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Minutes

Date: February 22, 2016
To: Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee
From: Carrie Pollo, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Program Assistant
Subject: February 1, 2016 Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee Special Meeting Minutes

Item # 1 – Opening Remarks and Introductions

NCPA Commission Chair Carol Garcia, Mayor, City of Roseville, called the meeting to order at 8:35 am followed by introductions of all in attendance.

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

OPEN SESSION

REPORTS / ACTION TIMES (8:40 – 10:15 am)

Item # 2 – Overview of Capitol Day Program/Events

Randy Howard, NCPA General Manager, welcomed everyone and thanked them all for coming to NCPA's Capitol Day 2016. Mr. Howard highlighted the six issues that NCPA has identified as the most important issues in the Legislature for 2016 regarding public power, which are: net energy metering; SB 350 implementation; workforce development; wildfire management; energy storage; and, electric vehicles.

Jane Cirrincione, AGM, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, provided an overview of the schedule of events for the day, starting with the breakfast briefing, the scheduled legislative meetings, and ending with dinner at Downtown & Vine. Ms. Cirrincione outlined plans for the day's events, and also outlined that there are four very important issues to discuss with legislators, and that two of the issue papers will be leave-behinds with information on NCPA member successes with regard to electric vehicles and energy storage.

Item # 3 – Insights from the Senate pro Tem’s Office

Randy Howard introduced guest speaker Kip Lipper, Senior Advisor to Senate pro Tem Kevin de León. Mr. Lipper gave an overview of SB 350 and the political landscape. He then opened the discussion up for questions. There was much discussion regarding net metering, and the potential for legislative action in this area affecting Publicly Owned Utilities (POUs) this year. Also discussed was the California Independent System Operator’s (CAISO) plan for regionalization. Mr. Lipper encouraged NCPA to share its consumer-related concerns on this issue with the Legislature.

Item # 4 – Review of Legislative Meetings

Mario De Bernardo, State Government Relations Representative for NCPA, reviewed the four key issues facing public power starting with SB 350 implementation. Mr. De Bernardo stated that NCPA will support policies to improve the flexibility of the state’s (Renewables Portfolio Standard) RPS program without compromising the overall objectives of SB 350. An example would be allowing more short term contracts for small POU’s.

With regard to CAISO regionalization, he explained that NCPA also does not want to rush into the CAISO expansion project, making sure there is fair governance, cost-effective resources and system reliability if the CAISO expands and NCPA is to relinquish control of these important assets.

Next, he highlighted the wildfire management issues, and the importance of preventing wildfires to protect the reliability of California’s energy supply. NCPA supports promoting forest fuel treatment and biomass projects, and funding these efforts with the state’s cap and trade auction revenues, as proposed by the Governor.

With regard to net energy metering, Mr. De Bernardo explained that to effectively promote local renewable energy generation in each unique POU territory, local control is important and policies in this area should preserve a POU’s ability to: develop programs that comply with state goals and are specifically tailored to the characteristics of the POU’s community; design rates and charges that are fair to all of its customers; consider the role of energy efficiency, community solar, and electric transportation when developing rooftop solar policies; and, enhance local economic development opportunities with renewable and energy efficiency programs.

With the aging workforce and demands on existing workers, the last issue discussed was workforce development, with NCPA supporting public policies that promote local workforce development in the energy sector, especially as the state moves toward its 2030 energy goals. This could include support from the state’s cap and trade revenues.

Rob Grossglauer, Government Affairs Consulting, gave a brief explanation and walk-through of the logistics related to the legislative meetings in the afternoon.

ADJOURNMENT

Commission Chair, Carol Garcia, gave closing remarks and adjourned the meeting at 10:10 am.