

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

January 24, 2022

1. ROLL CALL

President Serventi called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. On roll call, the following commissioners were present: President Serventi, Commissioner Giuntini, Commissioner Gould, Commissioner McKenna, City Manager Levitt.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)

None.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of the December 13, 2021 Regular Meeting of the City of Alameda Public Utilities Board

B. Listing of Bills Paid – December 2021

C. Financial Report – November 2021

D. Treasurer’s Report for the Month Ending November 30, 2021

E. By Motion, Authorize the General Manager to Enter into Professional Services Agreement PS 09-21-01 with SynchroGrid, LLC, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$97,210 Including Contingencies for Engineering Services of the 12 Kilovolt and 115 Kilovolt Bus and Transformer Differential Relay Replacement Project at Jenney Substation

With a motion from Commissioner Giuntini and a second from Commissioner McKenna, the Board unanimously approved the consent calendar.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

A. For Information and Feedback Only, Climate Action and Resiliency Plan Update

Following a presentation from the City of Alameda’s Sustainability Manager Danielle Mieler and an AMP staff presentation, resident Ruth Abbe from Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA) made a public comment. Ms. Abbe said she appreciated AMP’s leadership in clean energy, adding that the City is counting on AMP to continue

in its efforts to decarbonize electric resources in order to meet local sustainable goals. Ms. Abbe noted that her family had just retrofitted their 1905 home to be all-electric. She participated in the Switched On ambassador program to help promote the transition to all electric buildings in Alameda and acknowledged there is a lot of work to be done to inform and educate residents, building owners, tenants, realtors, and electrical and plumbing contractors of the benefits and need for building decarbonization. CASA appreciates the collaboration with AMP staff on outreach and education and they hope to continue to partner with AMP as a key contributor toward Alameda's sustainability goals.

Commissioner Gould thought that AMP and the City did a good job of outlining the problems the island is facing, like sea level rise and emissions, but added that there is some room for improvement with regard to the CT1 gas turbines located near Coast Guard housing. On EV adoption, Commissioner Gould would like to see this transition happen a lot faster and he thinks one issue is the chargers at the AMP service center receiving a low rating on PlugShare and being frequently unavailable. He also felt that not having goals for rooftop solar in the CARP is a missed opportunity. He sees rooftop solar as essential to the electrification effort as a way to encourage diversification in the energy supply.

Commissioner Giuntini thanked Ms. Mieler and AMP staff for the reports. In her time serving on the Board, Commissioner Giuntini has seen a substantial increase in the partnerships between AMP and CASA and the City and those partnerships have made forward progress possible, even during difficult times.

City Manager Levitt thanked staff for their efforts on the presentations. He suggested Ms. Mieler and AMP staff work on incorporating elements from AMP's supplemental presentation in the CARP before the report goes before the City Council. President Serventi agreed.

Commissioner McKenna said that as a newer commissioner, she really appreciated hearing how well AMP is meshing with other City departments. She admitted communication and education for ratepayers on how to make the transition to electrification would be challenging, but key. Commissioner McKenna raised the issue of efforts a few years ago to promote new, natural gas-powered water heaters, saying that she sees it as critical to bridge the gap with customers who already made a significant investment at that time in natural gas water heaters. She hoped that once staff is able to have more contact with ratepayers post-pandemic, additional options for in person education and communication will help to move this effort forward.

President Serventi thanked Ms. Mieler for her presentation. In reading through the report, one of the items he identified is the amount of emissions coming out of the transportation sector. He was happy to see the City has been making strides in electric vehicle adoption. As AMP's representative to Northern California Power Agency (NCPA), President Serventi has heard from other NCPA members, like Healdsburg, Palo Alto, and Fresno, that their cities have converted their local garbage collections to electric trucks. He asked that the City of Alameda look at the possibility of electrifying its waste management

collection. He also proposed the City look at changing paratransit buses to electric and seeking grants to that end, because, as Commissioner Gould said, converting to electric vehicles is really the needed push.

City Manager Levitt responded to President Serventi's comments. His understanding from the Assistant City Manager is that the City has in its agreement with Alameda County Industries (ACI) that it will shift to EVs for live duty trucks and that ACI is moving toward electrification. President Serventi recommended that Ms. Mieler include this information in the CARP to make the general public aware.

The item was for information-only, so the Board did not take a vote.

B. By Motion, Approve a Confirmation and Task Order Under the Northern California Power Agency Support Services Program Agreement for Commercial Food Service Audits and Electrification/Clean Transportation Workshop Services Provided by Frontier Energy Inc. Through March 7, 2024, for a Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$198,025

Following a staff presentation, Commissioner Giuntini asked about the amount in the budget for the agreement. Ms. Heinbaugh responded that the agreement is for three years, so the \$198,025 will be the total over three years, and only the first year amount will show in the current budget.

Commissioner McKenna thanked Ms. Heinbaugh for the report. She asked how the success of the audits is measured beyond the fact that Frontier is going to generate an audit report to the end-use customer for AMP. Ms. Heinbaugh said that, at the moment, it's a two-pronged approach. Since AMP has just launched these rebate programs and hasn't yet had the desired participation levels, the first indicator of success is the participation in the audits. The secondary level is the conversion rate, or how many customers implement the strategies recommended to them.

Commissioner McKenna wanted to know if Frontier has experience in fuel switching because the sample audit in the presentation was focused on more efficient natural gas, which is what food service has been using for years. Ms. Heinbaugh said that yes, Frontier does have the staff and expertise to help AMP and the City meet the CARP's goals on fuel switching. Commissioner McKenna asked if the residential and commercial workshops will be recorded or livestreamed so that customers who can't be present at the time can still benefit. Ms. Heinbaugh said that she would make that request, barring any proprietary issues with the information in Frontier's workshops, and agreed that this would be a good thing to offer.

President Serventi wondered how many commercial customers AMP has that might be eligible for this, and that, if there was more demand, more audits could be done. Ms. Heinbaugh couldn't say how many eligible commercial customers would want the audits, but that Frontier does have the capacity to be able to do more based on demand. The number of 12 audits per year was decided from interactions with commercial and food service industry customers and the level of demand that existing rebates programs have

created. President Serventi asked if a church with its own kitchen would be eligible. Ms. Heinbaugh explained that any customer on a commercial rate with food service would be eligible, including churches, schools, and non-profits. When asked how soon after approval the program could launch, Ms. Heinbaugh said that Frontier is ready and the program could begin immediately.

With a motion from Commissioner Gould and a second from Commissioner McKenna, the Board unanimously approved the item.

**B. By Motion, Accept Alameda Municipal Power's Load Forecast for Fiscal Year 2023**

Following a staff presentation, President Serventi remarked that it's unfortunate the City lost MARAD and that it had a big impact our load. He was hopeful the City will be able to find additional businesses to start filling in for that lost load at the Point, to help keep rates down next year.

City Manager Levitt added that MARAD has been indicating for some time that it was going to be leaving, but that no formal notice has been given, and that MARAD does still have a presence in Alameda. Therefore, he thought the forecast was conservative and that MARAD would still be using power for the next year. While MARAD has reduced the number of boats in Alameda, they did bring a new one in at the start of this year.

With a motion from Commissioner Gould and a second from Commissioner Giuntini, the Board unanimously accepted the load forecast.

**6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

**A. General Manager's Report–December 2021**

General Manager Procos announced that, like many agencies, AMP has had multiple staff members with positive Covid exposure since the start of the year. AMP has doubled down on its safety measures and has maintained strict safety measures since the beginning of the pandemic. AMP returned to a 50-50 schedule on January 10 for those employees who are able to work from home. General Manager Procos expressed hope that things would soon return to normal in the very new future, but said that for the time being AMP took the needed precautionary measures to ensure as much distancing as possible while still maintaining high levels of customer service.

Customer past due accounts had stabilized between September and November, but starting in late November, they have gone up and AMP hit a new high last week, which is 30 percent higher than the September to early November time period. General Manager Procos noted that AMP has now rolled out the \$650,000 in California Arrearage Payment Plan bill credits and applied the funds to the eligible customer accounts. Payment plans are being offered to address those customers who unfortunately continue falling behind in payments. AMP will resume shut offs in the near future.

This past weekend 30,000 PG&E customers experienced outages and many of them were out of power for more than a day. By contrast, on Saturday in Alameda a branch from a private tree fell on a 12kV wire and caused an outage to several thousand of AMP's customers. Crews were immediately dispatched and the last customer was placed back online 3 hours after the outage began. Any outage has a negative impact for customers, but General Manager Procos noted that compared to what some PG&E customers have been experiencing, 3 hours is relatively short. He acknowledged the efforts of the AMP field crews for taking care of the outage very quickly.

General Manager Procos recognized AMP staff's efforts throughout the pandemic and especially through the latest surge. While many were impacted directly or had family members impacted directly, AMP staff has continued to step up on behalf of the community and perform their necessary functions.

President Serventi also thanked staff for getting the power line back up and operational after the outage and minimizing the amount of delay to customers.

#### 7. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Levitt let the Board know that City Council will be discussing whether to move forward with the implementation of license plate readers at its next meeting.

#### 8. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

None.

#### 9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – NON-AGENDA (PUBLIC COMMENT)

None.

#### 10. ADJOURNMENT

President Serventi adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.