

California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 1:00 pm

Venues:

The state amended the Bagley Keene Statute, Govt. Code section 11133 related to the requirements for holding public meetings. As a result, all CHCF-A AC meetings will be held through teleconferencing going forward. This will be effective through July 1, 2023.

- There is no physical location of the meeting open to the public.
- The public is invited to call in and provide public comments during the meeting.

Telephone Conference Phone Bridge:

Phone Bridge: 415-655-0002

Participant/Access Code: 2494 548 4028

Attendees:

Present – Committee Members

- David Clark (Sebastian and LEC representative) (Vice Chairperson)
- Bixia Ye (CPUC, Public Advocates Office)
- Stephen Kalish, Alternate Committee Member (Community Based Organization)

Present – Others

- Felix Robles (CPUC, Communications Division)
- Dorris Chow (CPUC, Communications Division)
- Hannah Steiner (CPUC, Communications Division)
- Danny Tse (CPUC, Communications Division)
- Nancy Lee (CPUC, Communications Division)
- Sindy Yun (CPUC, Legal Division)
- Tayyeb Malik (CPUC, Fiscal Office)
- Benny Corona (CPUC Public Advocates Office)
- Patrick Rosvall (BRB Law)

Minutes:

1. Introductions – David Clark, Vice Chairperson

Attendees introduced themselves. David Clark observed that a quorum was present, meeting commenced at 1:03 pm.

2. Announcements

Nancy Lee reported that Patrick Høglund, our Primary AC Member from Public Advocates, has resigned from this committee. The CPUC Executive Director approved Bixia Ye's appointment to be Public Advocates' primary representative for the CHCF-A AC.

3. Public Comments – none

4. Review and Approval of the August 18, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Stephen Kalish pointed out a couple of typos and a grammatical error that were on the minutes and corrections were made. Stephen Kalish made a motion to approve and adopt the revised minutes. David Clark seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to approve the August 18, 2022 minutes as amended. The revised adopted minutes will be posted on the CHCF-A AC webpage.

5. Liaison Staff Reports:

a. Fiscal Report

Tayyeb Malik presented the quarterly financial report. As of July 1, 2022, the budget appropriation balance for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 is \$45.2 million; the total revenue is \$651. There were some issues with the State Controller's Office (SCO) that prevented Fiscal to close their books for the period ending October 31, 2022.

The total cash available at SCO is \$18.9 million as of November 14, 2022.

b. Legal Report

Sindy Yun reported that SB 857 was passed to extend the CHCF-A Program for another five years to January 2028.

c. Communications Division

Dorris Chow stated Decision 22-10-021 was adopted on October 20, 2022. Decision 22-10-021 adopted a new surcharge mechanism to fund California's Universal Service Public Purpose Programs (PPPs). Effective April 1, 2023, all wireline, wireless, and VoIP carriers must assess surcharges using the new mechanism, which is based on the number of active access lines that a telephone corporation operates in California. The interim flat rate PPP surcharge is \$1.11 per assess line.

Patrick Rosvall asked what the New Access Line PPP surcharge weighted average fund distribution is for CHCF-A. Hannah Steiner stated it is 7.54% of the total surcharge amount as outlined in the Weighted Average Program Fund Allocation Table in Decision 22-10-021.

6. Update on the current GRC Hearings

Dorris Chow stated Communications Division (CD) is anticipating a Proposed Decision (PD) to be issued by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for Sierra, Siskiyou, and Volcano's Test Year (TY) 2023 General Rate Case (GRC) soon.

Dorris Chow also mentioned CD has received applications from Ponderosa, Foresthill, and Kerman for the upcoming TY 2024 GRCs.

7. Update on Annual Advice Letters and CHCF-A Support Resolutions

Hannah Steiner reported that the total CHCF-A annual support request for calendar year 2023 that CD received from the 13 Small ILECs is \$34.9M. Last year's adopted annual support amount was \$34.6M.

Sierra, Siskiyou, and Volcano, the three companies that have on-going GRCs, specified that their request is an interim amount until their GRC is adopted.

Patrick Rosvall acknowledged that there were no protests made by Public Advocates.

8. Annual Report

Bixia Ye stated Patrick Hoglund submitted the FY 2021-2022 Annual Report to the Executive Director, and it has been approved and published on the CHCF-A AC webpage.

9. Update from the Small LECs on Impact of Wildfires

Patrick Rosvall stated both Sierra and Siskiyou were able to restore service very quickly due to wildfires. Unfortunately, certain homes were burned down. Sierra will reinstall loops that are necessary to reach those locations.

Siskiyou did lose some facility sites due to the massive McKinney Fire that started in late July. Siskiyou was able to restore power for those locations within approximately nine days once Siskiyou was able to gain access to those areas.

David Clark, representing Foresthill, stated the biggest fire in California this year was the Mosquito Fire. Approximately 40 customers lost power and the fire came within 800 yards from Foresthill's central office. Three wireless towers were damaged, and one tower is operable now. David Clark was very thankful that the firefighters did an excellent job in keeping the fire out of the populated areas.

10. CHCF-A (R.11-11-007) Rulemaking Issues – Questions, Comments

Stephen Kalish asked if there was an update on the rulemaking issues appeal. Patrick Rosvall stated the imputation issue is before the Court of Appeals, and oral argument will take place on December 15, 2022.

11. New agenda items for next meeting

- a. Update on GRC Proceedings
- b. AC Membership – New members and Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- c. Update from Small LECS on Impact of Wildfires
- d. Update on Annual Resolution
- e. Standard agenda items

12. Date and time for next meeting

The next meeting will be held via Webex on Thursday February 16, 2023 at 1:00 pm.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.