



East Bay Clean Power Alliance  
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Subject: Opposition to Nuclear Energy in EBCE's Mix

October 25, 2019

Dear East Bay Community Energy,

East Bay Clean Power Alliance was shocked to hear CEO, Nick Chaset, at the September 18 meeting of the EBCE Board, encourage Board members to be open to including nuclear in EBCE's energy portfolio. We suspect most East Bay ratepayers would be equally shocked, and if nuclear were to be included, would act accordingly by opting out. In addition, the use of Nuclear energy would be used as negative marketing and give opponents of Community Choice energy an example of how CCAs don't work.

The Alliance is strongly opposed to the idea of EBCE "being open" to the inclusion of nuclear power in its integrated resource plan. Furthermore, we can assure you that all of our member community organizations will join us in actively opposing the inclusion of nuclear power in EBCE's portfolio.

Mr. Chaset mentioned that as of now the agency has no policy on nuclear. From the beginning of discussions with County officials there was an assumption, sometimes explicitly stated, that our mix would not include nuclear power, a resource that was responsible for Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima nuclear disasters.

The hazards of nuclear power are so evident that it seems ridiculous that they would have to be re-stated, and the fact that California is closing its last nuclear power plant should be evidence enough that EBCE's portfolio should avoid nuclear energy. Nuclear energy can hardly be considered carbon-free, given the huge amount of energy expended in mining, processing, transport and, of course, last but not least, storage of radioactive waste. Each of those processes leaves traces of contamination and environmental destruction in its wake, systematically imposed on indigenous people and low income communities. By now the catastrophic incidents witnessed in the short life span of nuclear energy should be enough to warn us that nuclear energy can never be regarded as safe.

We don't need nuclear energy. It offers no benefits to our communities. If EBCE were to include nuclear energy it would not bring good jobs to our communities, add to our energy resilience, nor clean up our local environment.

Chaset's push to include nuclear represents a blind focus on only reducing carbon, as opposed to building sustainability and resilience. The Alliance urges the Board to adopt a policy that explicitly rejects including nuclear as an energy resource for EBCE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Tovar".

Jessica Tovar, East Bay Clean Power Alliance