



Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

Action Minutes

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance Board Meeting

March 21, 2019

10:15 a.m.

City of Ventura – City Hall
Community Room
501 Poli Street
Ventura, California 93001

1. Welcome/ Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ramirez at 10:34 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Carlos Juarez	City of Santa Paula
Carmen Ramirez	City of Oxnard
Christy Weir	City of Ventura-Alternate
Tim Holmgren	City of Fillmore
Scott Quady	Calleguas Municipal Water District
Jackie Moran	Ventura Unified School District
Bernardo Perez	Ventura County Community College District
Ed Jones	City of Thousand Oaks

Not Present:

Mike Judge	City of Simi Valley
Bert Perello	Ventura Regional Sanitation District
Linda Parks	County of Ventura
Will Berg	City of Port Hueneme

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Ramirez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Oath of Office for New VCREA Board Members

Carlos Juarez of the City of Santa Paula, Ed Jones of the City of Thousand Oaks and Bernardo Perez of the Ventura County Community College District were sworn into office by Sue Hughes, Executive Director, Ventura County Regional Energy Director

5. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Upon motion of Ms. Moran, seconded by Ms. Ramirez, the Board elected Linda Parks as Chair. Upon motion of Ms. Weir, seconded by Mr. Holmgren, the Board elected Carmen Ramirez as Vice Chair.

6. Minutes from the September 20, 2018 VCREA Board Meeting

Upon motion of Ms. Weir, seconded by Mr. Holmgren, the Board received and filed the Minutes of the September 20, 2018 meeting. Mr. Jones abstained.

7. Agenda Review

The agenda was approved as presented by consensus.

8. Public Comments

Jan Dietrich presented information regarding climate change, cities participation in higher building standards, and the recommendation that the county develop a sustainability office. Ms. Dietrich provided pamphlets to the Board and attendees to review.

Leslie Purcell addressed the board regarding the encouragement of more solar panels in the area.

9. Board Member Comments

Ms. Weir addressed the Board regarding a conference she attended in Washington, DC. FEMA is looking at a large amount of funding to be spent on preemptive and resiliency projects which also includes energy projects. Chair Ramirez asked Ms. Weir to provide the board with follow-up information about the conference.

Mr. Juarez introduced himself and Andy Sobel to the Board.

Ms. Moran noted that Ventura Unified is looking at installing solar on their parking structures and some administration buildings. One concern about the solar panels is bird migration and how the birds are affected by the heat emitted by the solar panels. Chair Ramirez suggested we get some information from the National Audubon Society.

Mr. Perez introduced himself to the Board. Also of note, the Ventura County Community College District is also looking into solar as well as sustainability projects.

Mr. Jones introduced himself to the Board.

Chair Ramirez noted the opt-out rate for Clean Power Alliance is under 3 percent system-wide.

Alejandra Tellez, VCREA staff, introduced all of the staff of VCREA.

10. Southern California Edison – Wildfire Mitigation, Safety & Grid Resiliency Presentation

Robert Stiens, public affairs manager with SCE, presented information regarding improvements and future improvements to the power lines and wires. He described the new process of installing coated conductor wires in high fire areas. SCE is also changing fuses on lines to fast-acting in order to detect any interruption and have the capability of shutting down quickly. Mr. Stiens provided information about cutting trees back as well as the concept of undergrounding power lines and the time and effort involved in creating an underground system. Additionally, he discussed the emergency protocols for shutting down power temporarily in high-risk situations.

Leslie Purcell asked a question regarding cutting back trees 200 feet from active lines. Mr. Stiens stated that is not the standard for SCE. SCE will work with the homeowner regarding any trees and power lines that coexist on the property.

Chair Ramirez requested contact information for Rudy Gonzalez for further questions. Chair Ramirez also noted she attended a presentation by the Local Government Commission in Yosemite, and they discussed the reuse or repurposing of trees that needed to be removed.

Upon motion of Ms. Weir, seconded by Mr. Perez, the Board received and filed the Southern California Edison presentation.

11. 3C-REN Program Update

Alejandra Tellez, VCREA staff, provided a brief overview of the current status of the Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN). Alejandra provided the Board and guests an informational flyer regarding 3C-REN outlining the program offerings. Sue Hughes addressed the Board regarding the hard work that went into receiving approval for the 3C-REN and the County has been awarded \$48 million dollars through 2025.

Upon motion of Mr. Perez, seconded by Ms. Moran, the Board received and filed the 3C-REN program update.

12. Annual Financial Audit FY 17/18

Kelly Cattanach, VCREA staff, noted every year VCREA is required to perform an audit. There were no findings in the FY 17/18 audit.

Upon motion of Ms. Weir, seconded by Mr. Perez, the Board received and filed the annual financial audit for FY 17/18.

13. Local Government Partnership 2019 Contract Amendment

Alejandra Tellez, VCREA staff, discussed the activities performed through the Local Government Partnership and that all effort will be made to meet the requests of our partners.

Upon motion of Ms. Weir, seconded by Mr. Holmgren, the Board approved the Local Government Partnership 2019 Contract Amendment.

14. 2019 General and Administrative Budget

Alejandra Tellez, VCREA staff, briefly discussed the format regarding the 2019 budget and activities.

Upon motion of Mr. Juarez, seconded by Mr. Perez, the Board adopted the 2019 General and Administrative Budget.

15. Javier Saucedo Contract Amendment

Alejandra Tellez, VCREA staff provided an overview of the services provided by Javier and his work with fire recovery efforts. Javier Saucedo provide a more detailed description of all that has been accomplished and expected to be accomplished over the next year. He provides services in both English and Spanish. Chair Ramirez asked Javier to attend an upcoming Oxnard City Council meeting to present information about programs and services as part of public outreach. Ms. Weir made a similar request that Javier attend a Ventura City Council meeting.

Mr. Quady recommended that Javier's work be reported to our funding partners to show regional accomplishments. Ms. Tellez stated that we do report program metric numbers to the funding agencies.

Upon motion of Ms. Weir, seconded by Mr. Holmgren, the Board approved the contract amendment of Javier Saucedo.

16. 2018 Year in Review

Alejandra Tellez, VCREA staff, provided an informational flyer to the board members with the highlights from the previous year.

Upon motion of Mr. Perez, seconded by Ms. Moran, the Board received and filed the 2018 Year in Review.

17. 2019 Board Meeting Dates

Upon motion of Mr. Holmgren, seconded by Mr. Perez, the Board approved the 2019 Board meeting dates.

18. Program Update

Heather Allen and Andrew Wakelee, VCREA staff, presented information regarding the new website www.ElectricDrive805.org.

Upon motion of Mr. Perez, seconded by Ms. Moran, the Board received and filed the Program Update.

19. General Updates and Announcements

None

20. Items for Future Agendas

Mr. Holmgren requested a discussion regarding block chain technology which is a concept of purchasing and selling your own energy more easily, directly, efficiently and cheaply. Mr. Holmgren specifically mentioned Power Legend.

Ms. Moran asked VCREA staff to look into the issue of bird migration with relation to solar panels being installed.

21. Next Meeting – May 16, 2019

22. Adjournment

Vice Chair Ramirez adjourned meeting at 11:51 a.m.