



July 11, 2019

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

Re: Community Choice

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

As you know, for over 10 years, the Community Environmental Council has strongly advocated for an in-depth and honest look at Community Choice as a powerful tool for securing clean energy for our region – even jump-starting the exploration by participating as a funder in the original feasibility study.

With the results of those feasibility studies now in hand, we feel that the best path forward will be to join an existing Community Choice program. **We urge the County of Santa Barbara to join with Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP), as this option will be quicker, less risky, less expensive, and easier than launching a County-run program.**

Given the current realities – including the results of the latest Santa Barbara County Community Choice Technical Study, and the fact that the City of Santa Barbara will likely form their own Community Choice program – we believe that a County-run program with limited partners will prove to be too risky, with tight margins and less opportunity to launch meaningful programs.

On the other hand, MBCP has quickly built strong financial reserves, and is already offering meaningful programs to accelerate electric vehicle adoption, as well as modest programs to build solar for low-to-moderate income residents, enhance payments to solar customers who are net generators, and pilot renewable energy microgrids. They also recently teamed with Silicon Valley Clean Energy to sign long term contracts for the largest solar + storage projects ever to be built in California.

Should the County join with MBCP, we ask that additional revenue is not put into rebates, but put into developing new renewable energy projects and programs that make it easier for our residents and businesses to adopt clean technologies. We would request that our region be offered a 100% renewable energy default option and that MBCP programs in our region emphasize local renewable energy, support

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transportation electrification, and develop renewables-driven microgrids at community priority facilities. We would also request that MBCP open a local office in Santa Barbara County and rebrand to include Central Coast in their name.

The Community Environmental Council is excited about the opportunity to join Monterey Bay Community Power in a Community Choice program that would unify the five Central Coast counties. Our communities have more in common than any other part of California, and by joining together could be a powerful voice to expand clean energy options for our residents and businesses. This partnership would make it easier to offer meaningful programs at scale, that make it easier for the Central Coast to address the climate crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sigrid Wright".

Sigrid Wright
CEO
Community Environmental Council