

CITY OF RIVERSIDE

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Minutes of: Special Meeting of the Board of Public Utilities
Date of Meeting: May 8, 2019
Time of Meeting: 6:00 p.m.
Place of Meeting: Art Pick Council Chambers
3900 Main Street (at Main and Tenth Streets)
Riverside, California

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG WAS GIVEN

Roll Call

Present: Jo Lynne Russo-Pereyra (Chair) Elizabeth Sanchez-Monville (Vice Chair)
Dave Austin David Crohn
Jeanette Hernandez Ana Miramontes
Gil Ocegüera Jennifer O'Farrell

Absent: Andrew Walcker (absence due to business)

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

1 None.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

1 Conduct a workshop to discuss the status of residential electric vehicles in the City of Riverside, residential electric rates offered to customers to support electric vehicle charging, and options for programs to support residential electric vehicles

Utilities Principal Resources Analyst Tracy Sato gave a presentation overview of Residential EVs in Riverside; currently offered RPU rates supporting EVs; and funding and options for EV rebates and programs and answered questions from the Board.

The following are the comments and recommendations representing consensus of the Board:

Basic comments:

- Electric vehicles (EVs) are a part of RPU's and the utility industries future.
- The RPU TOU rates provide an incentive for EVs.

General Program Guidance

- Rebates should be provided for customers who have made a commitment to EVs with the purchase of some type of equipment (e.g. a level 2 EV charger) or paid for upgrades to their homes.
- All rebates will require the customer to provide information and it is appropriate to do so to ensure compliance and justify the rebates.

Analysis requests/direction for outreach

- Prepare a feasibility study
- Identify lessons learned from the state and other agencies
- Provide a customer survey to identify what they would like
- Target commuters

Direction and comments to address concerns for low income customers

- Concern was expressed regarding the cost for low-income customer to install equipment to utilize the benefit of the EV-TOU rate.
- Concern was expressed that current benefits and rebates offered by the State and Federal agencies are for new cars only. Low income customers are not likely to purchase a new car and therefore, would not be able to receive this benefit.
 - A rebate for used EVs
- The federal tax credit is not always available to lower income customers because they do not have a tax liability that would allow them to benefit from it. (e.g. To receive the tax credit, a tax filer must have a tax liability that exceeds the tax credit.)

Direction and comments to address public EV charging

- There is a lack of publicly accessible EV charging in terms of number of EV chargers, locations, and whether they reliably available and working.
- There is a need for more direct current fast chargers (DCFC).
- Locations for public charging should include public locations such as the Galleria at Tyler shopping center, new convention center, hotels and all new buildings. Additionally, charging for multi-family is recommended.
- Public charging should not be free. Customers should pay for the electricity.
- Recommend providing a rebate to install public charging stations.

Recommendations for education

- EV customers need to educate themselves as to what is needed to own an EV.
- RPU can assist in providing customers with EV information.
 - Help customers understand rebates, what they are and how to get them.
 - Provide a clearinghouse for rebates.
 - Create a checklist of everything needed to install EV charging in the home.
- Create an application for mobile phones to help EV drivers find charging stations.
- Provide information to the auto dealers on the things for EV customers to consider when purchasing an EV and the types of rebates available to their customers.

Additional comments/questions

- RPU can coordinate and work with City departments to make it easy to get an EV charger installed.
- The building code requires construction of infrastructure for EVs, is there more we can do.
- Homeowners also need rebates to help with the costly upgrades needed to support EV charging in homes, particularly older homes.
- Existing EV owners – early adopters – should also receive some type of benefit.
- Are there options to create charging using solar?
- Will the completion of the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project reduce the need to shift EV charging away from times of peak use?
- Concern was expressed regarding the circuits in the Riverside Auto Center and ensuring that RPU can support the EVs that may need to rely on that area.

Following discussion, the Board of Public Utilities:

1. Received and filed the report on the status of residential electric vehicles in the City of Riverside, residential electric rates offered to customers to support electric vehicle charging, and options for programs to support residential electric vehicles;
2. Conducted a workshop and, at its conclusion, provided a set of comments and recommendations representing consensus of the Board on preferred programs and rebates to support residential electric vehicles; and
3. Directed staff to present to the Board and to the City Council in six months a proposed residential electric vehicle rebate program.

Motion – Miramontes. Second – O'Farrell.

Ayes: Russo-Pereyra, Sanchez-Monville, Austin, Crohn, Hernandez, Miramontes, O'Farrell, and Ocegüera.

Absent: Andrew Walcker (absence due to business).

UPCOMING MEETING

Chair Russo-Pereyra adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:42 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities will be on Monday, June 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Art Pick Council Chamber, Riverside, California and a special meeting of the Board of Public Utilities will be on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room, on the 7th Floor of City Hall at 3900 Main Street, Riverside, California.

By: 

Todd M. Corbin, Secretary
Board of Public Utilities

Approved by: City of Riverside Board of Public Utilities

Dated June 10, 2019