



Final MTAB Meeting Notes

June 30, 2023

Virtual Meeting

Review June 8 Meeting Notes

Margie Gardner opened the June 30 meeting with introductions. She reviewed the agenda and called for any changes to the previous meeting notes. There were no changes.

2024 Budget Presentation & Discussion

Margie Gardner explained the process of working through the comments on the budget from MTAB members and CalMTA responses. This included noting that an alternate budget proposal has been developed. This option would add a stage gate to release \$4.5 million of the funds for program pilots later in the year when more information is available after review and by the MTAB and approval by the CPUC project manager.

Jim Giordano presented CalMTA's process for creating responses to comments and recommendations and summarized updates/changes to the budget based on that feedback.

Department-Level Updates

Jim Giordano summarized responses related to the Operations section of the budget. Stacey Hobart covered the Stakeholder Engagement/Communications deliverables as well as comments from MTAB members and responses. Likewise, Jeff Mitchell summarized the deliverable detail on MTI Development and the comments and responses.

Comments and questions from MTAB members included:

- NEEA's labor expenses are relatively similar to CalMTA in that most of the staff are higher-paid employees with specific skills.
- Expressed interest in moving initiatives to market as soon as possible.
- Asked whether contracting mechanisms were in place to procure services for special testing or research that may be needed.

Overall Budget Discussion

The MTAB discussed the potential process for a stage gate option on approving the \$4.5M of program pilot funds. Questions raised include:

- How would CalMTA work with the CPUC project manager on approval?
- Does the CPUC project manager have the authority to approve the additional budget?
- What does the CPUC think about putting these proposals in front of a review group and having that be the gate check? There was further discussion about the risks and benefits of a public process over other options.
- Whether a Tier 1 Advice Letter (AL) would suffice to release the additional funds and could include a compliance or budget update report showing how CalMTA met the requirements explained in the ABAL.
- If there was going to be a gated process for the release of funds by the CPUC project manager, the commission would need to put together specific criteria that needed to be met to release those funds. What would those criteria be?
- Appreciation for the desire to increase transparency. If transparency is the goal, then who are we working to provide transparency to, and does adding a stage gate do that?
- Whether the stage gate would release the entire balance of the program testing budget or would be parsed out as the Advancement Plans are finalized?

Christie Torok explained that the concern is about the lack of specificity on the MTIs in the current budget. The detail would come with the Advancement Plans, which will be available later in the year and that would allow a more thoughtful recommendation. She added that she understood the challenge of developing criteria. The public filing or a comment-period webinar process may be option and suggested that these ideas be considered. She welcomed other ideas and emphasized that we do want to maintain transparency and ensure that everyone has a chance for input.

Margie called for a straw poll on how the MTAB members thought CalMTA should proceed.

- Fred Gordon advocated for a public review knowing that the CPUC could object if they were not satisfied.
- Haley Goodson favored some transparency when it's better known how the budget would be spent, but without a gate, which would add complexity. It was clarified that an MTAB meeting would be considered a public forum.
- Peter Miller agreed with Haley's idea that a procedural vote focused on process would be more appropriate rather than a formal gate.
- Ky-An Tran supported a gate process with a Tier 1 AL, which would be deemed approved if no protest within 30 days. It was clarified that if there was a protest, it would be disposed through the decision.
- Jeff Harris said that the more process steps we take, the longer things will take. .

It was suggested that more discussion is needed to reach a conclusion on the stage gate process and that process would need to be understood before the MTAB could vote. It was requested that a more fully developed description of the proposed stage-gate process be shared including timelines, appeals process, CPUC staff's obligations and timing. Margie said that staff would work with Christie and Ky-An to describe the alternative(s) in detail and provide to MTAB members to consider as they make their recommendations.

She confirmed that we need rules on how a CPUC staff person could approve the gated funds. She said that regardless of the path, we need to clarify with the CPUC what is feasible.

RFI Status and Next Steps

Margie explained that CalMTA has been promoting the Request for Ideas, which closes on 8/18. Once that closes, staff will work on scoring and providing the MTAB members with a summary at the Sept. 8 meeting (four-hour virtual meeting). She suggested that another meeting be scheduled for early October to address the "front runner" proposals. On Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, there will be an in-person meeting to discuss the draft disposition report and the Advancement Plans.

Public Comment

Lynette Curthoys (Resource Innovations) commented as a member of the executive team at Resource Innovations about the need to get sufficient public input, but also to be able to act quickly given the ambitious schedule.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attendees

MTAB Members

Cyane Dandridge, Strategic Energy Innovations
Haley Goodson, TURN
Fred Gordon, Energy Trust of Oregon
Jeff Harris, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
Randall Higa, Southern California Edison
Peter Miller, Natural Resources Defense Council
Christie Torok, California Public Utilities Commission
Ky-An Tran, California Public Advocates

Staff and Consultants

Taqua Ammar, CalMTA (administered by Resource Innovations)
Lynette Curthoys, Resource Innovations
Margie Gardner, CalMTA (administered by Resource Innovations)

Jim Giordano, CalMTA (administered by Resource Innovations)
Stacey Hobart, CalMTA (administered by Resource Innovations)
Karen Horkitz, Consultant to CADMUS on the CalMTA team
Jeff Mitchell, CalMTA (administered by Resource Innovations)
Nils Strindberg, CalMTA (administered by Resource Innovations)

Guests

Ari Isaak, EvariLABS
Bruce Lindsay, Trane Technologies
Dorene Maniccia, Consultant
Patrick Ngo, Lincus
Willis White, Solar-oversight.com
Carol Yin, ETCC