



## Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

### Action Minutes Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance Board Meeting August 13, 2015 10:15 a.m.

Ventura Regional Sanitation District  
Board Meeting Room  
1001 Partridge Drive, Suite 150  
Ventura, California 93003

#### 1. Welcome/ Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Long at 10.17am.

#### 2. Roll Call

Members present:

Kathy Long, Chair	County of Ventura
Jon Sharkey	Ventura Regional Sanitation District
Joel Price	City of Thousand Oaks
Mary Haffner	Ventura Unified School District
John Procter	City of Santa Paula

Members not present:

Bert Perello	City of Oxnard
Cheryl Heitmann, Vice Chair	City of Ventura
Larry Kennedy	Ventura County Community College District
Douglas Tucker	City of Fillmore

#### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Long led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 4. Approve Minutes of July 16, 2015 Meeting

Upon motion of Mr. Sharkey, seconded by Mr. Price, the Board approved Minutes of the July 16, 2014 meeting.

#### 5. Agenda Review

The agenda was approved as presented by consensus.

#### 6. Public Comments

Crystal Crawford, Regional Director of Ygrene Energy Fund, commented on Ygrene Works PACE program which is available to every city and county in California. Commented on program



Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance  
Action Minutes August 13, 2015

availability and structure: commented on JPA model; commented on program advantages; commented on application acceptance statewide starting August 21, 2015.

Chair Long asked staff to update the Board on current PACE programs in the area. Ms. Hughes stated that all 10 cities as well as the County participate in CaliforniaFirst and have since 2010. Ms. Hughes states that most cities, she believes, have signed on with the HERO program, however the County has not.

Additional Public Comments noted under Item #10 Community Choice Energy

## **7. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Procter of Santa Paula commented on the City's decision to opt in to the SCE LS1 Street Light Buyout Program.

Ms. Haffner of VUSD commented on the District's recent energy efficiency project approval with Sylvania to include lighting retrofits at nine school sites; commented on the District's consideration of solar projects.

Chair Long of County of Ventura, commented on the upcoming event, The Future of Energy, hosted by the Chambers of Commerce Alliance, taking place on October 14, 2015.

## **8. General and Administrative Budget**

Ms. Cattnach presented the FY 15/16 Staff Administrative Rates and the CY 2015 General and Administrative Budget as presented in the Board Packet.

Upon motion of Mr. Sharkey, seconded by Mr. Price, and duly carried, the Board adopted both the Staff Administrative Rates and the General and Administrative Budget.

## **9. Solar Options Best Practices**

At the previous Board meeting there was interest shown in solar projects. Included in the Board packet was a Best Practice Report showcasing the County of Ventura's General Service Agencies' most recent solar project at Todd Road Jail. Staff thought the report would be a great resource to all our partners. County staff is available for additional questions about the project including financing options considered for this project.

Ms. Haffner asked if there were any active solar projects in the County. Staff was not aware of any solar projects planned for any of the cities, however the County will begin its next project at the Government Center. Ms. Haffner asked about school districts' solar projects, and Oxnard School District was mentioned as one that has done solar projects previously.

Chair Long referenced page 5 of the report, Lessons Learned, as one to take a look at.

Board members showed interest in further information being presented at the next meeting by GSA staff pertaining to the financial aspects of solar.

Comments were made in reference to vandalism at solar sights.

## 10. Community Choice Energy

Ms. Hughes updated the Board on recent developments between the County of Santa Barbara and County of Ventura. County of Santa Barbara invited the County of Ventura to participate in a Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study would look at both counties as a region to see if a CCE would be feasible. The County of Ventura's Board of Supervisors voted to contribute \$50,000 to the study. The County of Santa Barbara has committed \$225,000, the City of Santa Barbara has committed to \$50,000 and the CEC in Santa Barbara is putting in \$50,000. Cities in Ventura may be asked to contribute as well, Oxnard is interested. Contributing funding gives you a seat on the Advisory Committee. Meetings to start in October. Feasibility Study is estimated to take about 12-18 months.

Ms. Hughes made comments as to how CCEs were established and operate in Marin and Sonoma counties.

Mr. Sharkey made comments regarding the previous move toward CCA years ago and as well as "wheeling" and how receptive is Edison to the maintenance of the infrastructure, rebuilding and repairing the lines.

Chair Long reminded the Board that this is just to keep the Board updated on the subject and that the role of VCREA is limited in that we are strictly focused and funded to do conservation measures and energy management for municipalities in our respected jurisdictions. However, it is something that we should be aware and informed about so that we may take it back to our jurisdictions.

Outreach and communication to the cities was discussed. Staff will check with Ventura County CEO to determine how the outreach will be conducted.

Public Comments in regard to Item#10.

Kitty Merrill, resident of Oxnard, commented on recent NRG issues and is excited about the feasibility study and possibility about energy choice becoming an option.

Linda Hillman, resident of Camarillo, commented on her excitement regarding the collaboration between the counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura. She also commented on the importance of the cities' early engagement in this process as opposed to later, as well as the benefits for them in doing so. She made additional comments on coordination with the utilities; comments made regarding resources available to CCA like Local Energy Aggregation Network (LEAN) and Friends of Channel Islands Energy Choice.

Angus Simmons commented regarding regional variation with AB117 and SB 790 template; commented on the structural, geographical, and constituent variations of the existing CCAs.

Wayne Pendrey from Direct Energy commented on Direct Energy and their participation in the Lancaster CCA; commented on City of Malibu's interest in a CCA.

Crystal Crawford from Ygrene Energy Fund commented on the synergy between PACE programs and CCAs.

Jan Dietrick commented on the urgency of the cities to participate in the CCA.



### **11. Climate On The Move Workshop**

Staff commented on the upcoming workshop on September 2, 2015 to address the countywide inventory results and to discuss steps moving forward.

### **12. Partnership Program Update**

Staff highlighted outreach and project developments for the quarter. The Cool Planet program was discussed as a resource to the cities and partners.

Upon motion of Ms. Haffner, seconded by Mr. Procter, and duly carried, the Board received and filed the Partnership Program Update Report.

### **13. General Updates and Announcements**

New staff member Leigh Lain Walker was introduced.

The new VCREA logo was presented.

Staff read an NRG update provided by Chris Williamson of Oxnard.

Upcoming events and trainings were highlighted.

### **14. Items for Future Agendas**

Report back from County GSA regarding the financing aspects of solar projects.

CCA update.

### **15. Next Meeting- October 15, 2015**

### **16. Adjournment**

Chair Long adjourned the meeting at 11.26 a.m.