

GPCA COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 8, 2023, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM via Zoom

(1) Roll call: (5 mins)

There are currently 13 CC committee members. Quorum is a simple majority of 7.

Attendees: Dave Grover, Susan Chunco, David Cobb, Laura Wells, Mica Daniels, Greg Jan, Charisse Codero, Nassim Nouri

Late: Christine Pepin, Phoebe Thomas Sorgen (time not recorded))

Quorum achieved at: 7:35pm

(2) Roles (4 mins):

Roles for CC Call on May 8, 2023 (changed due to May Day):

Facilitator: Nassim Nouri

Note Taker: Dave Grover

Timekeeper: Mica Daniel

Vibes watcher: all

(3) Approval of Agenda (3 mins)

(3a) Late items:

Discussion Item: GP-US International Committee - See item (9) below

Phoebe's verbal report was **moved to item #6** due to personal time constraint(s)

(4) Approval of CC April minutes (2 mins) as posted to the CC email list by Mica Daniel on 4/26/23, 10:53PM

04/26/23 minutes with added appendices as described by Greg Jan

Approved by consensus

(5) Consent Items (5 mins)

Background and Purpose: The consent calendar is intended to pass non-controversial items or items consented prior to the actual meeting. Any item may be objected to, and that item will be placed at the end of the evening's agenda.

Proposal: Accept the following committee reports (CC liaisons are noted) for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

- Bylaws and Rules (Mimi Newton, interim, non-CC member) - **Appendix A**
- Candidates (Greg Jan) - **Appendix B**
- Communications (Nassim Nouri) - **Appendix C**
- Finance (Mica Daniel) - **Appendix D**
- Membership and Outreach (Rick Greenblatt/Laura Wells) - **Appendix E**
- Policy & Platform (Mark Adams) - **Appendix F**
- General Assembly Planning (CC subcommittee) (David Grover) - **Appendix G**
- GP-US delegation from GPCA - **N/A**
- Proportional Representation Coalition report (David Cobb) - No notes this month. For updates, see <https://www.prorepcalition.org/News>

a. Policy & Platform (PPC) (Appendix F) missing decision for providing CC w/ policy announcement (**AB 358?**)

b. Nassim to update website "Rules & Regulations" correction for communications & suggests populating IT Team for Green Party Communication(s) efficiency.

Approved by consensus

(6) UPDATES and APPOINTMENTS (5 mins)

(6.a) Committee Appointments (N/A)

Phoebe's report indicated possible suspension by the International Committee (IC) for defending an individual's rights; Phoebe feels as though she's been "attacked" by IC since April 2023.

Nassim asked for more information and Phoebe explained further.

Affirmed by David Cobb

SGA ELECTION NOTE: See **Appendix H** for candidates in the current SGA (Standing General Assembly) election for CC and GP-US Delegation.

Discussion period is Monday, 5/1/23 through Sunday 6/11/23

Voting period is 6/12/23 through 6/18/23, 11:59 pm PDT

(6.b) 48 Hour Online CC Vote(s) and Results (N/A)

(6.c) Strategic Plan Calendar review

https://assets.nationbuilder.com/cagreens/pages/1677/attachments/original/1664662050/DR_AFT_GPCAWorkPlan2023-2025.pdf?1664662050

Calendar is completed up to Spring Delegate Distribution (See Excel Spreadsheet) July 1st is official due date, but has been late in the past according to Tarik

(6.d) Action Item Update (10 minutes)

- Rohan to update website with approved Feb. CC meeting minutes
- Nassim to update GPCA website with Spokesperson appointments and terms.
- Nassim to send the worksheet for calculating county delegate numbers to Greg, Laura, and Dave.
- Nassim and Greg to work on SGA timetable worksheet
- Greg to contact June Brashares to serve as SGA admin for a term of 4/2023-4/2025.
- Mica to contact Richard Gomez and John-Marc Chandonia to serve as SGA moderators for a term of 4/2023-4/2025.
- Mark to ask PPC to clarify what action they need for the Affordable Housing materials.
- Mark to ask PPC if they can draft a press release for the AB538 opposition, and if they want the CC to share that position through the legislative portal

(7) Decision Item: Nominate Jared Laiti to be the Liaison to the SOS

Sponsor: Laura Wells

Background and Purpose: The Liaison to the SOS has a two-year term which ends in June 2023. Jared Laiti is the current Liaison, and this is a proposal to nominate him for another two-year term. He has agreed to this nomination.

Proposal: That the CC nominate Jared Laiti to continue as the GPCA Liaison to the California Secretary of State, with the appointment to be confirmed at the June 10, 2023, General Assembly.

Implementation/Timeline/Resources: The item to confirm the nomination has been included in the GA Draft Agenda. See **Appendix I**.

References: GPCA Bylaws Section 4-7. Liaison to the Secretary of State

https://www.cagreens.org/bylaws-green-party-california#Section_4-7._Liaison_to_the_Secretary_of_State

- Bylaws presentation to take place of Treasurer appointment because current Treasurer's term is not up yet (Tarik will update)

Approved by consensus

(8) Decision Item: Approve General Assembly Draft Agenda for 6/10/23

Sponsor: Greg Jan

Background and Purpose: Our bylaws say that county Greens are to be sent a draft GA agenda at least 42 days before the GA -- which was done this past Saturday, April 29, for the upcoming June 10 GA. Our bylaws also say that the CC is to approve draft agendas for GA meetings. In addition, in the past, the CC has also approved changes to draft agendas prior to when those draft agendas were presented at the GA meeting itself. Plus, I checked with Tarik, of the Agenda Team, and he does not anticipate any further changes to that draft agenda that was sent out this past Saturday. Therefore, the CC should now approve that agenda. *(Note that the item to confirm Justin Richardson as Treasurer is to be deleted, since his term is not up, and a bylaws interpretation, if approved by the CC in the May 8 meeting, would need to be added.)*

Proposal: That the CC approve the June 10 draft agenda, see **Appendix I**

Implementation/Timeline/Resources: After it's approved (unless anyone else volunteers to do so), Greg will inform Tarik of the CC's approval within 2 days.

References:

- Draft agenda message to GPCA Inform List sent on 4/29/23, 8pm
- Bylaws (article 7): https://www.cagreens.org/bylaws-green-party-california#Article_7._General_Assembly

Approved

----- **LATE ITEMS SUBMITTED TO THE CC**

(9) Discussion Item: GP-US International Committee

Sponsor: Phoebe Thomas Sorgen

Background and Purpose: I'd like to give a brief report about what's been happening on the International Committee of the GP-US, which is time sensitive. I was hoping it would "blow over," but there are efforts afoot that could stifle our state's voice on that committee. I will send more info prior to our meeting on Monday.

Proposals:

- Meanwhile, please consider serving on the IC, or recruiting people you think would work collaboratively who have at least a modicum of international experience. See below for suggested qualifications.
- Also, please let me know if you'd consider attending the 1st in person Global Greens Congress in 6 years which will be in Korea in June. Though the GP-US is no longer a member, or even an observer, of the only international coalition of Green Parties, individual US Greens may still attend: <https://globalgreens.org/>

References:

<https://gpus.org/committees/international/committee-rules/#membership>

The following criteria are recommended to be taken into account by state parties and caucuses when selecting IC Members:

2-1.3(a) Familiarity with the Global Green Charter and the GPUS Platform

2-1.3(b) Expertise in a topic or region of relevance to international and/or global and and/or foreign policy issues

2-1.3(c) Foreign language skills

2-1.3(d) Experience in international diplomacy

2-1.3(e) Familiarity with GPUS and state Green Party procedures

2-1.3(f) Commitment to Green process, respectful communication, and tolerance

2-1.3(g) Organizational skills.

Discussion item

(10) Decision Item: Bylaws Interpretation to include a platform amendment proposal to the current Standing General Assembly (SGA) vote during the discussion period.

Sponsor: Laura Wells

Background: The Platform and Policy Committee requested in October 2022 that a platform amendment proposal be included in the next SGA. It was not remembered during the preparation for the June 2023 SGA. On May 1, 2023, the elections of members of the Coordinating Committee and the GP-US delegation were announced and the discussion period began. The Platform Committee posted the proposed amendment to the SGA discussion list on the second day of the discussion period, May 2, 2023. With the approval of this bylaw interpretation, the discussion period for this item would be reduced by less than two days out of the six weeks as specified in the current bylaws.

Proposal: Adopt a Bylaws Interpretation to include the platform amendment proposal in the current SGA vote.

References:

Platform Amendment Proposal: See **Appendix J**

Text of the announcement to be sent to the SGA (as an official follow-up to the proposal that was sent on May 2): See **Appendix K**

GPCA Bylaws:

Section 7-6. Online Voting

https://www.cagreens.org/bylaws-green-party-california#Section_7-6._Online_Voting

Section 12-3 Bylaws Interpretation

https://www.cagreens.org/bylaws-green-party-california#Section_12-3._Bylaws_Interpretation

Implementation/Timeline:

Following CC adoption of the bylaws interpretation, it needs to be added to the draft agenda for the GA for confirmation.

SGA Administrators need to be informed to include the proposal in the process where needed.

Approved by consensus

Next Meeting: 06/05/23

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Bylaws and Rules Committee meeting minutes - Sun 4/9/23

Attendees: Mimi Newton (co-co, note-taker), James Lauderdale

Any significant actions the Committee is taking:

The Bylaws and Rules Committee has updated the Rules and Procedures of the Green Party of California to reflect the new Committee organization within the Party. We are also planning two General Assembly items - one on decision-making "post-pandemic" and another regarding rank choice voting and instant run off voting under the bylaws.

Next Meeting: Sunday, May 14, 2023, at 12:30 pm pacific.

APPENDIX B

Candidates Committee meeting minutes - Sat, 4/29, 10:00 am

1 - Attendees: Greg Jan and Christopher Lozinski

2 - Local "non-partisan" elections (such as City Council, School Board, Water District, etc.)
-- Greg found a "Google search" page that gives lots of links to websites with "tips" on how to run for office, here: [tips running OR run for office - Google Search](#) However, in order to identify the best websites for our needs, he needs help with reviewing the various websites there, so he'll soon send out a request to that effect. (And of course, anyone else who finds a website that might be of use to "new candidates", please let us know about that!).

3 - "Partisan" elections for state legislature, U.S. House of Representatives, and U.S. Senate -
- The Peace and Freedom Party is interested in discussing these races with us, toward again possibly fielding a "Left Unity Slate". So, we'll soon be setting up a meeting with them.

4 - President -- As previously mentioned, the GPCA delegation to the GPUS will take the lead regarding placing Green Party candidates onto California's Presidential primary ballot, as well as with facilitating the selection of California delegates to the national Green Party's Presidential Nominating Convention. So future Candidates Committee reports will no longer mention next year's Presidential race (unless "something special arises").

5 - Next meeting(s) -- We will now go back to meeting on the 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 am, so our next meeting will be held on May 27.

APPENDIX C

Communications Committee meeting minutes, Tuesday 4/25, 6:30pm

1- Attendees: Laura Wells, Mica Daniel, Jacob Harkey, Nassim Nouri

2- Meeting roles: Nassim facilitator & notes

3- Media (LW)- [Press Releases & announcements](#)

- Nothing scheduled or planned.

- CC/Comms have not yet received a draft announcement from PPC on AB538

4- CH - [GPCAMerchandise & Lit](#)

Newsletter schedule (NN) blasts are to the entire contact DB unless noted to 'inform' list

— 3/27 - Inform email - call for CC / GPUS Delegation candidates (20% open)

— 3/29 - Inform email - Green Sunday Jill/Howie Ukraine war (21% open)

— 3/30 - Principled Struggle webinar endorsement (18% open)

— 4/5 - Green Sunday Jill/Howie Ukraine war (16% open)

— 4/7 - Inform email reminder - call for CC / GPUS Delegation candidates (20% open)

— 4/20 - Earth Day, Decolonizing, Banking on climate chaos report (15% open)

— 4/21 - Inform email reminder - call for CC / GPUS Delegation candidates (10% open)

— 5/1 - May Day

5- IT

- **IT tickets** - web updates (NN) 6 updates have been requested and done by Nassim and Rohan. Next are a series of updates to GPUS delegation webpage currently being decided on by the delegation.

- **SoS voter** data update (NN) - Sean is doing some data analysis on GP registration trends for MOC and will be working with Nassim to update the DB county by county soon.

- **website and server discussion - postponed without a lead**

6- Building the Comms team - PLEASE review [Internal Procedures](#)

Roles and jobs of the Communications Team

7-Next meeting: May 30, 6:30pm

APPENDIX D

Finance & Fundraising meeting minutes, Thu, 4/27/23, 8:00pm

(1) ROLL CALL: Justin Richardson, Mica Daniel

Absent: Susan Chunco

(2) Roles: Facilitator: Justin Richardson Note Taker: Mica Daniel Timekeeper: Vibes Watcher

(3) Approval of the Agenda

Approved by consensus

(4) Approval of the Finance Committee Minutes as posted by Mica Daniel to GPCA CC on March 27, 2023, @ 5:59 PM

Approved by consensus

(5) Review 2023 schedules and deadlines from FPPC when we need to turn in our forms:

Political Parties committees:

<http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/campaign-rules/where-and-when-to-file-campaign-statements/when-to-file-campaign-statements-state-local-filing-schedules.htm>

June 30, 2023

(6) GPCA Treasurer's Report - MARCH 2023

03/01-03/31/23 - Income

\$150.00 One-time donations (2)

\$391.50 Recurring monthly donations (36)

03/01-03/31/23 - Expenses

\$10.45 Call Centric

\$125.50 WiredTree / Liquid Web

\$300.00 Treasurer's stipend

\$60.00 ISP

\$20.00 Basecamp

\$14.86 PayPal fees

\$13.91 NationBuilder fees

3/31/23 - Account Balances

\$91.47 PayPal

\$1,107.91 Mechanics Bank (savings) Federal

\$21,378.93 Mechanics Bank (checking) State

(7) Updates and Announcements

Discussion: Regarding Fundraising as an ongoing item.

(8) Confirm next mtg. Thursday, May 25, 2023, from 8:00 PM until 9:00 PM

APPENDIX E

Membership and Outreach Committee meeting minutes – 4/11/23, 7:30 pm

1. Roles (5 min): Facilitator: Michael, Notetaker: Michael, Timekeeper: Michael

2. Roll Call (2 min): Rick Greenblatt (San Diego), Stafanos Makris (San Diego), Michael Shin (Orange), Sean Dougherty (Santa Cruz), Richard Gomez (Fresno), Laura Wells (Alameda)

3. Adopt agenda (5 min): Adopted

4. Review last month's minutes & actions (2 min): No comments.

5. County reports (15 min)

- Members reported activities from their county.
- Sean asked for information on emailing products.
- Michael is sharing a GSOP video where Chris Blankenhorn discusses NationBuilder, Action Network, Mailchimp, etc. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQsIOvjzU4>

6. Voter registration data (Sean, 10 min)

- Sean presented registered voter data, showing how Greens apparently changed their party affiliation over the years.
 - Sean and Stafanos will get more data and continue data analysis.
- 7. MOC at the crossroads (20 min)**
- Members discussed what to do with the County activation procedures document draft.
 - Members discussed the duties of MOC that we don't yet have the capacity to perform.
- 8. Next meeting (5 min) (5/9 – 7:30pm)**
- 9. Announcements (5 min)**
- Rick Greenblatt will email out the call for candidates for the Coordinating Committee of the GPCA.
- 10. Adjourned 8:40 pm**

APPENDIX F

Policy & Platform Committee meeting minutes, 4/27/23, 7:00pm

Attendees: Shane Que Hee, Eric Brooks, Mark Adams, Peggy Koteen

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Zoom Meeting

Policy/Platform

3. Coordinating Committee Report – Mark Adams brought CC request to PP Committee to decide whether PP Committee or CC will establish an account on the CA State Legislative Portal.
4. AB 538 (Holden - Electricity Grid Regionalization) seeks to take control of California's electricity grid out of the hands of our state grid manager, the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and put it in the hands of a larger western states grid operator network that is far more fossil fuel industry friendly. AB 538 would also give the Federal Government under its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) direct control of California's electricity grid. This would pose a grave threat to California's renewable energy mandates. The bill is nearly identical to AB 813 which the GPCA opposed in 2018.
5. GPCA Position on Affordable Housing – CC has asked the PP to submit this platform in the proper proposal format.
6. AB 1400/AB1690 (California Nurses Association Universal Health Care Initiatives): Discuss support for new AB 1690 (Replaces AB 1400).

Minutes:

1. Approval of agenda by consensus
2. By consensus, PP discussed and agreed to request that the CC establish the account on the CA State Legislative Portal. The PP can use their account if the CC does not have the resources.
3. By consensus, the PP Committee recommends the CC take an immediate position on AB 528 and has decided a possible public communication will be appropriate when the bill comes out of legislative committee. The PP Committee is willing to write any future public communication.
4. The PP Committee has heard the CC's request for submission in proper format. By consensus, the PP Committee would like to revise the platform again and resubmit it soon after the May 25 PP Committee Meeting, in the proper format, after further discussion by PP Committee members.
5. PP Committee decided by consensus to review AB 1690 and discuss once text of the bill is available, which is expected by June 2023.

Next Meeting: May 25, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

APPENDIX G

General Assembly Planning (CC subcommittee) minutes, 4/19/23, 6:00pm

Attendees: (4) - Dave Grover (note-taker), Tarik Kanaana, Laura Wells, Mimi Newton

Discussion Item(s): Set GA Agenda for June 10, 2023, General Assembly (including appointments & Call for Candidate(s))

Decision(s): Develop & distribute rough draft of GA Agenda for approval

Next Meeting: 5/17/23 unless specific issues warrant an extra meeting of GA Subcommittee with individuals or groups that may alter the approved agenda

APPENDIX H

GP-US Delegation applicants (for 9 delegate & 8 alternate seats):

Mike Cordova
Ann Garrison
Rick Greenblatt
David Grover
Greg Jan
Orlando Johnson
Jon Mann
Don Manro
Rohan Sabnis
Cynthia Santiago
Phoebe Sorgen
Pam Spevack

Coordinating Committee (CC) applicants (for 6 female & 6 any gender seats):

Bill Balderston
David Cobb
Ann Garrison
Richard Gomez
Greg Jan
Jon Mann
Mimi Newton
Christine Pepin
Lindsay Vurek
Audra Walton

APPENDIX I

As sent via GPCA Inform List on Saturday, 4/29/23 about 8:00pm, subject "June 10, 2023, General Assembly Draft Agenda"

APPENDIX J

ENERGY, CLIMATE & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

SPONSOR: Policy and Platform Standing Group

PRESENTERS/CONTACTS: Shane Que Hee, squehee@ucla.edu; Eric Brooks
brookse32@hotmail.com

SUBJECT: Energy, Climate & Community Resilience in the Energy and Earth Stewardship pillar. Personal and global responsibility, ecological wisdom, and sustainability are the involved 10 Key Values of the GP.

Background

Our civilization's destructive dependence on capitalist economics, greenhouse gas-emitting fossil fuels and animal agriculture is rapidly destroying the local and global biospheres on which all life and the human species depend. Scientists are now calling this crisis the Sixth Global Mass Extinction, the first mass extinction in history caused by one species - humans. Immediate,

rapid, and sustained cuts and drawdowns of greenhouse gas emissions from both fossil fuels and animal agriculture are imperative to reverse catastrophic climate effects.

There is now a strong global scientific consensus that deforestation and destruction of ocean life are together bringing about serious global climate warming and disruption. Because we have waited far too long to begin reversing this crisis, we now face a planet on which we can no longer fully avoid a catastrophic environmental collapse. Unprecedented polar and glacial melting, violent storm and flooding events, longer droughts, severe heat waves, more fierce wildfires, and mass human and animal migrations have already occurred and continue.

Science is now showing us that a radical and very rapid energy and land use transition is essential within the next decade if we are to avoid a mass extinction so severe that it could destroy almost all life on Earth and even drive humans to extinction.

Dramatic, immediate changes in how and where we generate and use energy are key to this transition.

Wasteful industrial, agricultural, and corporate energy use and emissions produce a majority of climate crisis impacts, and while responsibility for our personal energy use is important, it is even more important to dramatically change the behavior of these industrial and corporate interests.

In 2008, the Green Party and other organizations and leaders originated the Green New Deal strategy to undertake a 1930s 'New Deal' scale transformation, but in the 21st century. centered not just on reducing wealth divides, but on reversing the global climate and extinction crisis.

California must phase out all fossil fuels (including transportation and military fuels) and replace them with 100% clean renewable energy sources and use by 2035. The state, and local communities must aggressively publicly fund and deploy many strategies and resources to achieve this unprecedented radical Green New Deal transition including all school students at all age levels being well educated on climate crisis threats and solutions.

Efficiency & Energy Use Reduction

The least expensive and easiest first transition is to reduce energy use, and greatly increase efficiency in our industries, devices, and homes.

Key energy efficiency and reduction strategies include:

- | Full electrification of all industry, transportation, and home energy use, while ensuring that true renewables like wind, solar, and geothermal electricity generation power our electrified devices and systems.
- | Returning to reusable packaging and containers (instead of wasting energy to recycle them) and greatly reducing product and shipping packaging.
- | Reducing our consumption of animal products as much as possible. These products require far more energy use to produce far fewer calories and less nutrition per energy unit than more efficient plant-based alternatives.
- | Redesigning and restructuring our communities to be far more walkable and bikeable, and to center automotive transportation on mass transit and rail rather than personal cars, trucks and air travel. (Personal electric powered automobiles must be minimized because their manufacture and use require far more resources at far higher cost,

transport far less efficiently, produce far more waste and pollution, and delay reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that can be more rapidly reduced by a transition to mass transit.)

- | Coordinating local home and community electricity use to shift the times of day when high energy demand devices are used, to times of lower electricity demand (Demand Response). Further coordinate these device use changes through local computer smart grids that automatically coordinate them.
- | Redesigning and restructuring our renewable electricity generation, storage and use to be far more localized and decentralized, so that households and communities are more self-sufficient and resilient with energy generated as closely as possible to where it is used. This makes homes, neighborhoods, and communities more resilient and protected from electricity outages. It also reduces the need for expensive, habitat destructive and wildfire dangerous long-range transmission lines.

Local, Decentralized, & Renewable Energy Use & Storage

While some large, industrial scale solar, wind, and geothermal energy generation, delivered over long distance power lines will be needed in our energy transition, to the greatest extent possible renewable energy generation and use should be as diverse and as close as possible to the people, communities and industries served thus producing local community resilience, jobs and other community benefits. This reduces large scale energy losses delivered over long-range power lines (5 to 15% is lost) and also minimizes the centralized control of our energy sources and grid by private corporations. Localizing and decentralizing democratizes our energy sources, decision-making, and use.

Diverse, local, decentralized clean energy buildout plans must be centered on creating coordinated community and nearby regional networks of interlinked renewable electricity generation, electrified buildings and transit, battery and other storage, energy efficiency (including heat pumps), and smart microgrid installations* to provide the best and cleanest possible uninterrupted energy independence and resiliency. Such uninterrupted community-based energy networks are known as “Virtual Power Plants”).

Private vs Community Power

California's failed attempt to deregulate energy utilities showed the dangers of investing our energy future in the hands of an energy market committed only to maximizing profits. Private deregulation has failed to produce promised rate reductions for residents, and instead has caused bills to soar. Under deregulation, many of the state's utility generation facilities were sold to out-of-state companies who then sold that power on the open free market at exorbitant profits. Since Municipal Utility Districts and other community based and public regional power agencies run more efficiently at lower cost and provide better customer service than monopoly ‘Investor-Owned Utilities’ a dramatic shift to government funded community based and owned, decentralized clean and renewable energy is needed.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is corrupt and controlled by private utility and industry capture, and greatly favors privatized for-profit energy control and delivery, while placing barriers in the path of rooftop solar and other community based clean energy because these compete with the monopoly corporations. The CPUC, instead of being appointed by the Governor, should be transformed into a more democratic, publicly elected Citizens Utility Board to coordinate energy generation and use statewide. This board should prioritize and subsidize

localized, decentralized, community based, clean and renewable energy generation and use, and should promote and subsidize rooftop solar panel installation.

Climate, Energy & Economic Justice

California's most economically vulnerable communities are also the most vulnerable to both air pollution from fossil fuel energy burning and climate crisis impacts such as heat waves, electricity blackouts, wildfire smoke, and sea level rise. Such communities also face major hurdles in their economic ability to adopt rooftop solar, storage, microgrids, and other clean energy advances that would save money, improve local air quality, and bolster resiliency from electricity shutoffs. The GPCA supports local clean energy buildout plans which prioritize these frontline communities to be first in line for clean energy installations, with the local union jobs and local business opportunities that they provide. The GPCA calls on all jobs in the Green New Deal transition to be union jobs.

The GPCA strongly supports the rights of frontline communities, indigenous communities and others, to protest and engage direct action to halt any and all polluting energy extraction and use, to protect both their own communities and the global biosphere. We call on all courts and judges to recognize that such protests and direct action constitute legal self-defense, and defense of others and the environment, and call on legal systems to release and financially compensate all people who have been harmed, jailed or imprisoned for engaging in such acts. The GPCA condemns as illegal private interests contracting with public law enforcement and/or using their own private security to police such protests.

Existing True Renewable & Ecological Solutions vs Techno-Fixes & Geoengineering

For decades sufficient, truly clean, renewable, energy and efficiency technologies, and ecological restoration strategies have already been available and could have been used long ago to transition the Earth to 100% clean end carbon free energy use, while reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Claims in the media and from polluting industries that new 'right around the corner' technologies are somehow needed to make the transition to a clean energy world are false, and are being used to purposely mislead the public against, and to delay, the roll-out of existing technologies like solar, wind and geothermal electricity generation, paired with traditional energy efficiency and battery and other energy storage, to bring us a 100% carbon free energy system by mid-century at the latest and potentially even within one or two decades.

The GPCA opposes such false 'solutions' including: nuclear power (including so called 'third generation' and 'small' 'modular' nuclear), carbon capture and storage (CCS), carbon trading/credits, geoengineering (such as seeding the atmosphere or the oceans with molecules designed to alter them or reduce global heating), fusion, cold fusion, biofuels, 'renewable' diesel, biomass, biochar, biogas, seaweed biomass, algae fuels, hydrogen (including 'green' hydrogen), forest 'thinning', genetically engineered energy crops and organisms, 'waste to energy' schemes (including pyrolysis and anaerobic digestion), so called 'regenerative' or 'holistic' livestock grazing, and many others.

These so called 'solutions' are almost invariably expensive, dangerous, environmentally destructive, often increase (rather than reduce) greenhouse gas emissions and cannot be developed soon enough or cost effectively enough to impact immediate climate crisis tipping points which must be reversed now, not later with future technologies. The GPCA calls for a halt to all subsidies (including government insurance coverage and bankruptcy bailouts) for these

technologies, and for an aggressive rollout of existing, low-cost technologies, transportation solutions (and ecological solutions such as reforestation, ocean restoration, and a shift to more plant-based diets) to reverse the climate crisis.

Particularly problematic are strategies that would reduce global heating while not reducing actual CO₂ levels in the atmosphere. Reducing heating while not reducing CO₂ would allow continued acidifying of waterbodies and the oceans, thereby destroying key microbes which absorb CO₂ and produce a majority of the Earth's breathable oxygen.

Both agriculture and forest based 'bio' energy, and so called 'regenerative' livestock grazing are also very problematic because their use at large scales require vast transitional expansions of land use (also known as Indirect Land Use Change) which forces existing land uses elsewhere leading to deforestation, and worse (not better) greenhouse gas outcomes.

Hydroelectric Power

Large hydroelectric dam power generation brings with it a host of serious environmental problems including: large scale habitat destruction to create reservoirs, covering with water vast land areas that could instead be restored to become greenhouse gas absorbing wildlife habitat, loss of precious water due to evaporation from standing reservoirs, drastic interference with river/stream habitats and wildlife, and devastation of salmon and other threatened and endangered species. Contrary to outdated assumptions, new science is showing that hydroelectric dams release substantially higher greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere than was previously believed due to factors such as methane-emitting biological activity caused by rotting vegetation.*** For these reasons, the GPCA does not consider large hydroelectric power from dams/reservoirs to be clean or renewable and supports their most rapidly achievable phased removal. However, the GPCA considers hydropower from natural waterfalls, rapids, ocean waves, and tidal bores to be renewable.

Natural Gas (Methane)

Since the climate crisis was first recognized, it has been incorrectly claimed by industry and even many environmentalists that natural gas (methane) burning is somehow less carbon emitting than coal and oil burning. Updated science now clearly shows that because of extensive leaking of natural gas as it is drilled, mined, transported, and used, it is no less greenhouse gas polluting than coal or oil burning and in some cases is even more climate polluting, especially in the case of fracking (hydraulic fracturing) which is one of the most expensive and environmentally destructive methods of fossil fuel energy production. Because methane is nearly 90 times more effective at trapping heat in the Earth's atmosphere than CO₂, near-term dramatic reduction of methane releases from energy production and animal agriculture is vital to reversing the climate crisis.

[Note: Delete the current stand-alone GPCA platform plank "Fracking" <http://www.cagreens.org/platform/fracking> and replace it here in the Energy, Climate, & Community Resilience plank, with the following text:]

Fracking, Shale, & Tar Sands Energy Mining

The GPCA strongly opposes fracking and other high intensity energy extraction as an incredibly environmentally destructive industry, and as an economic and energy-return-on-investment boondoggle.

In fracking (hydraulic fracturing) natural gas, oil or geothermal energy trapped in shale or rock, fuels are extracted by high pressure well injection of water containing sand, ceramics or other

“inert” materials forcing cracks in shale and rock to open releasing the fuels. Fracking injection water (often reused toxic industrial wastewater) usually contains toxic chemicals added purposely to aid in extracting fuels. Fracking also causes existing natural toxic and radioactive contaminants to be released from shale and rock. Added fracking chemicals are commonly not disclosed to government agencies and the public under the cover of being labeled ‘trade secrets.’ Fracking has also been shown to artificially trigger destructive earthquakes. Other high intensity methods of extraction of fuels that are very difficult to reach, or process include tar sands oil extraction and conventional shale extraction. In California, shale extraction often involves the use of toxic hydrofluoric acid.

These high intensity extraction methods tend to be even more damaging to the environment and water sources than traditional methods, and often cause a very high degree of methane leakage into the atmosphere, worsening the climate crisis. They are rarely economically or energy profitable, usually require financial investment higher than the actual profits made from selling the extracted fuels, and counterintuitively require more energy inputs than fossil fuel energy output produced. The fracking industry would not even exist without subsidies, bailouts and market manipulation.

The Obama administration vastly expanded fracking to increase domestic fuel production and to greatly reduce fossil fuel prices by creating a market supply glut, thereby deeply harming the economies of its oil and gas producing enemies such as Russia and Venezuela. The U.S. also pushed the expansion of fracking to become a global industry. Fracking wells now make up a majority of all new oil and gas wells both in the U.S. and worldwide. In California, most fracking is done for oil (both on-shore and off-shore) and has been increased under successive Democratic Party governors.

The GPCA demands that health professionals, government agencies and the public be allowed full immediate access to all information about the specific chemical and waste components of fracking fluids, as well as data on medical patients who may have been exposed to contamination from fracking.

COMMITTEE DECISION: The platform plank revisions were posted on the Platform list serve in 2022 on February 23 and 24, March 23, April 27, June 21, July 28, September 21 and 22, and October 27 plus the zoom meetings on the fourth Thursday of those months. The plank was also placed on gpc-forum@cagreens.org for comment and permission to send to the Inform list requested.

RESOURCES: This is a revised platform plank

* <https://microgridknowledge.com/microgrid-defined>

** <https://theecologist.org/2015/feb/05/false-solution-nuclear-power-not-low-carbon>

*** <https://www.popsci.com/environment/dams-release-sequester-carbon> and <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/nov/14/hydroelectric-dams-emit-billion-tonnes-greenhouse-gas-methane-study-climate-change>

APPENDIX K

Please send your discussion comments to sga@cagreens.org.

Discussion has begun for the following GPCA SGA ranked choice vote:

Ranked Choice Vote ID #247

Ranked Choice Vote Election: Approval of the "Energy, Climate & Community Resilience"
Platform Plank
Type Open Ballot
Discussion 05/01/2023 - 06/11/2023
Voting 06/12/2023 - 06/18/2023
Voting ends at Midnight Pacific Time
Choices Yes, No, Abstain

*** **ANNOUNCEMENT** ***

This is the discussion thread for ID# 247: Approval of the "Energy, Climate & Community Resilience" Platform Plank

The discussion period is six weeks from Monday, May 1 through Sunday, June 11, 2023, followed by a one-week voting period beginning June 12.

Background

This platform plank was posted to the SGA discussion list (sga@lists.cagreens.org) on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 9:53 pm. Prior to that, the plank revisions were posted to the Platform list serve at least 9 times between February 23 and October 27, 2022, and also to gpcforum@cagreens.org

According to section 7-2.3 of the GPCA bylaws, the platform may be amended by a vote of 2/3 of all 'yes' and 'no' votes cast (https://www.cagreens.org/bylaws-green-party-california#Section_7-2._Proposals).

Proposal: Delete the existing "Fracking" platform plank (here: <http://www.cagreens.org/platform/fracking>) and replace the existing "Energy" platform plank (here: <http://www.cagreens.org/platform/energy>) with the text of the attached platform plank entitled, "Energy, Climate & Community Resilience"

-END-