



April 8, 2015

Santa Barbara City Council
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Budget Allocation Request: Community Choice Aggregation Feasibility Study

Mayor and Council Members:

In the last five years, Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) has emerged as a powerful tool to help California Cities and Counties reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while providing residents and businesses a choice in their energy providers. Existing CCAs, such as Sonoma Clean Power and Marin Clean Energy, have demonstrated that Community Choice programs can provide an energy mix with higher percentages of renewable generation and lower associated emissions. Not only have these CCAs provided a cleaner energy mix, they have done so at cheaper rates than the existing utility - to the benefit of ratepayers, the environment and the local economy.

A local Santa Barbara Community Choice program would provide many of the same benefits and help the City meet the targets identified in its Climate Action Plan (15% of the CAP target reductions (21,000 MT CO2e) are attributed to CCA). CCA could also effectively mitigate the emissions associated with reactivating the desalination plant. A feasibility study is a key first step in evaluating the potential benefits available to the City and its residents. A feasibility study would help project consumer electricity prices, net economic impact and potential GHG reductions that may be achieved through a local CCA.

The Community Environmental Council (CEC) believes that a comprehensive feasibility study, which could include neighboring jurisdictions, could be completed for \$100,000 or less. CEC thus requests that the City allocate \$50,000 in its recommended 2015/2016 budget towards a feasibility study. Neighboring jurisdictions also interested in CCA could provide the remaining balance.

More than 60 California cities and seven California counties have passed resolutions to evaluate CCA - it is time Santa Barbara follow suit and earnestly explore the benefits of a local Community Choice program.

Sincerely,

Dave Davis
President / CEO

Cc:
Mayor Helene Schneider
Mayor Pro Tempore Gregg Hart
Councilmember Cathy Murillo
Councilmember Randy Rowse
Councilmember Dale Francisco
Councilmember Frank Hotchkiss
Councilmember Bendy White

Paul Casey, City Administrator
Jim Dewey, Energy Manager
George Buell, Community Development Dir.
Nina Johnson, Asst. to the City Administrator
Alelia Parenteau, Energy Analyst
Maggie Campbell, Exec Director, Downtown SB
Ken Oplinger, President/CEO, SB Chamber

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