

California High Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 1:30 pm

Venues:

As authorized by Governor Newsom's Executive Order, N-29-20, dated March 17, 2020, the meeting will be held via teleconferencing with members of the CHCF-A AC attending from separate remote locations. This altered format observes recent recommendations by local officials that certain precautions be taken, including social distancing, to address the threat of COVID-19.

Important Notice to the Public Regarding COVID-19:

Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor's Office, in order to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, please note the following:

- 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:

Access: 415-655-0002

Participant/Access Code: 146 303 4487

Attendees:

Present – Committee Members

- Stephen Kalish, Chair (Community Based Organization)
- Patrick Hoglund (CPUC, Public Advocates Office)
- David Clark (Sebastian)

Present – Others

- Eric Votaw (Ducor)
- William Charley (Cooper White Cooper)
- Matt Kingsley (Inyo County)
- Risa Hernandez (CPUC, Communications Division)
- Felix Robles (CPUC, Communications Division)
- Hannah Steiner (CPUC, Communications Division)
- Dorris Chow (CPUC, Communications Division)
- Nancy Lee (CPUC, Communications Division)
- Ashnita Lal (CPUC, Fiscal)
- Bixia Ye (CPUC, Public Advocates Office)

Minutes:

1. Introductions – Stephen Kalish, Chairperson
Attendees introduced themselves. A quorum was present, and the meeting commenced at 1:32 pm.

2. Announcements

An update on recent CA Wildfires were given by David Clark, Eric Votaw and Felix Robles.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Review and Approval of the May 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Stephen Kalish pointed out there were two minor typos on the May 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Stephen Kalish motioned to approve the minutes with the typos corrected. Mr. Clark seconded the motion and Patrick Hogle concurred. The committee voted unanimously to approve the May 19, 2020 minutes.

5. Liaison Staff Reports:

a. Fiscal Report – Ashnita Lal

Ashnita Lal presented the fiscal report which also included information about the cash balance now compared to the previous two fiscal years.

b. Legal Report

Sindy Yun was unable to attend today's meeting, nothing to report.

c. Communications Division – Felix Robles

Stephen Kalish asked Felix Robles about the email that he received from Rob Osborn (CD Director) on submitting applications to the FCC for RDOF. Mr. Kalish requested that CD provide information at the next meeting about the deployment costs by census block if the RDOF auction has completed. Felix stated that our branch is not working on this issue, but we will follow-up with the CASF Section to possibly address at the next meeting, and Dorris Chow has been assigned to follow up on this matter.

Mr. Clark asked if companies report revenue directly to CPUC. Felix said yes but they only report intrastate revenue. Mr. Clark asked if there is a safe harbor for allocating wireless revenue to inter vs intra-state. Felix said that the FCC safe harbor is one of the options for allocating wireless revenue and that a traffic study is another option. Mr. Clark asked if the wireless providers tell the CPUC what methodology they are using. Felix said that they do not, but that this information is available via Data Request.

Felix reported that revenue base and surcharge remittances are declining primarily due to the FCC's determination that mobile data and SMS are interstate services and the continuing decline in the number of wireline subscriptions is also a factor. Landlines are subject to surcharge, and broadband service itself is not subject to surcharge. Mr. Clark asked if the CPUC would need to increase the surcharge rate. Felix said that staff cannot share any plans to increase the surcharge rate unless a draft resolution is published to that effect. The last time the remittance rate was increased was about 5 ½ years ago in January of 2015. Felix presented the Fiscal Year 19-20 Reported Annual Intrastate Revenue and historical reported intrastate revenue.

6. CHCF-A (R.11-11-007) Rulemaking Issues

Felix shared that the competition Decision (D. 20-08-011) was approved. In response to a question from Mr. Clark, Felix reported that we are hoping to get the broadband imputation decision out 6 months before the GRC filing deadlines, which would be late 1st quarter of 2021.

7. AC Membership

a. Revised nomination and approval process:

Since Sindy Yun was unable to attend today's meeting, Hannah Steiner presented the Telecommunications Public Purpose Program Administrative Committee vacancy nomination and confirmation guidelines and processes. The CHCFA-AC, CHCFB-AC, CTF-AC, and ULTSAC charters all have the same following provision regarding member vacancies:

3.6 Vacancies. The organizations or constituencies whose seat is vacated shall nominate individuals to fill that vacancy, and the selection and approval of the individual to fill that vacancy shall be made by the Commission's Executive Director. If the Committee is unable to identify a suitable candidate to fill the vacancy for any reason, the Commission or Executive Director may appoint a member of the class from which the vacancy occurs.

Based on Section 3.6 Vacancies provision, process for filling the CHCF-A, CHCF-B, CTF and LifeLine administrative committee member vacancies is as follows:

1. The Administrative Committee (AC) shall request the organization or the constituency whose seat is vacant to nominate an individual by submitting a letter of interest and resume to CD to present to the AC to fill the vacancy.
2. At the AC meeting, the AC shall discuss and vote on the nomination.
3. If the nomination is approved by a majority of the AC members, the AC Chairperson will prepare and submit a letter of nomination to the Executive Director (ED) for approval and appointment.
4. Once the letter has been reviewed and approved by the ED, the ED will provide a letter of approval to the AC Chairperson.

b. Community Based Organization (CBO) or Consumer Organization - nomination of Matt Kingsley as primary member:

Because of the revised nomination and approval process, Stephen Kalish would like to postpone on the voting of Matt Kingsley's nomination to allow time for other nominees to come forward. The committee agreed to delay a vote on Matt Kingsley's nomination to the next AC meeting.

c. Public Advocates – nomination of alternate member:

Mr. Hogle would like his management team to review the revised nomination and approval process guideline prior to submitting the documents for their nomination.

8. CHCF-A AC Annual report approval and submittal

Mr. Clark motioned to approve and submit the CHCF-A AC Annual report with the May 19, 2020 minutes corrected. Mr. Hogle seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to approve and submit the CHCF-A AC Annual report.

9. New agenda items for next meeting

- Mr. Kalish requested data on cost per line for fiber deployment from RDOF
- Discussion on infrastructure burn due to increased CA Wildfires
- General summary of CHCF-A annual requests for 2021 and how the amount requested compares to last year's request
- Move forward with AC membership nominations
- Standard agenda items

10. Date and time for next meeting

The committee decided that the next meeting will be November 19, 2020 at 1:30pm.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.