

Materials Submitted At Meeting

Community Advisory Committee
March 11, 2025

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