

[Submitted via email to customerchoice@cpuc.ca.gov on 11/28/17]

Commissioners,

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the recent proceedings around Customer Choice in electricity services in California. I work with several organizations that advocate for Community Choice programs, including *Local Clean Energy Alliance*, *East Bay Clean Power Alliance* and the statewide organization Californian Alliance for Community Energy.

I would like to point out two truths emerging relevant to customer choice in electrical services in California.

One of these is the a posteriori reality that Community Choice programs are soon to serve the majority of electrical load in California for no other reason than that they are popular with electrical customers, municipal, commercial and residential. As an advocate for Community Choice programs I can assure you that municipal jurisdictions do not rush into ventures of magnitude and difficulty such as becoming electrical utilities without a push from constituents.

The other is an a priori fact that the reality of climate change demands aggressive state-level energy policies to make the switch to renewable, non-carbon based sources of power as rapidly as possible. Promoting deregulated customer choice of energy services in California, would make it impossible to meet current California State climate action goals. On the other hand, the proliferation of Community Choice programs has the potential of accelerating California's switch to renewable energy.

Community Choice programs as public, not-for-profit alternatives to investor-owned utilities, freed of the fiduciary responsibility to maximize profit, can instead prioritize maximizing community benefits through the development of local renewable energy resources. Community Choice agencies can increase local resilience, stimulate local business activity, create good jobs and address issues of equity through policies that incentivize energy efficiency and local distributive energy projects.

I urge you to acknowledge the two certainties I have raised and realize that Community Choice energy programs are the best, most sustainable, most equitable option for electrical providers in California, and make policy decision consistent with promoting the viability and growth of these programs.

Sincerely,
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