



REDWOOD COAST EnergyAuthority

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COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

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

**March 10, 2026
Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

ADDITIONAL EASTERN HUMBOLDT LOCATION FOR THIS MEETING

*Member Luna Latimer will attend this meeting via teleconference from the Mid-Klamath Watershed Council building conference room in Orleans, next to the Post Office:
38150 State Highway 96, Orleans, CA 95556.*

Anyone 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.

When technical difficulties arise that prevent members of the public from offering comments, or if broadcasting is disrupted due to matters out of RCEA's control, the meeting will be discontinued unless otherwise allowed by law.

To participate in the meeting by phone, call (669) 900-6833. Enter webinar ID: 822 2338 1610. **To participate online**, log in at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82223381610>.



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To comment by phone or online during the public comment periods, raise your hand in the Zoom webinar, or press star (*) 9 on your phone. 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.

Email written comments to PublicComment@redwoodenergy.org. Identify the agenda item number in the subject line. Comments will be included in the meeting record but not read aloud during the meeting.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING AGENDA

Agenda Item / What	How / Action <u>Underlined actions</u> indicate that a vote is needed.	When
1. Open	Roll Cal Norman Bell Deborah Dukes Colin Fiske Benjamin Fordham Richard Johnson Luna Latimer Ethan Lawton Dennis Leonardi Kit Mann Pliny McCovey Sarah Schaefer, Board Liaison Confirm any remote member participation. Review meeting agenda and goals.	6-6:05 p.m. (5 min.)
2. Non-Agenda Item Public Comment	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.	6:05 – 6:10 p.m. (5 min.)
3. Executive Director's Report	Action: Hear Executive Director's update.	6:10 – 6:20 p.m. (10 min.)
4. Consent Calendar	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. Actions: 4.1. <u>Approve January 13, 2026, CAC Meeting Minutes.</u> 4.2. <u>Accept Local Major Projects Staff Notification List – None as of Agenda Publication.</u>	6:20 – 6:25 p.m. (5 min.)

Agenda Item / What	How / Action <u>Underlined actions</u> indicate that a vote is needed.	When
5. Items Removed from Consent Calendar	This time is set aside for discussion of items removed from the Consent Calendar.	6:25 – 6:30 p.m. (5 min.)
6. Chair/Vice Chair Selection	Action: <u>Appoint a Community Advisory Committee chair and vice chair for terms beginning April 1, 2026, and ending March 31, 2027.</u>	6:30 – 6:35 p.m. (5 min.)
7. Report on E-Bike and RRG Program	Action: Hear an update on the e-Bike Voucher Program and Regional Resilience Grant Program Outcomes (Information only)	6:35 – 6:55 p.m. (20 min.)
8. Cost of Service Rate Study Update	Action: Hear an update on the Community Choice Energy Program Cost-of-Service study and Rate Setting.	6:55 – 7:25 p.m. (30 min.)
9. Member and Board Liaison Reports	This time is provided for Committee members and the Board Liaison to share information on topics not on the agenda. At the end of member reports, the Executive Director will set requests requiring action to a future agenda or refer requests to staff or the Board. 9.1. Board Liaison 9.2. Committee Members	7:25 – 7:30 p.m. (5 min.)
10. Close & Adjourn		7:30 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR CAC MEETING – Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Jefferson Community Center Auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA 95501.



Staff Report

Agenda Item # 1

Information

Agenda Date	March 10, 2026
To	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
Prepared by	Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director
Subject	Member Teleconference Participation

Background

The California legislature revised the state's open meeting laws, or the Brown Act, in response to the COVID-19 State of Emergency which ended in early 2023. Since the pandemic, the Brown Act has been amended to codify modern teleconference meeting practices. SB 707 (Durazo, 2025) sets out the latest Brown Act revisions.

Summary

Beginning January 1, 2026, CAC members may attend up to two meetings per year from a remote location without making the location accessible to the public for "just cause," as defined below:

1. Childcare or caregiving to child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, domestic partner; or
2. Contagious illness that prevents in person attendance; or
3. Mental or physical need not subject to reasonable accommodation provisions; or
4. Travel while on official business of RCEA or another state or local agency; or
5. Immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires remote participation; or
6. Physical or family medical emergency; or
7. Military service obligations. "Emergency circumstance" due to a physical or family medical emergency that prevents the member from attending in person.

A vote is not necessary for a member to attend remotely for just cause, but the following requirements must be fulfilled:

1. At the beginning of the meeting, the remotely participating CAC member provides a brief description of the just cause reason, protecting the member's (or family member's) medical privacy;
2. Meeting minutes reflect the specific just cause reason;
3. Member participates through audio and visual means, unless a physical condition results in the member's need to participate off camera;
4. Member discloses individuals 18 years or older present in the room, and the general nature of their relationship with the CAC member;



REDWOOD COAST Energy Authority

5. At least a quorum of the CAC must participate from one or more physical locations within Humboldt County that are publicly accessible and noticed on the meeting agenda;
6. If disruption in teleconference service occurs, the meeting must be discontinued until teleconference service is restored;
7. Votes are conducted by roll call; and
8. Member may participate remotely due to just cause up to two times per year.

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

Staff asks to be notified one-week in advance 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 by the Brown Act.

In addition to expanded "just cause" teleconference meeting participation guidelines, SB 707 codified reasonable accommodation measures for CAC members with physical or mental disabilities, as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Members living with these disabilities may participate remotely from non-public locations. Their participation will be treated as in-person attendance at the physical meeting location, including for quorum purposes. Reasonable accommodation participation requires the following:

1. CAC member must use audio and visual technology, unless their physical condition results in needing to participate off camera; and
2. Member must disclose individuals 18 years old or older present in the room and disclose the general nature of their relationship to the member.

These reasonable accommodation requirements supersede all other teleconferencing requirements.

Alignment with RCEA's Strategic Plan

N/A - Compliance with the Brown Act is a transparency requirement for California local public agencies.

Equity Impacts

SB 707 author Senator Maria Elena Durazo stated an intention for the bill to increase public meeting participation. The bill's measures increase civic engagement opportunities for people facing barriers due to disability and distance from meeting locations by using technology that was widely adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Financial Impact

Procurement and staff time related to complying with Brown Act requirements are included in the current fiscal year budget.



Staff Recommendation

None.

References

- [Link to the Ralph M. Brown Act](#)¹, California Government Code Sections 54950 - 54963, revised October 3, 2025.
- RCEA's public meeting location list:

Body	Date	Time	Location
Board of Directors	4 th Thursday of each month	3:30 p.m.	Wharfinger Building Bay Room, 1 Marina Way, Eureka, CA 95501
Community Advisory Committee	2 nd Tuesday of odd-numbered months	6 p.m.	Jefferson Community Center Auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA 95501
Finance Committee	As needed, dates TBD	TBD	RCEA Offices, 633 Third Street, Eureka, CA 95501

¹ [California Code, GOV 54950.5.](#):

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=54950.&nodeTreePath=6.2.1.22&awCode=GOV

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Staff Report

Agenda Item # 3

Information

Agenda Date	March 10, 2026
To	Community Advisory Committee
Prepared by	Elizabeth Burks, Executive Director
Subject	Executive Director's Report

Summary

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

Staff Recommendation

None. Information only.

Attachments

None.

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AB 1761: Improving Energy Bill Transparency

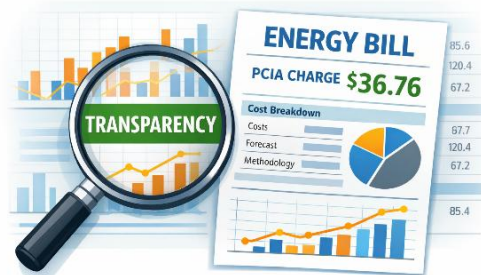


CalCCA is sponsoring [AB 1761](#), authored by Assemblymember Chris Rogers (D-Santa Rosa), which brings transparency to the way the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA), a charge on nearly all energy bills, is calculated.

Background

Electricity bills in California are on the rise, in part due to challenging market conditions and outdated and inefficient regulatory policies. Families and businesses are feeling the impact. Lawmakers and regulators need practical, consumer-focused solutions that ensure customers do not pay more than their fair share.

One tool to ensure customers receive energy bills that are fair and accurate is increased transparency in how PCIA charges are calculated. The PCIA is a fee designed to ensure customers who leave utility generation service, like customers of a Community Choice Aggregator (CCA) or Energy Service Provider (ESP), pay their portion of legacy power costs. But since the PCIA was implemented, there has been no consistent standard for what data must be made available in any CPUC process or proceeding where the PCIA, or a related charge, is set.



Problem

CCAs, ESPs, and their customers must pay the PCIA charge but often lack access to the data, assumptions, and methods used to set it. This transparency problem leads to disputes, inefficiencies, and unexpected rate impacts for customers. More specifically:

- ✓ Disclosures vary by utility and by CPUC proceeding, resulting in repeated fights between CCAs and Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) over data access and increased administrative inefficiencies as the CPUC resolves disputes on a case-by-case basis.
- ✓ Utilities sometimes make mistakes. In a 2019 PG&E proceeding, CalCCA identified \$73 million in errors (including a \$16 million increase for CCA customers). In a recent proceeding, PG&E identified an accounting error that would have cost CCA customers \$217 million.
- ✓ In an ongoing PCIA Rulemaking, the Commission withheld information on the evidence underlying their proposal and the rate impacts of a proposed change. The CPUC did not respond to a Public Records Act request for the information.

Without adequate transparency, CCAs and ESPs are unable to verify the accuracy of the PCIA charges that their customers must pay and cannot confidently forecast rate — both of which are affordability tools needed to protect customers from unexpected rate increases.

Solution

AB 1761 proposes amending the Public Utilities Code to require the CPUC and IOUs to disclose all data used to calculate PCIA costs, including cost inputs, forecasting assumptions, and methodologies. The bill would also ensure that when parties make proposals in a proceeding to change the PCIA they provide all the underlying data informing that proposal. Sensitive information would remain protected through Commission-approved nondisclosure agreements — a practice already used to protect sensitive information in other compliance areas.

Greater transparency allows CCAs and ESPs to better advocate for their customers and assess proposals to change the PCIA. It also can inform cost forecasts and shield customers from sudden rate swings. It reduces repeated fights over information, improves regulatory efficiency, and encourages utilities to verify calculations since the underlying data would be open to review. Costs to implement the proposal are miniscule, as most of this information already exists, while the benefits for rate, accuracy, stability, and consumer protection are substantial. This proposal strengthens confidence that customers pay their fair share — and not more.

For more on the PCIA go to: <https://cal-cca.org/pcia/>.

SB 1138: Lowering the Cost of California's RA Program

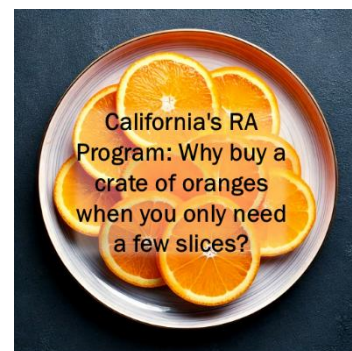


CalCCA is sponsoring [SB 1138](#), authored by Senator Steve Padilla (D-San Diego), so that California's load serving entities (LSEs) have the flexibility to transact load obligations at the hourly level in order to reduce millions of dollars in unnecessary costs to consumers — without compromising reliability.

Background

At a time of rising electricity bills and challenging market conditions, California's resource adequacy (RA) program is transitioning to a new Slice-of-Day (SOD) framework. Previously, LSEs (community choice aggregators, investor-owned utilities and energy service providers) were required to meet a monthly RA obligation using resources accredited with a monthly RA contribution. In the new SOD framework, LSE obligations are based on the 24 hours of the peak day in each month. LSEs must show resources sufficient to meet load obligations in each hour, including excess resources to charge storage on the peak day.

Under existing rules, LSEs are restricted in how they can transact with other entities to ensure compliance. Adjustments to an LSE's portfolio are limited to transacting product for the whole month even though obligations are unique to each hour. This mismatch means LSEs must purchase more RA than they need to meet their obligations, creating artificial market scarcity and unnecessarily driving up RA demand (and prices). It's akin to having to buy a crate of oranges when you only need a few slices. The net result is tens of millions of dollars in unnecessary costs that fall to California ratepayers.



Problem

During the SOD transition, LSEs submitted portfolios of resources to meet hourly obligations for a 2024 test year and for the binding 2025 year-ahead requirements. From these submittals, CalCCA observed that individual LSEs were short in some hours, requiring them to purchase additional RA resources to meet requirements, while other LSEs had excess capacity in those hours. Trading between LSEs would be sufficient to meet reliability requirements without needing to purchase additional RA.

From this early experience, it is apparent that restrictions on trading create artificial market scarcity and unnecessarily drive-up demand for already scarce RA products. LSEs have been penalized for non-compliance even though other LSEs showed excesses that could cover their shortages in the non-compliant hours.

Solution

At a time of rapidly rising costs in the electricity sector, policymakers should provide LSEs maximum flexibility in how they contribute their fair share to keep the overall system reliable. SB 1138 would lower the costs to consumers of California's RA trading program by allowing LSEs to transact RA load obligations on an hourly basis to align with the new slice-of-day RA program.

With hourly load obligation trading, an LSE that has excess resources in an hour could offer to take on a share of the obligation of an LSE that is short in the same hour. By trading load obligations, LSEs could avoid **\$105 million** in purchases of excess RA resources for the summer of 2025. This reduction in RA demand puts downward pressure on RA prices for all California LSEs, potentially reducing RA costs by an additional **\$77 million** per year.

Benefits

Enabling hourly load obligation trading:

- ✓ Promotes efficiency: LSEs with excess resources in one hour could trade with LSEs that are short, reducing the need to purchase additional RA.
- ✓ Delivers affordability: In 2025, hourly trading could have lowered RA costs for consumers by avoiding \$105 million in excess RA purchases for summer 2025 and potentially saving an additional \$77 million annually.
- ✓ Maintains LSE Responsibility: Creates a new procurement product rather than offering relief from meeting existing requirements.
- ✓ Requires limited administrative oversight: Trades can be executed bilaterally with existing RA tracking tools, making the system administratively simple while maintaining each LSE's full responsibility to meet obligations.



Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Draft Meeting Minutes

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

Tuesday, January 13 2026
6:00 PM

Attendance

Members Present

Norman Bell, Deborah Dukes, Colin Fiske, Benjamin Fordham, Richard Johnson, Luna Latimer, Chair
Ethan Lawton, Vice Chair Dennis Leonardi, Kit Mann (arrived 6:05 p.m.), Pliny McCovey.

Board Liaison Present

None.

Members Absent

None.

Board-Nominee Vacancies

Blue Lake Rancheria, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Yurok Tribe.

Staff Present

IT Technician Ken Beals, Executive Director Elizabeth Burks, Regulatory & Legislative Policy Manager
Faith Carlson, Power Resources Director Richard Engel, Board Clerk Lori Taketa, Northern Rural Energy
Network Portfolio Manager Patricia Terry, Deputy Executive Director Eileen Verbeck.

Meeting (Call to Order)

1. Open

Chair Ethan Lawton called the hybrid in-person and teleconference meeting to order on the above date
at 6 p.m. at the location listed above. The meeting agenda was posted on January 9, 2026.

2. Non-Agenda Item Public Comment

There were no non-agenda item public comments received for this meeting.

3. Consent Calendar

3.1. Approve September 9, 2025, CAC Meeting Minutes.

3.2. Accept Local Major Projects Staff Notification List – None as of Agenda Publication.

3.3. Adopt 2026 CAC Annual Meeting Calendar.

Members Fiske and Johnson requested discussion of the Local Major Projects Staff Notification List. No other discussion requests from members nor the public were received.

Motion Dukes, Second Latimer: Approve Consent Calendar items 3.1 and 3.3.

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

4. Items Removed from Consent Calendar

Member Johnson requested criteria for RCEA involvement in major project development. Member Fiske reported that a major distribution center is in early planning stages in McKinleyville that will likely require energy and transportation planning. Staff will report on major project engagement criteria at a future meeting.

5. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Burks reported:

- RCEA joined LEAN, a nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating community choice aggregation expansion. Membership affords access to federal legislation tracking.
- The Foster Clean Power solar and battery storage system project is online. This local solar and storage project can generate enough power for up to 3,000 homes.
- Six remote Humboldt County fire stations deployed mobile solar and battery storage trailers through the Regional Resilience Grant Program. The trailers integrate into fire station electricity panels and can power the stations during emergencies when the grid shuts down.
- The County adopted the Regional Climate Action Plan in December. Cities will be adopting the plans next. RCEA is exploring hosting RCAP personnel and tasks.
- Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District withdrew its RCEA membership to refocus efforts on water supply responsibilities. Chair Lawton, the HBMWD's CAC appointee, reapplied and has been appointed to the County 2 seat.

Power Resources Director Engel reported that the 2 MW North Coast Solar Project will start supplying electricity to RCEA's customers through the Feed-In Tariff program in January or February. There was discussion of including solar storage in the Feed-In Tariff procurement program going forward.

6. 2026 RCEA Policy Platform

Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager Carlson asked the Committee for input on draft 2026 RCEA Policy Platform updates. The Platform was revised to focus on RCEA advocacy effort outcomes. The Committee clarified Platform edits, and requested a more consistent naming convention for Tribal governmental entities, clearer term definitions and more examples to understand the different platform

areas. The group supported broadened language defining areas in which staff could advocate, given the current national political climate.

7. Northern Rural Energy Network Status, 2028-2031 Business Plan

Northern Rural Energy Network Portfolio Manager Terry reported on NREN's work to date and plans for the 2028-2031 business cycle. Uptake of NREN residential energy efficiency offerings has been greatest in Lake and Mendocino Counties, which lacked similar energy saving programs for the past five to 10 years. Commercial and public agency energy efficiency programs, including incentives, and workforce development training programs will launch in 2026.

NREN's next eight-year plan is due to the CPUC in March. The business plan will offer the same programs, expanding service areas to Yolo County, and conducting a study to determine needs in other rural and remote northern California counties that are not receiving PG&E energy efficiency services. Potential future NREN territories include Colusa, Glenn and Tehama counties. NREN programs, and RCEA's role as program administrator, are funded through the Public Purpose Program Surcharge, which adds pennies to each ratepayer's bill. RCEA has been advocating heavily at the CPUC against cutting this energy efficiency program funding.

Committee members suggested working with the County Workforce Development Board. NREN's workforce development efforts may align with and expand the local Board's work. The group asked whether NREN programs could help implement Regional Climate Action Plan measures and supported NREN program roll out in Pacific Power territory.

8. Sandrini Battery Storage Project Community Benefits

Power Resources Director Engel described the Sandrini Battery Storage Project's \$250,000 community investment fund, how these benefits are negotiated in contracts or considered in project proposal scoring criteria, and how benefits can be divided when a project is built in a different location than the area benefiting from the project's output. In the Sandrini project's case, funds can be spent in Humboldt County or in Kern County, where the project was built. Staff reported that the project was located on land that was no longer productive for farming due to groundwater contamination, and not a biologically diverse site.

Staff asked the committee for input on how to use the funds.

Committee members supported using the funds to:

- Attract wave and tidal and other renewable energy developers to assess Humboldt County's project development potential
- Educate local decision makers on renewable energy technologies and development to prevent susceptibility to misinformation or NIMBYism
- Create an endowment if there is no pressing immediate need
- Fund initiatives that NREN cannot fund, including deeper equity rebates for energy efficiency measures for lower income customers
- Leverage endowment fund interest to fund more workforce development initiatives, especially in non-energy efficiency areas that could not be funded through NREN
- Share with Kern County, as project impacts are focused there
- Address the cost of energy and support those struggling to pay their electricity bills.

9. Member and Board Liaison Reports

Vice Chair Leonardi inquired whether battery storage could be included in the Highway 36 solar feed-in-tariff project. Chair Lawton thanked committee members and staff for their participation.

10. Close & Adjourn

Chair Lawton adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Lori Taketa
Clerk of the Board

DRAFT



Staff Report

Agenda Item # 4 - 2

Information

Agenda Date	March 10, 2026
To	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
Prepared by	Elizabeth Burks, Executive Director
Subject	Local Major Projects of Interest

Summary

The CAC requested a standing agenda item to discuss local major projects and activities that may have significant impact on RCEA's ability to reach energy goals outlined in the RePower Humboldt Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy. If staff agrees that a project is within RCEA's scope, staff will engage with project developers in early stages or a project-specific CAC ad hoc subcommittee will be formed to develop comments to present to the Board, if the project is in the public comment phase.

The Board clarified guidelines and a process for the CAC to discuss local major projects as follows:

1. If CAC members see a need to comment on or engage with a local project in development in ways that are within RCEA's scope, they notify the RCEA Executive Director.
2. If staff agrees that engaging with project developers is appropriate for RCEA, then staff will follow up or request volunteers for an ad hoc CAC Major Projects Subcommittee specific to a particular project for assistance in drafting comments.
3. If it is unclear whether engagement falls within RCEA's scope, staff will ask the Board for direction.
4. It is more productive for RCEA to engage and provide input early in the development process, rather than when the project is soliciting public comment (e.g. RCEA provided the County with technical input related to Nordic Aquafarms prior to the solicitation for public comments).
5. If RCEA has not been invited to provide input and RePower strategies are not accounted for in project plans, then it is appropriate for RCEA to comment during the public comment phase.

As of the writing of this staff report, there have been no new local major projects identified for the CAC to discuss at this meeting. However, if a CAC member identifies a project they would like to discuss and states how it relates to RCEA's strategic plan goals, this agenda item may be removed from the consent calendar for discussion.

Staff Recommendation

Accept Local Major Projects Staff Notification List – None as of agenda publication.

Attachments

None.

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

AGENDA DATE:	March 10, 2026
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 Lawton is finishing one term as chair after serving one term as vice chair. Current Vice Chair Leonardi is finishing a term as vice chair after a 1-year hiatus from leadership duties. He was vice chair and then chair for the four prior years.

Representing Jurisdiction	Member Name	Term Expiration
At-Large	Carol Schmitt	3/31/2028
At-Large	Vacancy	3/31/2028
Arcata	Norman Bell	3/31/2027
Blue Lake	Kit Mann	3/31/2027
County 1	Luna Latimer	3/31/2027
County 2	Ethan Lawton	3/31/2028
County 3	Benjamin Lawton	3/31/2028
Eureka	Deborah Dukes	3/31/2027
Ferndale	Dennis Leonardi	3/31/2028
Trinidad	Richard Johnson	3/31/2027
Blue Lake Rancheria	Vacancy	3/31 (2-year term)
Fortuna	Vacancy	3/31 (2-year term)
Rio Dell	Vacancy	3/31 (2-year term)
Yurok Tribe	Vacancy	3/31 (2-year term)

Members Colin Fiske and Pliny McCovey are ending their CAC service as of March 31. The Board is expected to appoint at least one new CAC member at the March 26 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, 2026, and ending March 31, 2027.



Staff Report

Agenda Item # 7

Information

Agenda Date	March 10, 2026
To	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
Prepared by	Juliette Bohn, Infrastructure Programs Manager
Subject	E-bike Voucher Program and Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP) Update

Summary

E-bike Voucher Program Update

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority is supporting micro-mobility and low-carbon transportation in Humboldt County through an electric bike (e-bike) incentive program. RCEA's first e-bike incentive program was a rebate launched in 2020 that was fully subscribed in 2.5 weeks. In 2023, RCEA staff developed a new e-bike incentive program that is a point-of-sale voucher instead of a reimbursable rebate to better serve customers relying on voucher funds to buy the e-bike. The updated RCEA E-bike Voucher program launched in Q2 of 2024 and is still in effect today. Eligible e-bikes include standard commuter-style, cargo-style, and adaptive e-bikes such as e-tricycles and hand-pedal models.

The presentation will provide details on the program's core elements and achievements to date.

Regional Resilience Grant Program Update

In 2024, RCEA was awarded \$3,000,000 in Regional Resilience Grant Program funds. The RRGP funds are administered by the California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation. The purpose of the grant is to enhance energy resilience in Humboldt County by installing solar and battery energy storage systems at 16 fire stations and one Tribal emergency communications tower. These resilient energy systems are designed to provide up to 12 hours of backup power during planned and unplanned grid outages as well as during and after natural disasters. RCEA staff began by developing preliminary system designs and conducting a two-step Design-Build procurement process. RCEA staff and the contracted Design-Build team are now in the final design and permitting phase and will begin construction in Q2 of 2026. This grant also supports prescribed burn trainings led by the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association and the Briceland Volunteer Fire Department. This grant work is scheduled to be completed in Q1 2027.

The presentation will provide details on the program's core elements and achievements to date.

Staff Recommendation

Hear an update on the E-bike Voucher Program and the Regional Resilience Grant Program outcomes.

Attachments

None.

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Staff Report

Agenda Item # 8

Information

Agenda Date	March 10, 2026
To	Community Advisory Committee
Prepared by	Lori Biondini, Business Planning and Finance Director
Subject	Community Choice Energy Program Cost of Service and Rate Setting Update

Background

In 2024, RCEA staff became aware of new case law that prompted the need for California Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) to establish that retail electricity rates charged to CCA customers are not a tax under the California Constitution's definition of "tax." An adequate rate study to determine a factual basis of cost to serve customers would support this exception. In July 2025, RCEA solicited for and then selected a proposal from NewGen Strategies and Solutions (NewGen) to complete a cost-of-service analysis and a rate design study. Recently NewGen completed the first phase of their analysis and presented results to RCEA staff and Board of Directors.

Summary

Originally, staff had a goal of transitioning from the current practice of closely following Pacific Gas & Electric Company rates to cost-of-service rate setting around July 1, 2026. However, upon further consideration, a deeper discussion with the Board of Directors and community about RCEA's retail electricity rate structure would be helpful in the context of broader long-term strategic planning. For example, how might procurement choices be balanced with energy affordability? Staff will present an overview of the results of the cost-of-service analysis, preliminary recommendations for rate setting, and how RCEA will address interim rate changes that may be necessary to adhere to the financial Reserve Policy and contractual obligations.

Alignment with RCEA's Strategic Plan

A well-considered approach to rate setting is consistent with the following goals:

4.3.1 Provide Community Choice Energy Program Customer Rate Savings. Provide customer rates that are affordable and price-competitive with customers' other electric supply options.

4.3.2 Retain and/or Redirect Rate-Payer Dollars Back into Humboldt County. Work to maximize the amount of ratepayer dollars retained in Humboldt County when taking into consideration local power procurement, electricity rates, local program spending, and allocations toward building the reserve fund for RCEA's Community Choice Energy program.



Equity Impacts

Equity impacts are expected to remain at the core of the rate setting process.

Financial Impact

Implementation of interim rate changes may result in decreased financial reserves from current levels, reduced to the high-target set in the Reserve Policy. Once cost-of-service rates are implemented, they will include growing or maintaining cash reserves by design.

Staff Recommendation

None. Informational only.

Attachments

None.