



Community Advisory Committee

Thursday, July 11, 2019
Meeting Notes

Members Present: – Daniel Paris, Lani Miller, Kim Floyd, David Freedman, Berlinda Blackburn, Jeremy Roos, Bruce Hatrak, Terry Applegate, Carl Baker

On the phone: Noel Loughrin, Paul Murphy,

Members Absent: Kathleen DeRosa, Patric Dixon

I. Introduction

This is the first meeting of the Desert Community Energy Community Advisory Committee

II. Overview of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) and Desert Community Energy (DCE)

Benjamin Druyon provided a powerpoint overview of DCE. Following the presentation, the members asked questions and a lively discussion ensued.

Some of the questions included:

1. Why only 3 cities? – Other cities in Southern California Edison territory were offered the opportunity to join DCE. They took a wait and see approach.
2. Why a Joint Powers Agency?
 - A Joint Powers Agency is a typical mechanism used by CCAs across the state
 - A separate JPA offers legal and financial benefits to individual agencies
3. Kim Floyd made the point about rate savings and how the potential for rate savings has decreased since DCE's initial launch effort in 2018.
 - The committee discussed ways to present information about lower rates, ways customers can opt up or down, or opt out and stay with Southern California Edison.
 - An explanation of the "exit fee" which is charged to CCA customers was provided by staff.
4. Where does hydropower used for electricity come from?
 - Mostly Washington state.
 - The committee discussed the difference between renewable energy and carbon free energy. It is based on a state of California definition. Hydropower is considered carbon free but does not count toward renewable energy requirements.

III. CARE/FERA

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Summary

Benjamin described some of his research into the CARE/FERA program including the discovery of lower participation rates for low income customers in the Coachella Valley and that there are only two capitation contractors that service our valley.

- Staff contacted several capitation contractors in SCE territory to inquire about time spent filling out applications, costs, and level of understanding about the program
- Estimates of CARE/FERA enrollment suggests 6,000 people are not enrolled DCE wants to help low income customers in our communities
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be circulated for a consultant to assist with outreach and implementation of this program. Daniel, Kim, and Lani volunteered to review the RFP.

Questions/Comments from Committee:

- Suggestion to include information about weatherization, energy efficiency
- Berlinda mentioned water agency focus on disadvantaged communities
- Kim Floyd made the point that this is not a small contract and it would be important to get input from committee on the program
- The committee members encouraged outreach to English as a second language communities, asking to make sure potential participation isn't limited by language issues

IV. Discussion of regular meeting date

- The Committee discussed options for a regular meeting date. It was agreed that Benjamin would circulate a poll for best date/time.
- For now, the Committee will meet monthly, except during summer months

V. Other topics

- Benjamin identified the need to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. This will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

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