

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee was called to order at 1:18 p.m. by Chairman Ben Benoit on the Zoom virtual platform.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Board of Directors present:**

Todd Rigby, City of Eastvale  
Russ Brown, City of Hemet  
Chris Barajas, City of Jurupa Valley  
Ted Hoffman, City of Norco  
Rita Rogers, City of Perris  
Ben Benoit, City of Wildomar (Chair)

**Technical Advisory Committee Members present:**

Bryan Jones, City of Eastvale  
Andy Okoro, City of Norco  
Clara Miramontes, City of Perris

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR** – *(Jurupa Valley / Perris) 6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Items 4.A through 4.G were approved. A representative from the City of Canyon Lake was not present.*

**A. Summary Minutes from the September 9, 2020, Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee are Available for Consideration.**

**Action:**            *I.        Approved the Summary Minutes from the September 9, 2020, Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee.*

**B. Financial Report Summary Update**

**Action:**            *I.        Received and filed.*

**C. Program Schedule Update**

**Action:**            *I.        Received and filed.*

**D. Regulatory and Legislative Activities Update**

**Action:**            *I.        Received and filed.*

**E. Marketing and Outreach Activities Update**

**Action:**            *I.        Received and filed.*

## F. Single Signature Authority Report

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

## G. WCE Enabling Agreement to add Additional Energy Provider

**Actions:**

1. *Adopted Resolution No. 2020-18; A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Western Community Energy approving a Master Purchase and Sale Agreement.*
2. *Approved the Edison Electric Institute Master Purchase and Sale Agreement (“Master Agreement”) between Western Community Energy and Southern California Edison (“SCE”) and authorize the Executive Director, or designee, to execute the Master Agreement, in substantially similar form as approved by Legal Counsel.*
3. *Approved Master Agreement Confirmation Letter (“Confirmation Letter”) between Western Community Energy and SCE and authorize Executive Director, or designee, to execute the Confirmation Letter in substantially similar form as approved by Legal Counsel.*

## 5. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

### A. Program Launch Update

Tyler Masters, Director of WCE, reported that for the month of September there was an increase in opt-out percentage near 1%. As a reminder, WCE is in the middle of the last phase of Net Energy Metering (NEM) customer enrollment. Staff has created a news webpage on the WCE website; content will include flex alerts, answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ), etc. Staff have also implemented a Frequently Asked Fridays news feed that provides portions of the FAQ and answers; this information will be shared throughout WCE’s social media platforms.

The regional residential opt-out rate remains at just over 6% and commercial opt-out is just over 3%, which is well under previous estimations. The general opt-out rates are what was predicted in the financial proformas. Three to five customers opt-up each month. There are 52 customers who have opted-up to WCE’s 100% green Choice Plus Plan.

WCE is in the middle of its October enrollment for the remaining 8,000 NEM customers. At the end of October, every Southern California Edison (SCE) customer will have had the opportunity to become a WCE customer.

October energy usage has changed drastically from this time last year, largely due to most people working and students learning from home, due to COVID-19. Additionally, the transition from summer to winter rates will occur and delivery charges will decrease by a couple of cents per kilo watt hour. SCE has had a number of rate changes this year, and there will be an additional rate change in October. SCE will have a couple more rate changes next year as well. These rate changes will not affect WCE’s generation rates.

WCE is working with SCE on a Joint Rate Comparison given that there are a portion of SCE’s rates that are changing. SCE’s delivery charges will increase between 5% and 10%, dependent upon the customer classification. Time-of-Use residential customers will see minor increases and decreases for SCE generation on-, mid-, and off-peak times. The total results are revenue neutral, and as such staff does not recommend a WCE Generation rate change at this time.

At November’s meeting, the Board of Directors will be presented with a bill comparison tool that will be housed on WCE’s website, and WRCOG staff will be presenting information on its Energy Resiliency Plan. Staff will be cancelling the December meeting if no pressing matters arise.

Director Todd Rigby indicated that once a customer opts-out of WCE, SCE is placing that customer into a higher rate, and asked staff if they are aware of that.

Mr. Masters responded that outside of the initial six-month period, a customer can either stay with WCE for the next six months, after which time they would transition back to SCE, or they could opt-out right then and

there and be placed in SCE's Transitional Bundled Service Rate, which could be higher or lower rates. Call Center staff has been explaining this to customers.

Director Rigby asked why solar customers are being billed month-to-month given that SCE does an annual true up.

Paul Soco of Calpine responded that there are several different options, and this is the option staff chose.

Mr. Masters added that if a solar customer were on an annual cycle, there could potentially be a huge sticker shock when they receive their bill at the end of their annual true-up.

Director Ted Hoffman indicated that some customers have indicated that they are getting double-billed.

Mr. Masters responded that staff have confirmed that there have not been any cases of customers receiving two bills. The difference in the bills now show two different sets of information – one of SCE delivery charges, and the other of WCE generation charges; but the customers are not being double-billed.

**Action:**            *1.        Received and filed.*

## **B.    Non-Residential Client Engagement and Outreach Update**

Don Ries, WRCOG Program Manager, reported that for the month of September only 10 commercial clients opted out of WCE; none of these customers were within the top 50 group. Staff are responding to savings and potential calculations requests not only from customers but from member jurisdictions as well. Commercial accounts will not be included in the rate savings calculator on WCE's website given the complexity of those accounts.

Staff continue updating and utilizing templates which project cost savings, provide custom usage reviews, and assist to determine applicable tariffs for commercial clients. One revision to the template being made includes SCE charges versus just generation charges. Staff are implementing a TBS rate comparison tool which will allow staff to complete bill analyses.

Director Todd Rigby asked if residential or commercial opt-outs should be a concern.

Mr. Ries responded that approximately 80% of WCE's customers are residential and 20% are commercial; however, while 20% of the total customers are commercial customers due to their large usage they account for approximately 50% of WCE's electrical usage and revenues. Staff keep a close eye on the numbers and there are no current concerns. Numbers should begin to stabilize, if not reverse.

Director Rigby suggested looking at ways to market to those who have opted out to try and bring them back.

Mr. Ries responded that staff are looking into this.

Director Chris Barajas indicated that the City of Jurupa Valley has had a huge commercial customer opt-out due to reporting issues and it would be good to get them back.

Mr. Ries responded that he has been in touch with that customer. Unfortunately, there is a 12-month waiting period for a customer who opts out of WCE to come back.

Director Ted Hoffman asked if reasons why were given when a commercial customer opted out.

Mr. Ries responded that sometimes it is just a corporate decision, but reasons vary.

**Action:**            *1.        Received and filed.*

### C. Residential Time-of-Use Transition Update

Tyler Masters, Director of WCE, reported that Southern California Edison (SCE) will soon begin transition its non-CCA bundled customers from tiered rate structures to Time-of-Use rates. After that, SCE will begin transitioning CCA customers. WCE is slated for 4th Quarter of 2021. Residential Medical Baseline customers will not automatically be rolled over.

Staff will prepare marketing and rate design notices for distribution to WCE's customers. This will not be an easy transition because this changes how a bill is calculated. Utilities will be providing a 12-month bill protection. SCE will be providing this protection for delivery charges only. The protection allows a one-time bill credit for any increased difference a customer experiences in the transition. There will also be monthly bill tracking so a customer can compare on a monthly basis any cost difference, which will provide the customer an opportunity to make any behavior changes regarding use of electricity.

Staff would like to work with Pilot Power to produce a financial model to the tune of approximately \$273,000.

**Action:**           *i.       Adopted Resolution No. 2020-17; A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Western Community Energy adopting a 12-month bill protection to residential customers at Time of Automatic Transition to Time-of-Use Rates.*

*(Jurupa Valley/ Perris) 6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Item 5.C was approved. A representative from the City of Canyon Lake was not present.*

### D. Arrearage Management Plan Update

Ani Dhruva, WRCOG Fellow, reported that Southern California Edison (SCE) will run and administer the Arrearage Management Plan (AMP) for four years. The AMP will protect eligible customers by collecting delivery and generation-related outstanding balances and reimburse SCE or the applicable CCA and will provide a form of debt forgiveness to eligible customers as long as they stay current on their bill for up to 12-months. For WCE, this will apply to only the generation portion of a customer's bill.

Funds will be collected through an allocated portion of the Public Purpose Program Charge (PPPC), which is a portion of the customers' electricity bill. SCE had indicated that CCAs will be made whole within seven days of a customer paying their bill on time. WCE will be made whole on a monthly basis.

On September 17, 2020, the California Public Utilities Commission made an announcement that it is determining what reimbursement details should look like; that determination has not yet been released.

Both SCE and WCE customers can participate in the AMP. Eligibility for participation in the AMP include an existing enrollment in either the CARE or FERA Program for at least the past six months or have made one on-time payment, and must have an outstanding arrearage of at least \$500 for a minimum of 90 days. Participation in the AMP runs for 12 months and the customer must make 12 monthly, on-time payments. Each payment forgives 1/12 of the total debt for a maximum of \$8,000. Customers may participate multiple times in the AMP; however, there is a 12-month waiting period between each enrollment.

Approximately 36% of WCE's customers are enrolled in either the CARE or FERA Program. Over 700 WCE customers are eligible for the AMP.

According to SCE, once its customer billing system goes online and becomes automated, the transfer of payments will occur yearly. SCE will share data with CCAs on a monthly basis; however, once the AMP goes live SCE may change the frequency of data sharing. SCE would like CCAs notification of intent to participate in the AMP by October 24, 2020. If a CCA notifies SCE after this date, the CCA may not be able to participate in the AMP until 2021.

If WCE participates in the AMP, there are no up-front costs. If WCE decides not to participate, SCE will reach out to eligible WCE customers in order to recover the delivery portion of their bills.

Lucas Utouh of Calpine indicated that he has been participating in the various stakeholder meetings regarding the AMP. CCAs in general are receptive to the AMP largely due to the current pandemic. Having said that, the CCAs are waiting for additional clarity from SCE with regards to how the AMP mechanics will be tracked and how communication with the CCAs will occur.

**Action:**        1.        *Directed the Executive Director to notify Southern California Edison by October 23, 2020, of WCE's intent to participate in SCE's Arrearage Management Plan.*

*(Hemet/ Perris) 6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Item 5.D was approved. A representative from the City of Canyon Lake was not present.*

## **6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Rick Bishop had no update.

## **7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Chairman Ben Benoit would like the Pledge of Allegiance added back into the agendas.

## **8. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Director Todd Rigby thanked staff for their quick responses in showing customers savings on their bills.

**9. NEXT MEETING:**        **The Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee scheduled for Wednesday, November 11, 2020, is adjourned to Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 1:00 p.m., on the Zoom platform.**

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**       **The Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee adjourned at 2:38 p.m.**