REDWOOD COAST Energy Authority

Arcata | Blue Lake | Blue Lake Rancheria | County of Humboldt | Eureka | Ferndale | Fortuna | Rio Dell | Trinidad | Yurok Tribe

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wharfinger Building, Bay Room (downstairs)
1 Marina Way, Eureka, CA 95501

Thursday, September 24 2026
3:30 PM

Attendance

Present

Carlos Diaz	Sarah Schaefer, Vice Chair (arrived 3:46 p.m.)
Michael Gerace, Chair	Jack Tuttle
Skip Jorgensen	Frank Wilson
Elise Scafani	Mike Wilson (remote, just cause - agency travel, left at 3:49 p.m.)

Absent

Scott Bauer	Jason Ramos

Staff and Others Present

Name	Title
Mike Avcollie	Capital Assets Manager
Ken Beals	Information Technology Technician
Elizabeth Burks	Executive Director
Nancy Diamond	RCEA Legal Counsel
Richard Engel	Power Resources Director
Eileen Verbeck	Deputy Executive Director
Lori Taketa	Board Clerk

Open Session (Call to Order)

Chair Gerace called a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Redwood Coast Energy Authority to order at the above location and date at 3:35 p.m. Notice of this meeting was posted on September 19, 2026. Director Mike Wilson participated remotely with just cause due to travel for County business. There was no one 18-years old or older with him while he teleconferenced.

12. Staff Reports

4.1. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Burks reported that RCEA achieved 100% renewable/carbon-free resources in its power portfolio for the first time in 2025. The Board-approved bond prepay agreement will result in $2.65 million in savings per year during its initial 10-year pricing period, exceeding the projected $2 million estimate. The California Supreme Court ordered the Appellate Court to hear CalCCA's appeal contesting the CPUC's change in calculating the Market Price Benchmark. This calculation affects the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment, which caused the large increase in electricity bills this year. RCEA will participate in ex parte communications contesting the CPUC's preliminary decision to eliminate North Coast offshore wind development from its electricity grid development plans. There were no public comments.

13. Consent Calendar

5.1. Approve Minutes of August 27, 2026, Board Meeting.
5.2. Accept Disbursement Report for July 2026, and Financial Reports for This Fiscal Year Through July 2026.

There were no requests to remove items from the consent calendar.

M/S: M. Scafani, Jorgensen: Approve Consent Calendar items.

The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: Diaz, Gerace, Jorgensen, Scafani, Tuttle, F. Wilson, M. Wilson. Noes: None. Absent: Bauer, Ramos, Schaefer. Abstain: None.

Community Choice Energy (CCE) Business

7. CCE Business Consent Calendar

7.1. Adopt Resolution 2026-10 Approving and Attesting to the Veracity of RCEA's 2025 Power Source Disclosure Report.

There were no requests to remove this item from the CCE Business Consent Calendar.

M/S: Scafani, Diaz: Approve CCE Business Consent Calendar item.

The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: Diaz, Jorgensen, Scafani, Schaefer, Tuttle, F. Wilson, M. Wilson. Noes: None. Absent: Bauer, Ramos. Abstain: None. Non-Voting: Gerace.

End of CCE Business | Resume RCEA Board Business

11. Old Business

11.1. Annual Humboldt Sawmill Company Alternative Biomass Use Report (Information only)

Power Resources Director Engel presented the Annual Humboldt Sawmill Company Alternative Biomass Use Report, providing history of the agreement with Humboldt Sawmill Company to provide requested information annually during the contract term through 2031. HSC received no new notices of violation from the Air District this year. RCEA Legal Counsel confirmed that conditions do not exist to indicate a default of power purchase agreement terms. A draft health risk assessment report triggered by previous HSC plant emissions data found that cancer risks in the surrounding Scotia area fall below public notification and remediation thresholds. Humboldt Sawmill Company continues to evaluate a potential small-scale biomass plant in Ukiah, despite the end of BioMAT program incentives. Current economics do not support project investment. The Community Advisory Committee expressed continued concern about particulate matter emissions but acknowledged that the annual HSC report increased transparency about the plant's operations and environmental impact. There were no public comments on this agenda item.

11.2. Grid Resilience Innovation Partnership (GRIP) Program Funds for Tribal Energy Resilience and Sovereignty Project Final Award Execution and Staffing

Chair Gerace recused himself from this discussion due to a potential conflict of interest. The Yurok Tribe is a recipient of the GRIP grant and Chair Gerace is the vice president of a Yurok-owned construction corporation which may build infrastructure funded by this grant. Chair Gerace left the meeting room at 4:05 p.m. Vice Chair Schaefer facilitated the discussion.

Deputy Executive Director Verbeck described the history of the RCEA partners' GRIP 2 award for microgrids grant application with the Department of Energy from the initial $87 million award in 2024, informal project termination in 2025, and resumed 2026 negotiations resulting in a $65 million grant that required removal of solar energy and community benefit components. The remaining partners (Yurok and Hoopa Tribes, the Blue Lake Rancheria, and RCEA) have secured match funds as required by the federal award. If the partners continue to build solar, it will have to be done with funds outside the federal award. There was no public comment on this item.

M/S: Scafani, Tuttle: Authorize RCEA Executive Director to execute the Department of Energy Grid Resilience Innovation Partnership Program Funds for Tribal Energy Resilience and Sovereignty Project GD-0000967 Final Award and Unfreeze the Contracts and Grants Manager Upon Execution of Final Award.

The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote. Ayes: Diaz, Jorgensen, Scafani, Schaefer, Tuttle, F. Wilson. Noes: None. Absent: Bauer, Gerace, Ramos, M. Wilson. Abstain: None.

Chair Gerace returned to the meeting room at 4:15 p.m. after the vote and resumed meeting facilitation.

12. New Business

12.1. Regional Climate Action Plan: Establishing RCEA as Host Agency

Executive Director Burks reported on approval progress for the Memorandum of Understanding establishing RCEA as the host agency for the Regional Climate Action Plan implementation. The MOU will go into effect after jurisdiction governing councils representing 85% of Humboldt County's population sign the agreement. The MOU includes cost-sharing for a Regional Climate Program Manager position, establishes the RCEA Board with additional representatives from Humboldt County Association of Governments, Humboldt Transit Authority, and Humboldt Waste Management Authority, as the Regional Climate Committee, along with an RCAP Technical Advisory Committee comprised of staff from RCAP member entities.

Daniel Chandler, member of the 350 Humboldt Steering Committee, supported the memorandum of understanding and RCEA's role as Regional Climate Action Plan implementation host.

Colin Fiske of the Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities also supported the memorandum of understanding, noting that the climate crisis continues to intensify.

M/S: Schaefer, Tuttle: Approve the Memorandum of Understanding establishing RCEA as the host agency for the Regional Climate Committee and Climate Program Manager Position to coordinate the implementation of the Regional Climate Action Plan.

The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote. Ayes: Diaz, Gerace, Jorgensen, Scafani, Schaefer, Tuttle, F. Wilson. Noes: None. Absent: Bauer, Ramos, M. Wilson. Abstain: None.

12.2. Approval of Fifth Lease Amendment Between GHD, Tenant, and RCEA, Landlord, for 718 3rd Street, Eureka, CA

Deputy Executive Director Verbeck reported on a lease amendment where tenant GHD relinquishes finished office space in exchange for a one-time $300,000 tenant incentive allowance. RCEA would perform work to separate and secure the office spaces. The amendment would provide the RCEA office space needed at a significantly lower cost than building a partial second story in the adjoining warehouse. Staff also anticipate cost savings from acquiring office furniture GHD gives up during the move, and from ending RCEA's lease at the 917 Third Street building. There were no public comments on this agenda item.

M/S: Jorgensen, Schaefer: Approve Fifth Amendment to Commercial Lease Agreement between Redwood Coast Energy Authority, Landlord, and GHD Inc., Tenant, for 718 3rd Street and Authorize the Executive Director to execute all applicable documents pending review by RCEA Legal Counsel.

The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote. Ayes: Diaz, Gerace, Jorgensen, Scafani, Schaefer, Tuttle, F. Wilson. Noes: None. Absent: Bauer, Ramos, M. Wilson. Abstain: None.

12.3. Recommended Design-Build Procurement for 718 3rd Street Office Remodel

Capital Assets Manager Avcollie described work that will be needed to renovate the 718 Third Street warehouse to become RCEA's office, and the benefits of a design-build public contracting process. Staff anticipate more efficient management of a single design-build contract and pointed to the benefits of using best value contractor selection criteria. The directors discussed how the proposed procurement process differs from the previous, halted procurement for developing RCEA's empty parking lot at the

corner of Third and I Streets. For that project, RCEA received estimates exceeding the agency's budget just for project design. Estimates for construction at that time were over $8 million, making new-build office plans unfeasible.

There were no public comments on this agenda item. Director Diaz and Chair Gerace volunteered to serve on an ad hoc Building Remodel Solicitation Committee.

M/S: Scafani, Diaz: Authorize RCEA's Executive Director to utilize the design-build process to procure design and construction of the commercial remodel and improvements to 718 3rd St. Eureka; and initiate the first step by developing and issuing a Request for Qualifications.

Create an Ad Hoc Building Remodel Solicitation Committee comprised of five or fewer RCEA Board members.

Delegate authority to the Building Remodel Solicitation Ad Hoc Committee to: 1) approve the short list of qualified design build contractors, and 2) authorize the Executive Director to issue a Request for Proposals for construction of the commercial remodel/improvements at 718 and 720 3rd St. Eureka.

The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote. Ayes: Diaz, Gerace, Jorgensen, Scafani, Schaefer, Tuttle, F. Wilson. Noes: None. Absent: Bauer, Ramos, M. Wilson. Abstain: None.

12.4. Overview of Distributed Energy Resources and Virtual Power Plants (Information only)

This agenda item was postponed to the October Board meeting.

There were no requests for future agenda items. Chair Gerace adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Lori Taketa, Clerk of the Board

The author used Zoom AI to generate a draft of these minutes. After using this tool, the author reviewed, edited and takes full responsibility for the content of these minutes.