



East Bay Clean Power Alliance
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April 1, 2019

Subject: 100% Renewable City Meters 15-20 year market contracts

Dear East Bay Community Energy Board of Directors,

East Bay Clean Power Alliance applauds the plans to begin rolling out the Local Development Early Action Items approved by East Bay Community Energy's Board of Director on July 18, 2018. However, we are concerned about the proposed, "Renewable energy for city meters," which was included in Mr. Ross' revised early actions for the fiscal year 2018-2019, but was not one of the original Early Actions Items in the Local Development Business Plan (LDBP).

The item for 100% renewable to city meters is a proposal to explore whether energy from new renewable projects could be supplied to city accounts at the same price as Brilliant 100. The anticipated conditions for this item to be feasible are that cities would need to sign 15-20 year contracts for the renewable energy and that at least some of the projects would likely have to be outside Alameda County.

Given these conditions, the Alliance does not see how this item can be considered any part of the "Local Development Business Plan," effort. Rather than working with cities in EBCE to incentivize local projects within local jurisdictions, which was the heart of community advocacy for the LDBP, this proposal substitutes at least some proportion of remotely-sited energy and locks cities into 15-20 year contracts.

The original early action item, from which this proposal was apparently derived, was for a pilot collaborative procurement program that would provide EBCE-managed Direct Access for large commercial and industrial customers.¹ That item was to entice large accounts to stay with EBCE, not go with an independent Direct Access provider. It was not about local development.

Switching the target to cities ties up municipal energy revenues in long term contracts, undercuts the motivation to achieve climate action goals through local renewable energy projects, and eliminates the many community benefits of those projects. Cities lose the local jobs and local economic investment. They lose the ability to do targeted development in low income communities and communities of color and thereby increasing economic, health and social equity in these communities. They lose the opportunity to increase local sustainability by developing renewable generation on the rooftops of essential services.

The 100% to city meters item subverts the collaborative procurement process, which originally was proposed to support a municipal Feed-in-Tariff and the Community Net Energy Metering item. The Alliance considers this new version a collaborative derailment of the Local Development Business Plan.

We urge the Board of Directors to rethink this proposed early action item. There is no short cut to achieving long-term sustainability in the face of climate change. The switch to clean energy must begin from within and be centered on developing local renewable energy resources in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Tovar", written in a cursive style.

Jessica Tovar, East Bay Clean Power Alliance

¹ <https://ebce.org/wp-content/uploads/Item-9-Approve-Local-Development-Business-Plan.pdf>; Attachment 9b, p.6