

**California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 10:00 AM**

Attendees:

Committee Members

- Bixia Ye, Cal Advocates Office (Chair) (Attended remotely)
- Eric Votaw, Small LEC Representative (Vice Chair) (Attended remotely)
- Stephen Kalish, Community Based Organization (Attended remotely)
- Chrystian Villareal, Cal Advocates Office (Alternate) (Attended remotely)

CPUC Staff

- Hannah Steiner, Communications Division
- Sandy Lam, Communications Division
- Saraf Tarannum, Communications Division
- Faith de Leon, Communications Division
- Sindy Yun, Legal Division
- Lalaine Semana, Fiscal Office

Public:

- QC VU – BRB Law LLP

Agenda:

Meeting called to order at 10:01 AM.

1. Introduction

2. Announcements

None.

3. Public Comments

Stephen Kalish made a public comment that the meeting minutes after 2022 were not on the CHCF-A Administrative Committee website and would like to see an update. CD informed them the website will be updated by the next AC meeting and would inform the committee about the update.

4. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

a. December 16, 2025

Eric Votaw moved to adopt the December 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Stephen Kalish seconded. The committee voted unanimously to approve the December 16, 2025 minutes. The minutes will be posted on the CHCF-A AC webpage.

5. Governor's Proposed FY 2026-2027 Budget – Hannah Steiner

Hannah Steiner presented the Governor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and explained the appropriation is the maximum amount that the program is authorized to spend. The CHCF-A expenditures will be determined by GRCs and annual resolution. The committee's budget recommendation is advisory, not binding on the Commission. Budget change proposals are only made public when approved.

6. Liaison Staff Reports:

a. Fiscal Report – Lalaine Semana

Lalaine Semana presented the Fiscal Report for the CHCF-A Fund as of January 31, 2026.

b. Communications Division – Sandy Lam

Sandy Lam reported that the CHCF-A Annual Resolution (T-17897), which adopts \$28 million in CHCF-A Support for the Small LECs for Calendar Year 2026, was passed on January 15, 2026. Additionally, Ducor's Application for Rehearing of their GRC decision was denied in D.26-02-028. Lastly, CD reported that a joint application for transfer of control was filed by Sierra Telephone Company and V Squared Holdings, Inc. (parent company of Ducor) – A.26-02-008. The joint Application is to transfer control of Sierra Telephone Company to Varcomm-Sierratel Inc., parent company will be Varcomm Holdings Inc.

Stephen Kalish asked if there would be an impact of COLR proceeding on the small LECs. Hannah Steiner explained there will be no impact on CHCF-A funds for COLR proceeding since the Small LECs' COLR obligation is established by statute.

7. Update from Small LECS

Bixia Ye asked if the small LECs are going to participate in the Lifeline Broadband Pilot Program. Eric Votaw confirmed Ducor's participation in the pilot program. QC VU stated that all ten Small ILECs have filed advice letters to participate in the pilot program, and Ducor, Sierra, and Calaveras have received approval to date.

8. New agenda items for next meeting:

a. Standard agenda items

9. Proposed date and time for next meeting: Wednesday May 20, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 AM.