



May 2, 2016

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DIST

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu St, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Community Choice Energy 2016/2017 Budget Enhancement Funding (Support)

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

The World Business Academy supports the development of a local Community Choice Energy (CCE) program and encourages the Board of Supervisors to approve the proposed budget enhancement to continue the County's progress towards launching a local CCE program. As you all know, the Academy is focused on creating local renewable energy in Santa Barbara County to begin to address the glaring and dangerous situation posed by the possible loss of the 220kv transmission lines between the Santa Clara and Goleta substations, a threat Southern California Edison has documented. We believe CCE is an appropriate and important step toward achieving true energy security here in Santa Barbara County. The competition and independence offered by the CCE system will be good for business, good for residents, and good for the planet as it will provide access to renewable electricity. We applaud the Board for funding the feasibility study last year and encourage the board to allocate the necessary funding to continue the work the County has already devoted towards Community Choice Energy.

Marin Clean Energy, Sonoma Clean Power, and Lancaster Choice Energy have clearly demonstrated that CCE programs can offer both greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and substantial financial savings though competitive and most often cheaper electricity rates. In the next year, three new CCE programs will launch in San Francisco, San Mateo and Humboldt Counties. The emergence of these new programs reflects that communities across California clearly recognize the benefits of Community Choice Energy.

Community Choice Energy has proved to offer economic and environmental benefits which include:

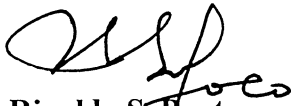
1. **Competitive, stable energy costs:** Marin Clean Energy, Sonoma Clean Power, and Lancaster Choice Energy all offer electricity rates competitive with or cheaper than the investor owned utilities. In 2014-2015 Marin Clean Energy and Sonoma Clean Power combined to save their customers more than \$29.6 million on electricity bills. Furthermore, revenues generated by CCE programs can be reinvested into a suite of services (e.g. energy efficiency upgrades, distributed energy generation, automated demand response, and smart grid technology) that can reduce energy use, foster a more resilient energy system and create additional cost savings for ratepayers.
2. **Cleaner energy:** All three existing programs offer energy mixes with higher percentages of clean renewable energy (and lower GHG emissions) than the incumbent investor

owned utilities. Community Choice Energy is identified as the most impactful measure in Santa Barbara County's Climate Action Plan for reducing GHG emissions. Marin and Sonoma's CCE programs have avoided the emission of more than 117,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide.

3. **New business opportunities:** Community Choice Energy programs have the power to turn rooftops, parking lots, and other under-utilized spaces into generation sites that producing energy and revenue as surplus power is sold into the grid.
4. **Community-wide economic gains, including local job creation:** By retaining the millions of dollars of electricity payments currently leaving the County to investor owned utilities and reinvesting these dollars into the community and local energy projects, a CCE program will stimulate the economy and create much needed jobs, especially for building trades.

In light of these potential benefits, we call on the Board to continue funding towards the development of a CCE program. Santa Barbara County has the resources to realize the vision and promise of a program that offers ratepayers competition and choice, stimulates the local economy, improves resiliency, and maximizes environmental benefits. We are proud to support Community Choice Energy, and urge the Board of Supervisors to do so as well.

Thank you very much for your consideration,



Rinaldo S. Brutoco
President and Founder
World Business Academy