

**California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee
Meeting Notes for Thursday, May 29, 2025, 10:00 AM**

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
- Dorris Chow, Communications Division
- Sindy Yun, Legal Division
- Lalaine Semana, Fiscal Office

Public:

- Patrick Rosvall – BRB Law LLP

Agenda:

1. Introduction

No introductions.

2. Announcements

No announcements.

3. Public Comments

No public comments.

4. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

a. September 21, 2023

Changes were made to item #5 to include language to clarify that changes were made to draft: “Table 1 expanded per Stephen’s request.” Stephen Kalish moved to approve minutes as amended. Eric Votaw seconded. The committee voted unanimously to approve the September 21, 2023 minutes as amended. The minutes will be posted on the CHCF-A AC webpage.

b. February 27, 2025

Changes made included removing “alternate” after Stephen Kalish’s name; and removing “to share,” “in,” and adding a period at the end of the paragraph for item #10. Stephen Kalish moved to approve minutes as amended. Eric Votaw seconded. The committee voted unanimously to approve the February 27, 2025 minutes as amended. The minutes will be posted on the CHCF-A AC webpage.

5. FY 26-27 Budget Proposal

Communications Division presented the FY 26-27 Budget Proposal.

Stephen Kalish asked for clarification on the balances.

Hannah Steiner clarified the difference between appropriation and actual spending in the budget.

Bixia Ye and Stephen Kalish expressed concern that CD's proposed budget for FY 26-27 was too high. Bixia Ye proposed the following:

State Operations: \$12,000,000

Local Assistance: \$38,800,000

Total: \$40,000,000

Stephen Kalish supported Bixia Ye's proposal. Bixia moved to adopt the FY 26-27 Budget Proposal as amended. Stephen Kalish seconded. Eric Votaw voted no. The FY 26-27 Budget Proposal was adopted as amended with a 2-1 vote. *[**An error occurred regarding the budget vote. Eric's vote should not be counted, as he was required to recuse himself. Therefore, the result should be recorded as a 2-0 vote.]*

Patrick Rosvall asked what the next step is after the committee voted on CD's recommendation for the budget. Hannah Steiner clarified that the budget is set through the legislature. CD and CPUC can choose to accept the committee's recommendation and submit a request to the legislature to change the appropriation, but there is no obligation to do so. The committee still votes on the budget but does not set it. Sindy Yun stated that years ago, the committees set the PPP rate and reduced the CHCF-A surcharge because there was a surplus. However, the Commission no longer sets individual surcharge rates.

6. Annual Report Update

A draft Annual Report was provided at the last meeting. The Small ILECs asked to verify the A fund amount, which CD provided feedback to adjust the A fund and incorporated changes to the draft.

The Annual Report will make a note that there were no minutes available for the 8/31/23 meeting.

Bixia Ye will include the budget for FY 24-25 and provide to committee to review in next meeting.

7. Liaison Staff Reports

a. Fiscal Report – Lalaine Semana

Lalaine Semana presented the Fiscal Report for the CHCF-A Fund as of April 30, 2025.

b. Legal Report – Sindy Yun

No updates. However, Stephen Kalish reminded committee members about completing Form 700. Patrick Rosvall stated that Jason Tikijian from Kerman/Foresthill can serve as the alternate Small ILEC representative for the CHCF-A AC meetings. Sindy stated that the

committee can vote today, and Bixia Ye can send approval to the Executive Director for review.

c. Communications Division – Hannah Steiner

Hannah Steiner stated that Resolution T-17818, which lowered the per access line surcharge rate to from \$1.11 to \$0.90, was adopted on April 3. The surcharge allocation for CHCF-A remains at 5.5%. The Commission also denied the Application for Rehearing of Decision 25-05-031 in the Cost of Capital proceeding.

8. Presentation of Small LEC Data in Response to Stephen Kalish’s Question – Bixia Ye

Bixia Ye presented public information from the FCC website in response to Stephen Kalish’s request for data related to infrastructure for the Small LECs at the last meeting.

9. Update from Small LECS

Eric Votaw stated that the Small LECs are continuing to deploy fiber networks.

10. Other administrative matters

a. Recruitment/nominations for alternate members

Patrick Rosvall announced that Jason Tikijian of Kerman/Foresthill was interested in serving as the alternate for the Small LECs for the CHCF-A AC committee. Eric Votaw moved to accept the nomination. Stephen Kalish seconded. The committee voted unanimously in favor of accepting Jason Tikijian’s nomination as the alternate for the Small LECs. Bixia Ye will send approval for Jason Tikijian’s nomination to the Executive Director.

b. New chair elections

Stephen moved to jointly reappoint Bixia Ye as the Committee Chair and Eric Votaw as the Committee’s Vice Chair. Bixia Ye seconded. The committee voted unanimously to reappoint Bixia Ye and Eric Votaw as Chair and Vice Chair respectively, and both Bixia Ye and Eric Votaw accepted their nominations.

11. New agenda items for next meeting

- a. Standard agenda items
- b. FY Annual Report
- c. Update from Sierra regarding the number of fiber locations
- d. Report on Supreme Court Decision: FCC on USF

12. Proposed date and time for next meeting: Wednesday August 20, 2025 at 1:30 PM

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 AM.