

**ASSOCIATION OF BAY
AREA GOVERNMENTS
Meeting Transcript**

JUNE 28, 2024

1

ABAG POWER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2

FRIDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2024, 11:00 AM

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4

5

BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON: THIS MEETING OF THE ABAG POWER

6

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:06. ITEM 2, ROLL

7

CALL, CONFIRM QUORUM. WILL THE CLERK CONFIRM WHETHER QUORUM OF

8

THE COMMITTEE IS PRESENT?

9

10

CINDY CHEN, CLERK: YES. WE HAVE ONE TELECONFERENCE LOCATION.

11

I'LL DO A ROLL CALL TO CONFIRM. BOARD MEMBER HAVENAR-DOUGHTON.

12

13

BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON: PRESENT.

14

15

CINDY CHEN, CLERK: BOARD MEMBER MARSHALL.

16

17

ELAINE MARSHALL: PRESENT.

18

19

AARON ZAVALA: PRESENT.

20

21

CINDY CHEN, CLERK: THE QUORUM IS PRESENT. THANK YOU.

22

23

BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON: THANK YOU. ITEM 3, PUBLIC COMMENT.

24

IS THERE ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISHES TO GIVE PUBLIC

25

COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA?

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1

2 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** NO MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ROOM. I DO
3 NOT SEE ANYBODY ONLINE. AT REDWOOD CONFERENCE AND ALSO
4 TELECONFERENCE LOCATION.

5

6 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** OKAY. THANK YOU. WILL THE CLERK
7 INFORM US WHETHER THERE WERE ANY ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
8 FOR THIS ITEM?

9

10 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** NO WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED FOR THIS
11 ITEM.

12

13 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** OKAY. THANK YOU. ITEM 4, CONSENT
14 CALENDAR. IS THERE A MOTION FROM THE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE
15 CONSENT CALENDAR CONSISTING OF THE MINUTES FROM OUR APRIL,
16 2024, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AND TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS
17 WITH LODI GAS STORAGE AND G.P.T. SECURE?

18

19 **ELAINE MARSHALL:** I SECOND.

20

21 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** AND REMIND ME OF YOUR NAMES?

22

23 **AARON ZAVALA:** AARON ZAVALA.

24

25 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** AND THE SECOND WAS BY?

2

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1

2 **ELAINE MARSHALL:** ELAINE MARSHALL.

3

4 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION BY MEMBERS
5 OF THE COMMITTEE ON THIS MOTION? HEARING NONE, IS THERE ANY
6 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISHES TO GIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THIS
7 ITEM?

8

9 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** NO MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ROOM NOR
10 ONLINE, HERE, NOR TELECONFERENCE LOCATION.

11

12 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** OKAY. THANK YOU. WILL THE CLERK
13 INFORM US IF THERE WERE ANY PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED FOR THIS
14 ITEM?

15

16 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** NO WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED FOR THIS
17 ITEM.

18

19 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** OKAY. WILL THE CLERK NOW CALL FOR A
20 VOTE BY THE COMMITTEE?

21

22 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** YES. THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY BOARD MEMBERS
23 ZAVALA AND SECOND BY BOARD MEMBER MARSHALL. HERE IS THE ROLL
24 CALL VOTE. BOARD MEMBER HAVENAR-DOUGHTON.

25

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1 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** YES.

2

3 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** BOARD MEMBER MARSHALL.

4

5 **ELAINE MARSHALL:** YES.

6

7 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** BOARD MEMBER ZAVALA.

8

9 **AARON ZAVALA:** YES.

10

11 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** BOARD MEMBER WILLIAMS IS ABSENT. IT PASSES

12 UNANIMOUSLY BY ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

13

14 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** OKAY. THANK YOU. THE MOTION PASSES.

15 ITEM 5, REPORT ON NATURAL GAS AND RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS

16 PROGRAMS. THIS IS AN INFORMATIONAL ITEM. JANE ELIAS WILL

17 PROVIDE THE PRESENTATION.

18

19 **JANE ELIAS:** GREAT. THANK YOU, BRENDAN. GOOD MORNING, COMMITTEE

20 MEMBERS. I'M JANE ELIAS, THE DIRECTOR OF ENERGY PROGRAMS. RYAN

21 JACOBY'S LAST DAY. WE WERE SAD TO SEE RYAN GO. WE WISH HIM ALL

22 THE BEST IN HIS NEW ADVENTURE. HE DECIDED TO LEAVE THE PUBLIC

23 SECTOR AFTER 10 YEARS AND MOVE OVER TO PRIVATE AND -- AND FOR

24 ABOUT HALF OF THAT TIME HE WAS MANAGING THE ABAG POWER

25 PROGRAM. SO -- I SEE WE GOT THE -- THANK YOU FOR THE

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1 ASSISTANCE OF BRINGING THE PRESENTATION UP. AND GO AHEAD AND
2 MOVE TO THE NEXT SLIDE. SO THE MONTHLY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS.
3 HERE'S AN OVERVIEW. OUR STANDARD RATE COMPARISON, YOU CAN SEE
4 IN THE FIGURES HERE ON THE SLIDE, THE SMALL COMMERCIAL RATE
5 COMPARISON OR THE G-NR-1 IS THE ACRONYM FOR THAT, STOOD AT 12%
6 AT OUR LAST MEETING. SO THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE SINCE OUR
7 APRIL MEETING, BUT WE ARE EXPECTING THAT WE'LL STILL BE ABOUT
8 12% MORE EXPENSIVE THAN PG&E AT THIS POINT. THIS MAY STILL
9 CONTINUE TO DROP SLIGHTLY, BUT IT'S STILL ANTICIPATED TO END
10 IN DOUBLE DIGITS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR. OUR GAS PURCHASING
11 STRATEGY INVOLVES THE SHORT-TERM MARKETS. ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY.
12 AND SO THOSE CLOSE -- OR THOSE LOW PRICES ARE GOOD FOR US, FOR
13 THE TIME BEING, AND TO IMPROVE THE COST COMPETITIVENESS
14 PERSPECTIVE, WE ARE WORKING EXCLUSIVELY IN THE SHORT-TERM
15 MARKETS WHICH HAS GIVEN -- GIVEN THE RECENT PRICES, IS
16 BENEFICIAL FOR OUR POSITION. I DO EXPECT THIS GAP TO CLOSE
17 OVER SOON AS WE APPROACH THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR, AND THE
18 PRIMARY REASON FOR THAT IS THE LOW PRICES CURRENTLY HAPPENING.
19 THAT'S EXPECTED TO CONTINUE, AND NEXT SLIDE, PLEASE. OKAY. SO
20 GAS USAGE COMPARISON BY MONTH AND YEAR. YOU MAY RECALL SEEING
21 THIS SLIDE FROM A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO. WE TRACKED THIS WITH
22 EACH OF THE MEETINGS. OUR PORTFOLIO USAGE IS SIGNIFICANTLY
23 LOWER, SORRY, THAN THE LAST TWO FISCAL YEARS AS NOTED IN THE
24 SLIDE. THERE ARE TWO FACTORS DRIVING THIS REALITY. ONE IS THE
25 WEATHER CONTINUES TO STAY MODERATE AND EVEN COMPARED TO PRIOR

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1 YEARS, WE DID NOT EXPERIENCE ANY SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENTS
2 REGIONALLY SUCH AS THE COLD FRONT WHICH BROUGHT SNOW LAST YEAR
3 IN THE MARCH AND APRIL TIME FRAME. WE HAD SOME RAIN THROUGHOUT
4 THIS SPRING BUT LIGHTER IN COMPARISON OVER LAST YEAR. AND THE
5 OTHER FACTOR BEING NATURAL GAS STORAGE INVENTORIES IS
6 EXCEEDING FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE HIGHS. LOOKING BACK OVER THOSE
7 FIVE YEARS, STORAGE INVENTORIES ARE -- ARE HIGH RIGHT NOW.
8 THESE ARE RECORD LEVELS COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD IN
9 HISTORY, AND THIS CREATES A SITUATION WHERE SUPPLY IS
10 CURRENTLY MUCH HIGHER THAN DEMAND. THAT LEADS TO THIS DECREASE
11 PRICE PRESSURE THAT WE SAW ON THE PREVIOUS SLIDE, AND THE
12 USAGE COMPARISON IS THE KIND OF TREND THAT WE WOULD EXPECT TO
13 SEE AT THIS POINT IN THE SEASON. THE APRIL NUMBERS ARE
14 PRELIMINARY AND ARE REPRESENTED BY THE HASH LINE IN YELLOW
15 THERE TOWARDS THE END OF THAT TREND LINE. FOR FISCAL YEAR '24-
16 '25, THIS GRAPH IS GOING TO LOOK MARKEDLY DIFFERENT GIVEN THE
17 ADDITION OF 19 NEW MEMBERS WHICH EQUATES AT THIS POINT TO OVER
18 300 NEW ACCOUNTS IN THE PORTFOLIO. NEXT SLIDE, PLEASE. THE
19 APRIL PRICES BOTTOMED OUT COMING IN LOWER, AGAIN, ATTRIBUTED
20 TO WEATHER. WE DID NOT EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT HEATED DEMANDS
21 AND AS IN A TYPICAL KIND OF SWING SEASON OF SPRING THAT WE
22 SEE, THIS IS NORMAL. AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, WE ARE
23 EXPERIENCING A LOT OF NATURAL GAS STORAGE. PURCHASING GAS FROM
24 ALBERTA, ALBERTA PIPELINE, IS SIGNIFICANTLY CHEAPER, AND YOU
25 CAN SEE THAT IN THE TABLE THERE ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE. THE

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1 AVERAGE PRICE BEING JUST OVER \$3 AND FOLLOWED BY OREGON AND
2 CALIFORNIA, WHICH ARE TRENDING IN ALMOST THE SAME IN THE
3 PRICING. THE CURRENT PRICES FOR GAS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER
4 THAN THE PRICE WE BUDGETED FOR GAS COMMODITY, AND THAT
5 DIFFERENCE IS REFLECTED IN THE GRAPH AS THE GREEN HASH LINE.
6 IT REPRESENTS OUR FISCAL YEAR BUDGET VERSUS THE ACTUAL GAS
7 PRICES AND THAT'S RELATIVELY SIGNIFICANT GAP COMPARED TO PRIOR
8 YEARS. THROUGH OUR TRUE-UP PROCESS THAT WE CONDUCTED WITH EACH
9 FISCAL YEAR, WE WILL RETURN MEMBERS THAT DIFFERENCE. SO THAT'S
10 GOOD NEWS FOR YOU AND FOR ALL OF THE MEMBERS. NEXT SLIDE,
11 PLEASE. HISTORICAL AND ANTICIPATED PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS.
12 YOU'LL SEE A LOT OF CHANGE IN THIS ONE. OUR HISTORICAL CHART
13 IS SIMILAR TO OUR ACTUAL USAGE BY FISCAL YEAR WITH THE
14 PREVIOUS SLIDE, BUT IT ALSO INCLUDES THE FUTURE ELEMENT OF
15 WHAT WE EXPECT TO REQUIRE IN THE NATURAL GAS USAGE GOING
16 FORWARD, WHICH IS SIGNIFICANT DUE TO THE ENROLLMENT OF THE 19
17 NEW MEMBERS FROM THE SPURR R.F.P. THAT WE DID. THOSE ARE
18 SPECIAL DISTRICTS, THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT WILL BE COMING
19 ONLINE AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT MONTH. THAT SAID, THE MAJORITY
20 OF THE NEW MEMBERS ARE SCHOOL DISTRICTS, SO MANY OF WHICH ARE
21 CLOSED DURING SUMMER MONTHS OR OPERATING PRETTY MINIMALLY. WE
22 WON'T SEE THE MORE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT OF THESE ADDITIONAL
23 MEMBERS' USAGE UNTIL LATER IN THE YEAR AND INTO THE WINTER
24 MONTHS OF '25. OVERALL, WE HAVE BUDGETED FOR A 44% INCREASE
25 FOR THIS SCENARIO. NEXT SLIDE, PLEASE. SO FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR

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1 THAT WE'RE WRAPPING UP HERE VERY QUICKLY IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF
2 DAYS, OUR CURRENT BUDGET TO ACTUAL REVENUES ARE TRENDING ON
3 TRACK. THAT'S EXPECTED SINCE WE BILL ON A LEVELIZED BILLING
4 SYSTEM. THE EXPENSE CATEGORIES, HOWEVER, SHOW SOME VARIANCE
5 DUE TO SEVERAL FACTORS. THE GAS USAGE IS LOWER THAN PRIOR
6 YEARS AS NOTED ON SOME OF THOSE PREVIOUS SLIDES. THE GAS
7 PRICES ARE ALSO LOWER THAN EXPECTED, AND THE PG&E PASS-THROUGH
8 IS DRIVEN BY THAT USAGE. NEXT SLIDE, PLEASE. IN ADDITION, SOME
9 OTHER UPDATES THAT WE HAVE FOR YOU TODAY ASIDE FROM THE FACT
10 THAT RYAN HAS MOVED ON, YOU MAY RECALL THAT YOU APPROVED THE
11 ITEM A FEW MINUTES AGO IN THE CONSENT CALENDAR FOR SELECTED
12 CONSULTANT FROM OUR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR NATURAL GAS
13 SCHEDULING. THESE SERVICES WILL START JULY 1, AND I LOOK
14 FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THEM FOR THE SCHEDULING OF SERVICES.
15 SIMILAR TO PRIOR YEARS, WE ARE LOOKING AT INCORPORATING
16 OPERATIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES TO LOOK MORE STRATEGICALLY AT
17 UTILIZING OUR STORAGE ASSET AND OUR ABILITY TO RECOUP COSTS,
18 LESSEN THE RISK, SUPPORT ARBITRAGE MORE SOPHISTICATEDLY THAN
19 BEFORE AND WE DIDN'T HAVE THESE SERVICES INCORPORATED INTO THE
20 PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE INCREASING MEMBERSHIP. THE
21 RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS PROGRAM, R.N.G., WE HAD SOME INITIAL
22 MEETINGS WITH PERSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS. THEY'VE TAKEN THAT
23 INFORMATION. THEIR NEXT STEPS WILL BE TO PRESENT THAT
24 INFORMATION TO THEIR DECISIONMAKERS, COME BACK TO US FOR I
25 EXPECT MORE QUESTIONS, AND WE'LL FOLLOW UP WITH THEM IN THE

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1 NEAR FUTURE TO GET AN UPDATE OF WHERE THEY ARE IN THE PROCESS.
2 GOOD GENERAL UPDATES, PERSONNEL CHANGES. WITH RYAN'S
3 DEPARTURE, I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE RECRUITMENT TO REPLACE THE
4 -- REPLACE HIM AND THE PROGRAM MANAGER POSITION. THAT JOB
5 POSTING IS OUT NOW. IT WILL CLOSE ON JULY 14. IN THE MEANTIME,
6 I DID MAKE SOME IMMEDIATE CHANGES THAT INCLUDE REALLOCATING
7 THE PERCENTAGE OF STAFF TIME AMONGST THE REMAINING POWER STAFF
8 THAT WE HAVE HERE. ALSO PROMOTED CINDY CHEN FROM AN ASSOCIATE
9 LEVEL, AND SHE IS ONE OF THE PEOPLE THAT I'VE INCREASED FROM
10 HALFTIME TO 3/4, AND THEN ONCE HIRED, I PLAN TO HAVE THE NEW
11 PROGRAM MANAGER POSITION DEDICATED 100% TO POWER. PREVIOUSLY,
12 RYAN'S TIME WAS SPLIT TO ABOUT 60% POWER. AND AS YOU'LL SEE IN
13 THE BUDGET PRESENTATION THAT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE COMING UP
14 NEXT, I ALSO ALLOCATED SOME ADDITIONAL BUDGET DOLLARS TOWARDS
15 EITHER ANOTHER POSITION MID-YEAR OR TO SOME ADDITIONAL
16 CONSULTING SERVICES AND I'LL EVALUATE THAT BASED ON THE NEED
17 ONCE WE GET OUR NEW HIRE OR PROGRAM MANAGER ON BOARD. WE'LL
18 LOOK AT WHAT KIND OF ADMINISTRATIVE WORK MIGHT BE ASSOCIATED
19 WITH THE ADDITIONAL NEW MEMBERS AND JUST EVALUATE THE PROGRAM.
20 SO WE'LL LIKELY COME BACK WITH SOME MORE INFORMATION IN FUTURE
21 MEETINGS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. THAT CONCLUDES THIS
22 INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION AND HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS
23 YOU MIGHT HAVE.
24

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1 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** THANK YOU, JANE. AND
2 CONGRATULATIONS, CINDY, ON THE WELL-DESERVED PROMOTION. IS
3 THERE ANY DISCUSSION BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE
4 ITEM?

5

6 **AARON ZAVALA:** JUST A CONGRATS TO CINDY ON THE PROMOTION.

7

8 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** ARE THERE ANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
9 WHO WISH TO GIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THIS ITEM?

10

11 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** NO MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ROOM NOR AT
12 TELECONFERENCE LOCATIONS.

13

14 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** AND WILL THE CLERK INFORM US WHETHER
15 THERE WERE ANY PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR THIS ITEM?

16

17 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** NO WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT WAS RECEIVED FOR
18 THIS ITEM.

19

20 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** OKAY. ITEM NUMBER 6, FISCAL YEAR
21 2024-2025 OPERATING BUDGET. THIS IS AN ACTION ITEM. OSCAR
22 QUINTANILLA-LOPEZ -- QUINTANILLA -- OSCAR QUINTANILLA-LOPEZ
23 AND JANE ELIAS WILL GIVE THE PRESENTATION.

24

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1 **JANE ELIAS:** THIS IS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 PUBLICLY
2 OWNED ENERGY RESOURCES, POWER, BUDGET, JOINED BY OSCAR
3 QUINTANILLA-LOPEZ, WHO IS THE ACTING SECTION DIRECTOR.
4 TOGETHER WE'LL GO OVER THE BUDGET, WHICH IS JUST OVER \$18
5 MILLION FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025.
6 INCLUDING THE ASSESSMENT OF WORKING CAPITAL DEPOSITS. NEXT
7 SLIDE, PLEASE. SO THE CURRENT YEAR HAD BUDGETED A TOTAL OF 1.5
8 F.T.E.'S. THAT HAS BEEN SPREAD OVER FOUR PEOPLE AND IN THE
9 NEXT FISCAL YEAR, AS I COMMENTED IN THE PREVIOUS PRESENTATION,
10 MADE ADJUSTMENTS TO INCREASE THAT TO 2.15 F.T.E.'S, AND I
11 NOTED, ALSO, OTHER PERSONNEL CHANGES THAT MAY TAKE PLACE LATER
12 ON IN THE FISCAL YEAR. AGAIN, CINDY'S TIME HAS BEEN INCREASED
13 FROM ABOUT HALF OF WHAT SHE TYPICALLY SPENT WITH POWER AND TO
14 3/4 OF HER TIME. AND THEN, IN ADDITION TO RECRUITMENT OF THE
15 POWER PROGRAM MANAGER, WE'LL BE EXPECTED TO LOOKING AT 100%
16 TAKING THAT INCREASE UP TO 2.15. ALSO, JUST NOTING THAT THIS
17 BUDGET PRESENTATION WE'LL SEE SOME ADDITIONAL DOLLARS SET
18 ASIDE FOR EITHER ANOTHER STAFF PERSON OR PERHAPS SOME
19 ADDITIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES, DEPENDING UPON WHAT MIGHT BE
20 NEEDED LATER ON IN THE YEAR. NEXT SLIDE, PLEASE. ALL RIGHT. SO
21 SOME 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS. WE DID ENROLL NEW MEMBER, CITY OF
22 PLEASANTON, THANK YOU, FOR THE ESTABLISHED RENEWABLE NATURAL
23 GAS PROGRAM AND THOSE ONGOING DISCUSSIONS ARE TAKING PLACE
24 WITH THE FOUR OTHER AGENCIES AS NOTED IN THE SLIDE. THE CITY
25 OF OAKLAND, THE PORT OF OAKLAND, SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY,

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1 AND THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO. SO HOPING TO HEAR BACK FROM THEM
2 SOON, BUT I WILL BE REACHING OUT TO THEM HERE IN THE NEW
3 FUTURE TO SEE IF THEY HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS. THE
4 ENROLLMENT OF ROUGHLY 20 SCHOOL SPECIAL DISTRICTS PROVIDING
5 THE NATURAL GAS SERVICE TO THE FORMER SPURR MEMBERS. I GUESS
6 IT'S SPURR. COMING ON TO ABAG POWER AS NEW MEMBERS. PRIOR TO
7 THIS, THE LAST NEW MEMBER JOINED IN SEPTEMBER OF 2012. SO IT
8 HAS BEEN A WHILE. AND WE DO EXPECT THAT WE WILL PROBABLY SEE
9 MAYBE A FEW MORE FROM THE SPURR RECRUITMENT OVER THE NEXT
10 MONTH OR TWO. YOU KNOW, WE -- WE ARE CONTINUING SOME
11 CONVERSATIONS AND GETTING SOME CONTINUED INQUIRIES FROM OTHERS
12 BUT HAVE NOT MADE ANY DECISION. I DON'T EXPECT WE'LL SEE ANY
13 MORE THAN FIVE IN ADDITION TO WHAT WE ALREADY BROUGHT ON. THE
14 FINANCIAL STRENGTH OF THE PROGRAM WILL INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY
15 IN THE NEXT UPCOMING YEAR WITH THE INCREASE OF THE CAPITAL
16 WORKING DEPOSITS THAT WE TOOK FROM TWO TO THREE MONTHS AND THE
17 ESTIMATED EXPENSES AS WELL AS THE ADDITION OF THESE NEW
18 MEMBERS. NEXT SLIDE. ALL RIGHT. SO ADVANCING OUR EFFORTS TO
19 OFFER A VOLUNTARY GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION PROGRAM,
20 AND THEN ADVANCING EFFORTS TO OFFER A VOLUNTARY TRANSITIONAL
21 ELECTRIFICATION INCENTIVE, AND EXAMINING OPPORTUNITIES. THESE
22 ARE THREE OF THE BIG GOALS THAT WE HAVE FOR THE '24 -- SORRY --
23 -- '25 FISCAL YEAR. MY EXPECTATION IS WITH THE NEW PROGRAM
24 MANAGER TO EXAMINE THE CURRENT STRATEGIC ROAD MAP THAT WE HAVE
25 FOR ABAG POWER. ASSESS OTHER POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL

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1 TAKE THE PROGRAM INTO THE FUTURE AND HOW WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO -
2 - THAT FUTURE PLANNING OF THE ORGANIZATION, WHAT THAT MIGHT
3 LOOK LIKE. I THINK THAT CONCLUDES THE REMAINDER -- MY PORTION
4 OF THIS SLIDE. I WILL -- PRESENTATION. I WILL HAND IT OVER TO
5 OSCAR FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE BUDGET SLIDE. I LOOK FORWARD TO
6 ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE.

7

8 **OSCAR QUINTANILLA-LOPEZ:** THANK YOU, JANE. GOOD MORNING. OSCAR
9 QUINTANILLA-LOPEZ. DIRECTOR OF BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PLANNING
10 FOR MTC-ABAG. WE PRESENTED A BUDGET IN APRIL. I'LL HIGHLIGHT
11 THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THAT BUDGET AND WHAT WE'RE PROPOSING
12 TODAY. THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH PENDING OR
13 COMPLETING -- COMPLETED ENROLLMENT HAS INCREASED FROM 14 TO
14 19. THAT REPRESENTS OVER 200 NEW UTILITY ACCOUNTS THAT WE'RE
15 WORKING TO SET UP FOR THE START OF THE FISCAL YEAR. AS JANE
16 MENTIONED, THIS IS STILL EVOLVING SO WE'RE PLANNING TO COME
17 BACK SOME TIME MID-YEAR, TOWARDS THE END OF THE FALL, WITH AN
18 UPDATE IF WE HAVE TO CHANGE THIS NUMBER. WE UPDATED THE
19 NATURAL GAS FUTURE PRICES RESULTING IN A DECREASE IN THE
20 PROJECTED AVERAGE COST. AND THAT'S REFLECTED IN THE BUDGET. WE
21 ALSO INCLUDED SOME ADJUSTMENTS TO STAFF AND CONSULTANT COST.
22 SO AS JANE MENTIONED, WE REASSESS HOW WE'RE RESOURCING THE
23 PROGRAM WITH EXISTING STAFF. BACK IN APRIL, WE HAD MENTIONED
24 WE HAD TWO NEW POSITIONS. WE'VE REMOVED THOSE AND, INSTEAD,
25 YOU KNOW, FOCUSED ON OUR CURRENT EXISTING STAFF. AND IN

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1 ADDITION TO THAT, ADDING \$200,000 FOR THIS ADMIN SUPPORT LINE
2 WHICH WE'RE NOT PLANNING TO START SPENDING RIGHT AWAY BUT
3 WE'RE GOING TO ASSESS AS WE MOVE THROUGH THE PROGRAM. WE ALSO
4 UPDATED HOW THE INDIRECT COST RATE, M.T.C. HAS BEEN GOING
5 THROUGH THE METHODOLOGY USED BY THE METROPOLITAN
6 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SO THAT'S REFLECTED IN THE BUDGET
7 AND I'LL TALK ABOUT IT ON THE NEXT SLIDE. NEXT SLIDE, PLEASE.
8 SO OVERALL, THE PROPOSED REVENUE BUDGET SHOWS AN INCREASE OF
9 46% FROM THE ADOPTED BUDGET. ON THE EXPENSE SIDE, THE COST OF
10 ENERGY HAS INCREASED BY 42%. THIS IS A COMBINATION OF THE
11 INCREASE IN CORE USAGE FROM ALL THE NEW MEMBERS AND ALSO A
12 REDUCTION IN THE ANTICIPATED COST OF GAS. AND ALSO, AN
13 INCREASE IN THE STORAGE COST. AND AS JANE MENTIONED, WE WILL
14 BE LOOKING AT CREATIVE WAYS TO HAVE MORE ARBITRAGE FROM THIS
15 ADDITIONAL STORAGE CAPACITY THAT WE ARE PROCURING. STAFF,
16 CONSULTANTS ARE UPDATED TO 88%. WHAT HAPPENED WITH OUR
17 INDIRECT COSTS, WE USED TO CALCULATE IT BASED ON BUDGET AND IT
18 WAS ONE RATE FOR ALL ENTITIES SERVED BY THE METROPOLITAN
19 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SO WE WOULD TAKE ALL OUR OVERHEAD
20 COSTS AND DIVIDE BY ALL OUR STAFF, DIRECT SALARIES, BENEFITS,
21 AND WE'LL COME UP WITH A RATE. THE NEW METHODOLOGY IS BASED ON
22 ACTUAL INDIRECT COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO ABAG POWER SO WE DIVIDED
23 THE RATE INTO A RATE FOR ABAG POWER, A RATE FOR SFEP, A RATE
24 FOR M.T.C., A RATE FOR -- ETC., AND THEY'RE BASED ON ACTUAL
25 COSTS AND ACTUAL OVERHEAD COST AND ACTUAL DIRECT SALARIES AND

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1 BENEFITS FROM FISCAL YEAR '22-'23 AND EACH YEAR WE WOULD LOOK
2 AT TWO-YEAR ACTUALS, CALCULATE A NEW RATE AND TRUE-UP SO IF WE
3 RECOVER MORE THAN WE'RE SUPPOSED TO, WE WOULD CREDIT THAT TO
4 THE ENTITY. AND IF WE DIDN'T RECOVER ENOUGH, WE WOULD ADD THAT
5 TO THE NEW RATE. SO WE BELIEVE IT'S A MORE ACCURATE REFLECTION
6 OF THE SERVICES THAT EACH OF THE ENTITIES IS RECEIVING.
7 HOPEFULLY -- WITH ANOTHER NOTE, BECAUSE IT'S DIVIDED ON THE
8 ACTUAL SALARIES AND BENEFITS BECAUSE WE ONLY HAD 1.5 F.T.E.
9 EQUIVALENTS, IT'S A SLIGHTLY HIGHER RATE. AS WE HAVE THIS NEW
10 STAFFING PLAN, THE RATE WILL COME DOWN. AND THEN, THE OTHER
11 THING I WANTED TO MENTION, BETWEEN WHAT WE PRESENTED IN APRIL
12 AND WHAT WE'RE PRESENTING TODAY, THERE'S A REDUCTION IN THE
13 CORE TOTAL RATE FROM 2.17 TO 2.1. IT'S KIND OF A COMBINATION
14 OF EVERYTHING, RIGHT? WE ADDED MORE MEMBERS, SO WE'RE
15 INCREASING CONSUMPTION -- CORE CONSUMPTION. WE DID SOME
16 CHANGES TO THE STAFFING AND CONSULTANT LINES. OVERALL IT
17 RESULTS IN A NET REDUCTION ON THE RATE OF THE CORE
18 CONSUMPTION. WITH THAT, WE REQUEST THAT ABAG POWER EXECUTIVE
19 COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024-2015 FOR
20 \$18 MILLION AS INCLUDED IN YOUR PACKET. THANK YOU.

21

22 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** THANK YOU, OSCAR. THANK YOU, JANE.
23 IS THERE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ACTION ITEM? DO I NEED TO
24 REPEAT THE WHOLE SECTION?

25

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1 **JANE ELIAS:** NO, I THINK IT WILL BE CLEAR FROM THE MOTION, WHAT
2 THE ITEM IS.

3

4 **AARON ZAVALA:** MOTION TO APPROVE.

5

6 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** THANK YOU, MOTION TO APPROVE BY MR.
7 ZAVALA. IS THERE A SECOND?

8

9 **ELAINE MARSHALL:** I SECOND.

10

11 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** OKAY. THANK YOU. IS THERE ANY
12 DISCUSSION BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THIS MOTION? I HAVE
13 SOME QUESTIONS. OF THE -- PERTAINING TO THE KIND OF CHANGES IN
14 STAFFING, THERE WAS A PIE CHART OF WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE, YOU
15 KNOW, BEFORE RYAN'S DEPARTURE OR, LET'S SAY, LAST YEAR IN
16 TERMS OF THE BREAKDOWN BETWEEN STAFF AND CONSULTANTS. HOW DOES
17 THAT BREAK DOWN -- TRYING TO GET AT JUST SOME CLARITY OF HOW
18 THAT -- THAT RESPONSIBILITY IS SHIFTED -- IS SHIFTING. IS THAT
19 A CLEAR QUESTION OR --

20

21 **JANE ELIAS:** I THINK CLARIFYING THE STAFF, CONSULTANT LINE
22 ITEM, YOU WOULD BE WANTING TO SEE THE PIE CHART HOW THAT
23 BREAKS OUT, WHAT WE'RE PROPOSING AS WELL COMPARED TO WHAT IT
24 WAS THIS LAST FISCAL YEAR?

25

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1 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** YEAH. AND I GUESS ANOTHER PART OF
2 THAT IS JUST -- SO THERE IS AN INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP. IS THAT
3 THE MAIN REASON IT'S DRIVING THE 88% INCREASE?

4
5 **JANE ELIAS:** NO. SO THE -- I DON'T HAVE A BREAK-OUT HANDY. I
6 THINK THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF THAT 88% INCREASE, WHICH IS
7 SHOWING AT \$845,903 IS -- CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, OSCAR, I
8 THINK LIKE \$360,000 OF THAT IS THE OVERHEAD PORTION, IT'S THAT
9 REALLOCATION OF HOW M.T.C. HAS RE-OOH VALUE WAITED THE
10 OVERHEAD OR INDIRECT COSTS?

11

12 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** OKAY, YEAH, THAT WAS KIND OF MY NEXT
13 QUESTION. HOW DID THAT METHODOLOGY STRENGTHEN OUR HURT THE
14 COMMITTEE'S FINANCIAL POSITION?

15

16 **OSCAR QUINTANILLA-LOPEZ:** YEAH. I CAN SPEAK TO THAT. SO LAST
17 YEAR'S ADOPTED BUDGET WE HAD \$566,000 IN TOTAL SALARY COSTS
18 AND \$322,000 IN CONSULTANTS. THIS YEAR'S BUDGET IS -- INCREASE
19 IS PRIMARILY ON THE STAFF COST. SO THERE'S \$1.1 MILLION FOR
20 STAFF COST. \$579,000 FOR CONSULTANTS. SO WE ARE INCREASING THE
21 STAFF COST TO ADDRESS THE NEW MEMBERSHIP, BUT THE MAIN CHANGE
22 IS ON THE OVERHEAD COST, AS JANE MENTIONED. SO IT'S AN
23 INCREASE OF \$360,000. AS I MENTIONED, THE METHODOLOGY BEFORE
24 WAS WE TAKE ALL OF OUR OVERHEAD COSTS ACROSS THE AGENCY AND WE
25 DIVIDE BY THE TOTAL SALARY AND BENEFITS CHARGED TO EACH

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1 ENTITY. SO IT WASN'T A REFLECTION OF THE COST OF PROVIDING
2 SERVICES FOR ABAG POWER. IT WAS MORE A FUNCTION OF THE NUMBER
3 OF EMPLOYEES THAT WE'RE CHARGING DIRECTLY TO POWER, WHICH WAS
4 ONLY \$1.5 -- WHICH WAS ONLY 1.5 STAFF. WHAT WE DID WAS WE TOOK
5 -- WE BROKE DOWN THE SERVICES THAT WE PROVIDE IN TERMS OF A
6 NUMBER OF INVOICES PROCESSED, AMOUNT OF BUDGET, HEAD COUNT,
7 AND THERE'S LIKE SIX DIFFERENT -- ACTUALLY, EACH SERVICE AREA
8 HAS DIFFERENT METHODOLOGIES ON HOW WE SPLIT THAT COST. AND
9 WHAT WE SAW WAS SOME ENTITIES THAT HAD VERY LITTLE STAFF HAD A
10 LOT OF TRANSACTIONS, YOU KNOW, SIGNIFICANT BUDGET OR A LOT OF
11 ACCOUNTS THAT WE'RE PROCESSING. AND SO THOSE ENTITIES SAW A
12 HIGHER INCREASE IN THE DIRECT RATE. ABAG POWER WAS ONE OF
13 THEM. WE HAVE SAFE, WHICH IS -- WE PROVIDE CALL BOX SERVICES
14 ON THE HIGHWAYS. WE HAVE VERY LITTLE STAFF BUT A LOT OF
15 CONTRACTS SO A LOT OF SUPPORT NEEDED FOR THESE ENTITIES. AND
16 SO THAT'S WHY YOU SEE THAT BIG JUMP IN TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS.
17 FOR US, IT'S A BETTER REFLECTION OF THE SERVICES THAT WE ARE
18 PROVIDING TO EACH OF THE ENTITIES BECAUSE NOW IT'S NOT JUST
19 BASED ON THE NUMBER OF STAFF BUT ON THE TRANSACTIONS, AMOUNT
20 OF BUDGET, AMOUNT OF CONTRACTS THAT WE PROCESS. AND WE WILL
21 HAVE A TRUE-UP PROCESS EACH YEAR BECAUSE WE'RE USING '22-'23
22 ACTUALS. WHEN WE USE '23-'24, WE'LL SEE HOW MUCH DIRECT
23 SALARIES AND BENEFITS WERE CHARGED AND TRUE-UP, BUT THAT RATE
24 SHOULD BE FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

25

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1 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** GREAT, OKAY. THANK YOU FOR THE
2 EXPLANATION. ONE OTHER FINANCIAL QUESTION AROUND JUST MAYBE A
3 REMINDER OF HOW ACCRUED INTEREST IS TREATED WITH RESPECT TO
4 THE POWER COMMITTEE ASSETS. PROGRAMS' ASSETS.

5

6 **OSCAR QUINTANILLA-LOPEZ:** THAT IS A GOOD QUESTION BECAUSE WE
7 ARE NOT BUDGETING MUCH --

8

9 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** ARE WE AWARE OF INTEREST ACCRUING
10 BASED ON THE, LIKE, CASH FLOW?

11

12 **OSCAR QUINTANILLA-LOPEZ:** I WILL SAY THIS LAST YEAR WAS A
13 COMPLICATED ONE BECAUSE WE HAD SUCH A DISCREPANCY AND THE COST
14 OF GAS -- I MEAN, NOT CURRENT YEAR, THE PRIOR YEAR. SO WE HAD
15 A MUCH HIGHER COST OF GAS THAN WHAT WE HAD ANTICIPATED, SO OUR
16 -- WE WERE REALLY RUNNING AT ZERO. WE USED ALL OUR WORKING
17 CAPITAL DEPOSITS TO MANAGE THAT DIFFERENCE. AND ONLY THIS YEAR
18 WE'RE STARTING TO COLLECT BACK. SO AT LEAST FOR NOW, I DON'T
19 ANTICIPATE HAVING MUCH OR ANY INTEREST EARNINGS BECAUSE WE
20 USED IT ALL TO OFFSET THAT FLUCTUATION OF PRICES. WE CAN
21 CERTAINLY COME BACK TO YOU WITH A BETTER ANSWER AS TO WHAT WE
22 WILL DO WHEN WE HAVE MORE INTEREST. YOU KNOW, ACROSS OUR
23 AGENCIES, WE ARE SEEING A GOOD RETURN ON INVESTMENTS. BUT IT'S
24 REALLY A FUNCTION OF HOW MUCH INVESTABLE FUNDS WE HAVE.

25

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1 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** YEAH, OKAY. THAT WILL BE GREAT. AND
2 ALSO, MAYBE PRESENTING SOME OF THE CONTEXT OF THE LAWS
3 GOVERNING PUBLIC DOLLARS AND INTEREST AND HOW THAT WORKS, JUST
4 AS A KIND OF AN OVERVIEW, THAT WORKS.

5

6 **OSCAR QUINTANILLA-LOPEZ:** YEAH.

7

8 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** JANE, JUST THE QUESTION ON THE
9 STRATEGIC ROAD MAP TIMELINE. OBVIOUSLY, A LOT DEPENDS ON THE
10 NEW HIRE. REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THAT WORK. WHEN DO YOU ENVISION
11 IN TERMS OF -- TACKLING THAT WORK AND, YOU KNOW, WHERE WE
12 MIGHT BE IN A YEAR OR SO WITH RESPECT TO THE TIMELINE?

13

14 **JANE ELIAS:** YEAH, I THINK -- SO, I MEAN, JUST TIMELINE FOR
15 BRINGING ON THE NEW PROGRAM MANAGER, I THINK IDEALLY AT LEAST
16 BY -- WELL, AT THE SOONEST WOULD BE ABOUT MID-AUGUST. GETTING
17 THEM ONBOARDED AND THEN LOOKING AT THE CURRENT STRATEGIC ROAD
18 MAPPING, WE HAD THE R.N.G. PROGRAM. I THINK WHATEVER
19 OPPORTUNITIES ARE STILL THERE, CERTAINLY EXCITED WITH THE
20 PRIOR CONVERSATIONS THAT RYAN HAD WITH SOME OF THOSE ENTITIES.
21 SEEING IF WE CAN GET ANY MORE INTEREST AND IF THERE'S MORE OF
22 AVAILABILITY -- MORE AVAILABILITY TO EXPAND THAT PROGRAM. AND
23 THEN, THE -- IN RELATION TO SOME OF THE IDEAS PUT OUT THERE
24 WERE AROUND CREDITS. I THINK, YOU KNOW, CONTINUING TO LOOK AT
25 THAT. BUT THEN, JUST, YOU KNOW, WITH LOOKING AT THE FUTURE OF

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1 STATE GOALS, STATE CLIMATE GOALS, TRYING TO DIVEST THEMSELVES
2 OF FOSSIL FUELS, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR MUNICIPALITIES,
3 SPECIAL DISTRICTS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS? HOW CAN POWER PLAY A PART
4 OF WHAT THAT MIGHT LOOK LIKE? AND WHAT OPPORTUNITIES MIGHT WE
5 BE ABLE TO PRESENT TO THE MEMBERSHIP TO TAKE THEM INTO THE
6 FUTURE AS, YOU KNOW, UPGRADE FACILITIES HAPPEN, IF THAT'S
7 EVOLVING DECARBONIZATION, ELECTRIFICATION, OR IF, YOU KNOW, IF
8 IT'S A MIXTURE OF SOMETHING LIKE CREDITS AND SOMETHING ELSE, I
9 MEAN, I THINK, ARE THERE INCENTIVE POSSIBILITIES THAT THE
10 PROGRAM MIGHT BE ABLE TO OFFER THAT WE COULD GIVE THE MEMBERS
11 INCENTIVIZING THEM TO DECARBONIZE? OBVIOUSLY, REALIZING THAT
12 EFFECTS REVENUES. WHAT OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES MIGHT BE
13 OUT THERE TO HELP BUFFER THAT? SO I THINK IT'S REALLY
14 EXCITING. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT THAT MIGHT BE, BUT JUST
15 KIND OF DO SOME LONG-TERM PLANNING. AND IN THE NEXT -- YOU
16 KNOW, I WOULD -- I WOULD HOPE -- YEAH, WITHIN THAT NEXT EIGHT
17 -- EIGHT TO 10 MONTHS, JUST EVALUATING WHAT THE CURRENT
18 STRATEGIC ROAD MAP IS AND THEN PUTTING FORWARD ANY NEW IDEAS
19 TO THE BOARD WHAT WE MIGHT WANT TO ADD TO IT OR SHIFT AND TAKE
20 THAT FORWARD. SO, YOU KNOW, I WOULD THINK, CERTAINLY, BY THIS
21 TIME NEXT YEAR IF NOT SOONER.

22

23 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** FANTASTIC. COOL. ANY OTHER
24 DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, ITEMS? OKAY. IS THERE ANY MEMBER OF THE
25 PUBLIC WHO WISHES TO GIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THIS ITEM?

21

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1

2 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** NO MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ROOM NOR AT
3 TELECONFERENCE LOCATIONS.

4

5 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** WILL THE CLERK INFORM US WHETHER
6 THERE WAS ANY PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR THIS ITEM?

7

8 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** NO WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT WAS RECEIVED FOR
9 THIS ITEM.

10

11 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** WILL THE CLERK NOW CALL FOR A VOTE
12 BY THE COMMITTEE?

13

14 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** ABSOLUTELY. THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY BOARD
15 MEMBER ZAVALA, SECOND BY BOARD MEMBER MARSHALL. BOARD MEMBER
16 HAVENAR-DOUGHTON.

17

18 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** YES.

19

20 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** BOARD MEMBER MARSHALL.

21

22 **ELAINE MARSHALL:** AYE.

23

24 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** BOARD MEMBER ZAVALA.

25

22

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1 **AARON ZAVALA:** YES.

2

3 **CINDY CHEN, CLERK:** BOARD MEMBER WILLIAMS IS ABSENT. THE MOTION
4 PASSES UNANIMOUSLY BY ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

5

6 **BRENDAN HAVENAR-DOUGHTON:** THANK YOU. ITEM 7, OTHER BUSINESS.
7 IS THERE ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE WHO WISHES TO PROVIDE AN
8 UPDATE ON ITEMS WITHIN THEIR MEMBER AGENCIES RELEVANT TO ABAG
9 POWER OR TO THE ABAG-MTC ENERGY PROGRAMS? ALL RIGHT. HEARING
10 NONE. I'D LIKE TO CHAIR'S PREROGATIVE TO ADJOURN IN
11 APPRECIATION OF RYAN JACOBY'S COMMITMENT TO THIS WORK FOR A
12 DECADE AND IN WORKING WITH THE TEAM. SO THANK YOU, RYAN. SO
13 THE NEXT REGULAR -- SO WE'RE ADJOURNING AT -- LET ME GET THIS
14 STRAIGHT. THE NEXT REGULAR GOVERNANCE MEMBER IS THE ABAG
15 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 15,
16 2024. THIS MEETING OF THE ABAG POWER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS
17 ADJOURNED AT 11:42. THANK YOU.

18



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