

**California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 27, 2025, 1:30 PM**

**Attendees:**

Committee Members

- Bixia Ye, Cal Advocates Office (Chair)
- Eric Votaw, Ducor Telephone Company (Vice Chair)
- Stephen Kalish, Community Based Organization
- Chrystian Villareal, Cal Advocates Office (Alternate)

CPUC Staff

- Hannah Steiner, Communications Division
- Sandy Lam, Communications Division
- Danny Tse, Communications Division
- Sindy Yun, Legal Division
- Lalaine Semana, Fiscal Office
- Tayyeb Malik, Fiscal Office

Public

- Patrick Rosvall – BRB Law LLP

**Agenda:**

**1. Introduction – Bixia Ye, Chair**

Bixia Ye observed that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Attendees introduced themselves. Bixia Ye introduced Chrystian Villareal as the alternate for Cal Advocates.

**2. Announcements**

Danny Tse announced he was retiring at the end of March 2025.

Audio was recorded for notetaking purposes.

**3. Public Comments**

None.

#### **4. Review and Approval of September 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Stephen Kalish suggested revisions to the minutes and asked for the August 2023 minutes, as the committee were not provided those minutes to review. Danny Tse said he will make the corrections.

Stephen Kalish made a motion to table voting on the August and September 2023 minutes by Stephen Kalish, seconded by Eric Votaw seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to table voting on the August and September 2023 meetings at the next AC meeting.

#### **5. Vote to approve FY 2023-24 Annual Report**

Stephen Kalish mentioned that the Annual Report is missing the August 2023 minutes and should be included.

Sindy Yun suggested that the committee vote on the 2023 meeting minutes at the next meeting, and combine the last two fiscal years (FY 2023-2024 and FY 2024-2025) into one report since the Annual Report for FY 2023-2024 is already late.

Patrick Rosvall inquired if the List of 2024 Support on the draft Annual Report (Table 1) reflects the different impacts from rehearing and cost of capital. Eric Votaw asked Hannah Steiner to review. Hannah Steiner will review and send any corrections to Bixia Ye.

Stephen Kalish inquired about using Calendar Year figures in Fiscal Year Reports. Lalaine Semana explained the budget appropriation provided by the Department of Finance is from July to June (Fiscal Year), so it would be difficult to compute the budget appropriate for a Calendar Year. Hannah Steiner explained that the annuals amounts are what CD pays out monthly.

#### **6. Liaison Staff Reports**

##### **a. Fiscal Report – Lalaine Semana**

Lalaine Semana presented the Fiscal Report for the CHCF-A Fund as of January 31, 2025.

##### **b. Legal Report – Sindy Yun**

No updates.

##### **c. Communications Division – Hannah Steiner**

Hannah Steiner reported that the last round of General Rate Cases (GRCs) are almost complete. The next round will be filed in October 2026. 2025 amounts were adopted in January.

Draft Resolution T-17818 (lowering the surcharge flat rate from \$1.11 to \$0.90) was published for comment and will be on the March 13, 2025 Commission Business meeting. The resolution proposes a decrease to the surcharge flat rate. Surcharge collection under the new access line surcharge mechanism resulted in an excess collection of surcharges and is more than what is needed for the Public Purpose Programs (PPP). Percentages to the CHCF-A allocation will be changed slightly.

Stephen Kalish asked if the Committee needs to vote on allocation changes. Hannah Steiner stated that the Committee votes on budget expenses, not surcharge rates. CD manages collection of surcharges based on how much is needed to support the expenditures of each PPP.

#### **7. Update on FY 25-26 Budget Proposal**

CD will prepare for the Budget Proposal for the Committee to vote on at the next meeting.

#### **8. Update from Small LECS**

Eric Votaw stated the Small LECS are still proceeding with upgrades to network and providing quality communication services.

#### **9. Other administrative matters**

- a. Recruitment/nominations for alternate members

#### **10. New agenda items for next meeting**

- FY 26-27 CHCF-A Budget Proposal

Stephen Kalish asked data at a future meeting regarding the Small ILECs providing fiber to the home. Eric Votaw stated companies are absolutely pushing fiber to the home, but it's not accomplished. Bixia Ye stated there is a broadband map on the FCC's website.

Bixia Ye requested for CD to update the CHCF-A AC website. CD will begin updating the website in the upcoming months.

#### **11. Next meeting: Thursday, June 5, 2025, 1:30 PM**

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.