

November 11, 2014

Dear Supervisors Haggerty, Valle, Chan, Miley, and Carson

We write representing an alliance of groups who advocate for Community Choice energy programs as a powerful tool that local governments have for taking meaningful climate action while addressing other community needs. Potential benefits of Community Choice include: spurring economic development and clean energy jobs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, stabilizing or lowering the cost of electricity, improving community health and social equity, and providing other community benefits. Like any tool, the value comes from how it is used.

At the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on June 3 there was discussion regarding the importance of engaging community expertise and perspectives in the development of an Alameda County program. In particular, there was mention of a possible advisory structure or steering committee. We believe careful choice of any advisory or steering committee is important in designing a Community Choice program that will achieve community goals.

In particular, any public advisory or steering committee should be representative of the communities involved. Therefore, any Community Choice advisory or steering committee for Alameda County should be diverse with respect to gender, age, ethnicity, race, income level and geography in proportion to the population. We understand that the size of a committee will mean that perfect representation may not be possible so we also recommend that members represent organizations including major interest groups and Community Choice stakeholders, such as environmental and environmental justice organizations, social justice organizations, labor organizations, small business organizations, minority business organizations, green/sustainable/renewable business organizations, commercial businesses and developers, faith-based organizations, neighborhood organizations, health-based organizations, and youth organizations.

Some knowledge of how Community Choice programs are structured and how electricity is delivered is desirable, but we believe that the committee should be educated in these matters and recommend the document [\*East Bay Community Choice Energy: from Concept to Implementation\*](#) be part of the education process.

As in all public endeavors we believe that transparency is an essential guiding principle. In that regard we would like the selection process of the advisory or steering committee to be made publicly available. Transparent information about the process should include who will make the selections, the criteria, whether it is a point-scale or subjective evaluation, means of outreach to prospective applicants, and the timeline for outreach and selection.

Thank you for considering our recommendations. We look forward to participating in making the Community Choice program in Alameda County into one we can all be proud of.

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Sincerely,

**East Bay Clean Power Alliance\*:**

Local Clean Energy Alliance

Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter

Tri-Valley Progressives

Clean Energy & Jobs Oakland Campaign of the Oakland Climate Action Coalition

Community Choice Working Group of the Berkeley Climate Action Coalition

Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

Hayward Demos Democratic Club

Berkeley Climate Action Coalition

\* The East Bay Clean Power Alliance advocates for Community Choice energy programs in the East Bay that serve to spur equitable economic development and family-sustaining clean energy jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stabilize or lower the cost of electricity, improve community health and social equity, and provide other community benefits. We see the development of local renewable energy resources (including reduced consumption) as key to securing these benefits.

We also see engagement of the East Bay community, broadly and equitably, as central to achieving such goals, both in establishing the Community Choice program and in the governance structure of the program once it is set up.