



September 9, 2016

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
County CEO Sachi Hamai
Dave Chittenden, Internal Services Department
Howard Choy, Internal Services Department

As the nation's largest non-profit solar installer, GRID Alternatives (GRID) understands the unique barriers that prevent low-income solar adoption across states and markets. Deliberate, focused, and thoughtfully-designed programs can help increase equity and access. GRID has been honored to use the organization's on-the-ground experience to help shape and participate in the development, implementation, and administration of some of the most equitable and progressive solar programs in the country and appreciates the opportunity to offer its thoughts here toward designing and implementing the County of Los Angeles Community Choice Energy (LACCE) program.

GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles (GRID GLA) views the growing number of community choice aggregation (CCA) programs in California as a promising step in the State's continuing evolution as a global leader in clean energy and climate change mitigation. Indeed, the LACCE program is a significant opportunity for Los Angeles County, its municipalities and most importantly, its citizens to optimize and harness the CCA model as a tool for job creation, greenhouse gas reduction, and the equitable distribution of both.

As planning continues for the LACCE program, GRID GLA wants to be sure that the issues of equity and workforce development are placed at the forefront of consideration. In reviewing the LACCE Business Plan, it is concerning that equity, or the treatment of low- and moderate-income customers, goes without mention. As Los Angeles County is home to a majority share of the State's disadvantaged community population, this omission from the Business Plan is of particular concern as it only makes business sense to account for the substantial State funding opportunities available for clean energy investment within disadvantaged communities. This commitment to equitable State investment has only been strengthened following the most recent legislative sessions (e.g. AB 1550 (Gomez) guarantees at least 35% of the State's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund proceeds will benefit disadvantaged communities). The strategic ability of the LACCE program to leverage State funding should be at the forefront of any distributed energy resource (DER) investment plans.

GRID GLA is also in support of a strong workforce development component being included as part of the County of LACCE Business Plan. As the solar industry continues to grow, jobs in solar too have grown, (20% growth for three consecutive years). This explosion in growth, (as of 2015 over 208,000

individuals are employed in the solar industry, more than 75,000 here in California), has created many new employment opportunities and green career pathways. These are well-paying, non-outsourceable jobs in an industry that California has committed to support and nourish through long-term climate legislation such as the recently adopted SB 32. Los Angeles County should view the LACCE program as an instrument by which to train and develop the qualified workforce needed to advance the transition to clean energy, particularly for low- and moderate-income workers – where a green career pathway can lead to a less stressful and more enjoyable livelihood, as well as greater disposable household income to support the local economy. Adequate training mechanisms must be in place to ensure inclusion among these low- and moderate-income individuals and disadvantaged communities.

GRID GLA is in a position to provide valuable insight to ensure an equitable distribution of the financial and job creation benefits of the proposed LACCE program. We would be honored to serve with the implementation working group as the design of the program continues and eventual implementation takes place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Michael J. Kadish". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Kadish" clearly legible.

Michael Kadish
Executive Director
GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles