

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF ALAMEDA PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD MEETING

October 16, 2017

1. ROLL CALL

President McCormick called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. On roll call, the following commissioners were present: President McCormick, Commissioner Serventi, Commissioner Deaton, Commissioner Giuntini and City Manager Keimach.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – NON AGENDA (Public Comment)

Several speakers addressed the Public Utilities Board (Board). Alameda resident Shelby Sheehan expressed concerns about the safety of Alameda Municipal Power's (AMP) smart meters, and asked the Board to revoke the sunset section of the smart meter opt-out program.

Alan Teague of Alameda, who participates in AMP's net energy metering (NEM) plan, told the Board that AMP is sending him inaccurate bills. He said that AMP has not accurately integrated smart meters with its NEM program.

Alameda resident Chris Rabe said his family would experience negative health impacts resulting from the installation of smart meters at his home. He called for AMP to stop installing smart meters.

Alameda resident Nick deVries said that local generation is useful in the case of a natural disaster.

Ruth Abbe, a representative of Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA), asked the Board to attend CASA's forum on sea level rise on Oct. 18. Noting that AMP will be carbon-free in 2020, Abbe said that CASA will urge AMP to maintain its commitment to clean energy.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A1. Draft Minutes – Special Meeting – September 18, 2017

A2. Draft Minutes – Regular Meeting – September 18, 2017

B. Listing of Bills Paid – September 2017

C. Financial Report – June 2017

D. Treasurer’s Report for the month ending September 30, 2017

Commissioner Giuntini abstained from voting on item 4D. With a motion from Commissioner Serventi and second from Commissioner Deaton, the Board approved the consent calendar.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

A. By Motion, Approve an Electric Vehicle Charger Rebate Program for Home and Workplace Charging Funded by Low Carbon Fuel Standard Credit Proceeds and Approve the Establishment of a Low Carbon Fuel Standard Reserve Account

Two Alameda residents addressed the Board regarding item 5A. Alameda resident and CASA member Jeff Gould said he applauded the proposed electric vehicle (EV) charger rebate program, but noted that the Board could take other actions, such as offering rebates for the purchase of EVs and ensuring that AMP provides clean power.

Alameda resident William Morrison said the Board should emphasize Level 2 workplace charging in its EV charger rebate program. He also said that AMP should consider installing Level 3 chargers at other municipal facilities.

Commissioner Jerry Serventi asked if there was a way for AMP to partner with the City of Alameda (City) to increase the number of charging stations in the city. City Manager Keimach responded that the City could require EV charging stations at new developments.

Commissioner Deaton asked how residents of multi-family complexes would participate in the program. Staff responded that details regarding multi-unit complexes would depend on the final structure of the program.

Addressing City Manager Keimach’s previous comments, Board President Ann McCormick said the Board has no role in building or planning codes. However, the Board would appreciate the opportunity to formally endorse a move to prep construction for EV charging, President McCormick said.

President McCormick said that she looks forward to 2020, when AMP's energy resources portfolio will be carbon-free and customers will be able to plug their EVs into 100 percent clean power.

The Board needs to be cognizant of equity issues, President McCormick said, adding that not all of AMP’s customers will be able to afford electric cars.

With a motion from City Manager Keimach and a second from Commissioner Giuntini, the Board unanimously approved the program.

B. Options for Local Generation – For Discussion Only

City Manager Keimach asked staff to compare participants' costs in the proposed community solar program to the costs paid by participants in Alameda Green, AMP's voluntary renewable energy program.

Staff responded that participating in the community solar program may be a little more expensive for customers than joining the Alameda Green program. However, staff will need to assess the full financial details in order to provide a definitive answer, staff said.

President McCormick asked whether the community solar program would be based on a model that AMP could scale if there was demand. Staff confirmed.

Commissioner Serventi asked whether customers would see a financial benefit from participating in the community solar program. Staff responded that other utilities have reported that some of their customers viewed their participation in community solar as a financial benefit in the long term.

Commissioner Deaton pointed out that customers have told AMP, via a survey, that they are interested in community solar because they think it will result in cost savings. AMP may need to communicate the program may not result in savings for customers, she said.

Alameda resident Richard Bangert told the Board that he supported the development of a solar farm at Mt. Trashmore with a storage system. The solar project and storage system would provide emergency preparedness benefits, he said.

Alameda resident Irene Dieter said the Board was moving in the right direction by looking into options such as local generation with storage.

Marvin Hamon, an Alameda solar resident who works in the solar energy industry, said the Board should issue a bid for design work for the community solar program.

William Morrison of Alameda suggested the Alameda Naval Air Station as a possible location for a solar plant. He added that he does not want AMP to be carbon neutral if it means that he would have to pay a lot for the electricity.

President McCormick responded that AMP keeps its rates low to ensure social equity.

Commissioner Deaton said she was interested in the proposed Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) solar project with battery storage. She asked whether the proposed solar projects would affect AMP's regulatory costs.

Commissioner Giuntini said that she would like AMP to have access to storage locally.

President McCormick said that AMP would gain from NCPA's expertise and contracting abilities if it worked with NCPA on a solar project. However, AMP wouldn't want to give up its local control and flexibility, she said.

Commissioner Deaton said that AMP has historically partnered with other publicly owned utilities on generation projects. But this is the first time the agencies are looking at housing generation within each of the agencies' areas, she said.

Alameda has done well by not being an early adopter, President McCormick said. One way for storage to pencil out is to wait a few months, she said.

President McCormick said there are structural and environmental considerations with an active landfill, she said.

AMP will want off-ramps if costs get out of hand, President McCormick said. In addition, a solar panel trade war may arise. Still, she said, the proposed generation projects are exciting. Avoiding transmission charges would be a plus.

City Manager Keimach noted that she would like AMP staff to consider Mt. Trashmore and additional sites, such as Alameda Point locations, to ensure the best location for solar would be selected.

She said she views NCPA as a funding partner for the solar project proposal. She noted that AMP will need to look at capital costs, end costs for each user, and costs related to transmission, engineering and environmental work.

Commissioner Serventi asked whether AMP could move forward with discussions on the Mt. Trashmore site, while also looking at potential sites at Alameda Point.

General Manager Procos confirmed that AMP can pursue both of those discussions.

C. By Resolution, Approve Revisions to the Rider Net Energy Metering (NEM) Electric Rate Schedule

Alameda resident William Morrison said that NEM is a gift to a privileged few, and a burden carried by the whole community. He urged the Board to oppose the proposed revisions to the NEM rate schedule.

President McCormick said she did not want to prevent people from investing in and expanding their solar systems.

Commissioner Deaton asked clarifying questions about the NEM plan's requirements related to customer load.

Alan Cohen, staff attorney for the City, said the rider's reference to the word "existing" in the first paragraph of page 2 should be changed to "expanded."

Commissioner Serventi made a motion to adopt the item with the amendment from Mr. Cohen. Commissioner Deaton seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved the item.

6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

A. General Manager's Report - September 2017

General Manager Procos updated the Board on AMP's strategic planning process and proposed state legislation related to the energy industry. He then asked an AMP staffer to share highlights from Public Power Week.

7. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Keimach reported Governor Jerry Brown vetoed SB 649, which the City had opposed. She also told the Board about the City's response to the North Bay fires.

8. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Deaton provided an update regarding NCPA's recent annual meeting.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Alameda resident William Morrison, addressing the General Manager's Report, asked why electrical income was higher than expected. In response, General Manager Procos said income was positive for reasons such as a lower-than-expected bill from NCPA.

Mr. Morrison also addressed the following topics: 1) his positive experience with AMP's customer tour to the Collierville hydropower plant and 2) his neighbor's negative customer service experience when a tree fell on a service line.

Alameda resident Richard Bangert provided input to the Board on potential solar generation sites at Alameda Point.

10. ADJOURNMENT

President McCormick adjourned the meeting at 9:36 p.m.