

California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, February 16, 2023, 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: 2495 781 4114

Attendees:

Present – Committee Members

- Bixia Ye, CPUC - Public Advocates Office
- Stephen Kalish, Alternate Committee Member - Community Based Organization
- Eric Votaw - Ducor Telephone Company

Present – Others

- Danny Tse, CPUC - Communications Division
- Nancy Lee, CPUC - Communications Division
- Sindy Yun CPUC - Communications Division
- Lalaine Semana, CPUC - Fiscal Office
- Tayyeb Malik, CPUC - Fiscal Office
- Benny Corona, CPUC - Public Advocates Office
- Patrick Rosvall - BRB Law

Minutes:

1. Introductions

After a short discussion, there was a roll call to vote for the Chair of the Administrative Committee (AC). Bixia Ye was the only primary member of the AC at the time of the meeting and was open to take on the position of Chair. Stephen Kalish, Eric Votaw, and Bixia voted during the roll call and Bixia was elected as Chair. In addition, Eric Votaw was elected as Vice Chair in a roll call.

Patrick Rosvall questioned about how a committee alternate can become the primary member, and Sindy Yun explained what the AC Charter described on such membership changes. Mr. Rosvall said that Mr. Votaw will be submitting a letter of interest in becoming a primary member of the AC.

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 November 17, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Stephen Kalish pointed out the minutes should be submitted to members of the AC within a few weeks after the previous meeting. Eric Votaw stated that he was not at the previous AC meeting, while Bixia Ye did not request any changes on the November 17, 2022 CHCF-A AC meeting minutes.

There was a roll call to approve the November 17, 2022 meeting minutes, with Stephen and Bixia voting for the approval.

5. Liaison Staff Reports:

a. Fiscal Report

Lalaine Semana presented the quarterly financial report. As of February 13, 2023, there was a total cash balance of \$17.7 million. The program expenditure between July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 was \$15.7 million.

Mr. Rosvall questioned about a trailer bill and asked Lalaine whether it was included in the quarterly financial report. Lalaine stated that it was included.

b. Legal Report

Sindy Yun has no legal issue to report.

c. Communications Division

Danny Tse reported on the ongoing progress of the General Rate Case (GRC) proceedings. Also noted was that 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 access line.

Patrick Rosvall asked about the Siskiyou GRC proposed decision, to which Danny was not able to provide any additional information. Mr. Kalish inquired about the Public Participation Hearing (PPH) for Sierra Telephone Company and Danny Tse was not able to provide any information as he was not present at the PPH. Mr. Rosvall added that he noted there were 3 to 4 people present at the PPH based on the summary he read.

Nancy Lee offered a summary of the annual Resolution T-17776 for CHCF-A support for calendar year 2023. The annual resolution was adopted on January 12, 2023, for \$33.8 million. Due to the GRC proceeding for Sierra Telephone Company, Volcano Telephone Company, and Siskiyou Telephone Company, the final support total will be adjusted when all three GRCs are adopted.

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. Update from the Small LECs on Impact of Wildfires

Patrick Rosvall stated impacts from wildfires were minimal.

9. New agenda items for next meeting

- a. Summaries on GRC Proceedings
- b. CHCF-A budget proposal
- c. Standard agenda items

10. Date and time for next meeting

The next meeting will be held via Webex on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 1:00 pm.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.