

**Solar Energy Action Committee
Meeting Summary
Meeting December 8, 2016**

Welcome and Introductions

- Steve Jones welcomed everyone to the Solar Energy Action Committee meeting and outlined the objectives of today's meeting.
- New SEAC guests introduced themselves.

Agenda item # 1: SEAC Transition Status Report

- Steve Jones provided an update from the Steering Committee who are working directly with Howard Choy on transitioning SEAC.
- Howard Choy from County of Los Angeles, Internal Services Department, Office of Sustainability, mentioned that his organization is committed to the funding necessary to keep the SEAC Group going under an administered program of theirs called the Southern California Regional Energy Network.
- A lot of their work is funded by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and his office runs a lot of energy efficiency programs throughout Southern California. Very important to the CPUC and the CEC (California Energy Commission) are codes and standards primarily, how to increase compliance with the enforcement of energy codes to meet its outcomes.
- They have submitted a business plan for the SoCalREN ten-year cycle plan, and part of the plan is augmenting codes and standards work within a larger energy plan which would fund the components of the SEAC group, so that SEAC could grow to support this bigger business plan.
- The way to keep SEAC going is through their program manager the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) under the County, who are in the process of subcontracting with Paula Mellon to continue her really valuable role.
- Howard is confident that all the necessary paperwork will get wrapped up fairly shortly.
- In the meantime, Rosemarie Ampil will still help co-ordinate and facilitate any of the near-term activities. Rosemarie will likely back out once the CSE and Paula are fully contracted.
- Paula's contract has been terminated with DPW, and therefore COS will proceed with the administering of SEAC.
- DPW Mostafa, will still play a major role in SEAC, and will lead by example in their participation in these efforts, as will all the other very important stakeholders.
- Kit Bagnell of DPW, thanked Howard of COS for making this transition easy and simple.
- John Taecker mentioned that the group would want to define a good balance of where we're going and what and how we're going to do to get there by partnering up and defining clear roles and responsibilities.
- Steve acknowledged that SEAC is better off now than a month ago with the surety that SEAC will survive and he thanked Howard for that.
- Everyone present at the meeting agreed with moving forward with the new transition plan.

Agenda item # 2: Status of Battery Systems (ESS) Task

- Steve Jones opened the discussion on the status of the Plancheck group work over to Mostafa Kashe.

- Mostafa Kashe mentioned that it is a huge task trying to cover all aspects of battery storage versus energy storage systems regarding the distinction between 2014 codes versus 2017.
- Difficulty is for the jurisdictions who have just adopted the 2014 codes versus the 2017 codes. There is a lot of issues and a lot of work to be done to complete this work. For example, on the one call, they spent over an hour discussing rapid shutdown.
- Not sure how much longer it will take to finish their group work. Still have a lot of issues to cover so it's likely to span over another few months.
- John Taecker asked Mostafa if the first part has been focused on electrical as there has been a lot of questions on what needs to be done for planchecking compared to fire and building?
- Mostafa mentioned that from the electrical aspect, a time-consuming discussion was on rapid shutdown. For someone who wants a battery storage permit, the question was: Are we going to enforce rapid shutdown? And the answer is yes', and for adding battery storage to an existing PV system, they will require rapid shutdown on the battery.
- Steve Jones opened the discussion on the status of the Inspection group work over to Jim Cahill. Duncan Cleminshaw stood in for Jim.
- Duncan mentioned that Charles Picard sent him the Inspection group work document with notes as Charles is the custodian of this document.
 - The group met on December 1st. Will be aligning their document with the Plancheck document.
 - Group still has a lot of work to do.
 - Comment was to change document name from checklist to guidelines.
 - Mostafa mentioned that the Inspection guidelines should mimic the PlanCheck list.
 - John suggested PlanCheck aim to have their initial draft ready by February 2017
 - Comment was that issues are that the 2014 and 2017 don't address or cover ESS and may therefore need to look at what is being written in 2020 codes.
 - John Taecker mentioned that one of the objectives of SEAC would be to make code proposals to the NEC for clarification purposes and to shape codes for ESS.
 - Dave Conover and John Taecker mentioned that there is a 2017 NEC Task Group that has been put together to develop more on Article 706 and update this to the 2017 NEC. The NFPA have also formed a new document around 855 – standalone installation code for ESS. A lot of well-informed folk on Task Group. Will be having discussions in January 2017 in San Diego. The objective of the document is to point to other relevant items and help fill in the gaps. To follow visit: www.nfpa.org/855 or www.nfpa.org/70
 - Everyone agreed that both 2014 and 2017 codes be addressed.
- Steve Jones opened the discussion on the status of the Information Bulletin group work over to John Taecker.
 - John mentioned that the Information Bulletin document has been designed to answer quick questions and provide informational resources.
 - Progress is good and John is participating on most groups calls to make sure all holes are covered.

Agenda item # 3: Status of State Recognition of TIAs and 2017 ESS requirements Task Group

- John Taecker presented status update as follows:
 - Mark Baldassari took on the responsibility of two TIAs: Deletion of Listed AFCI protection for wiring harness, and 694 for PV connectors
 - Duncan Cleminshaw took on the responsibility of two TIAs: The jumping from 10 to 30 seconds for Rapid Shutdown, and Center tap for panel boards
 - John inquired Alan Fields help to look at the Solar Permitting Guide Book (SPGB) to find where would be a good place to reference the TIA Information Bulletin as well as a reader's digest brief on what a TIA is and how to use it.
 - John is now pulling all this TIA work together, explaining why there was a need for the TIA and what it does, as well as providing all supporting links regarding the development of the TIAs.
 - The objective of the TIAs is where a code making panel looks at emergency items to address before the next code cycle so this becomes automatically adopted and enforced.
 - Proposed drafts will go out later today and the state will process and update will be done to the SPGB and will put out Information Bulletin for TIAs.
 - John will provide the attachments of TIAs to SEAC group.
- John mentioned that the NFPA offer training to all AHJ's as well as a copy of the new California Electrical Code in pdf & hardcopy. They recently did a tour of SoCal and NorCal. All were informed of the TIA's and the Information Bulletin that is coming.

Agenda item # 4: Permitting Process issues (such as pulling permits without contracts)

- Duncan Cleminshaw presented as follows:
 - Today's discussion is an opportunity to open up the floor and get some feedback on a recent issue that came up at a meeting him and a colleague attended at the TUCC up North.
 - John provided a bit of background on the TUCC. The Tri-Chapter Uniform Code Committee (TUCC) provides context and guidelines on old code on PV installations, and one of the things him and some others want to do is promote the SEAC model and remove the potential of reinventing the wheel and having so many different committees working on the same work, and to essentially encourage more uniformity throughout the region. One of the issues that was brought up was in regards to the quick and easy permitting of AB-2188. John therefore asked Duncan about what he has experienced.
 - Duncan explained that one of the behaviors he has heard of happening with some of the contractors now is that they can get quick and easy permitting, and that there is an instance of this being used as a marketing technique. For example, a contractor will pull a permit and hit on the home owner to say 'look I have a permit already for the installation of PV on your roof, do you want to move forward with it?'
 - This came as a shock to him as an installer because it causes dismay for a home owner who initially never applied for the permit and now if they don't move forward with the installation, the installer goes back to the municipality and asks for his money back on the permit because the job isn't going forward.
 - The question this now raises is how can you deter the bad actors while not penalizing the folks who are playing by the rules regarding pulling permits?
 - Duncan would like to get input and comments on whether anyone is actually seeing this type of behavior occurring down here in the South land? And are there any techniques that

you have managed to implement that would otherwise undermine or deter, the bad actors without discouraging the actors who are playing by the rules?

- Steve Jones said that he is not experiencing any of that from the City of Oceanside.
- Mostafa Kashe has seen many duplicate permits from the same address so they reach out to the homeowner to ask them to choose who they are going with, and they have even seen where the home owner comes in saying they never even signed the permit application.
- To confirm, once the plan check has been done, the jurisdiction does not refund the fee.
- John says that should deter the bad contractors because they have to pay the permit fee first and can't ask for a refund.
- The agreement was that this is not epidemic here in the South.
- John suggested to look at the Solar Permitting GuideBook (SPGB) for prospective documents on the application process. Believes an update is being provided to maintain the SPGB by the OPR.
- Proposal is for SEAC to provide the technical portion and input of the different stakeholders to making these changes. All those who contributed to the SPGB are members of SEAC.

Agenda Item # 5: New Business

- Steve mentioned that the group are reviewing documents submitted to them by Howard regarding how they do business going forward, and making sure that we are all in agreement on moving forward with the funding from SoCALREN so we can meet all the commitments of this group going forward. This means some reorganizing and restricting of SEAC and some of them are coming up with Operational Rules for the group.
- Steve also mentioned that City of Oceanside will be hosting a free training event for IREC tentatively on February 10th 2017.
- Next SEAC meeting will be held on February 16, 2017. Details will be sent out in due course.

Action Items

1. John Taecker: To provide SANDIA / DOE link to ESS work and to provide TIAs to group.
2. Mostafa Kashe/Alan Fields: To continue working on finalizing the ESS Plancheck Checklist.
3. Jim Cahill: To continue working on finalizing the ESS Inspection Guidelines.
4. John Taecker: To continue working on finalizing the ESS FAQ Information Bulletin.

Closing: Meeting was adjourned.