOD COAST
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STAFF REPORT
Agenda Item # 9

AGENDA DATE:	March 11, 2025
TO:	Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Elizabeth Burks, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Executive Director's Report

SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. (Information only.)