

April 4, 2017

Dear Mayor Furey and Members of the Torrance City Council,

Food & Water Watch has been a proud and active member of the South Bay Clean Power Working Group since 2014 and we are excited that almost three years after we started the City of Torrance is tonight considering the recommendation of your City Manager to have staff “perform an analysis of the business plans, joint powers authority agreements and potential participation in the Community Choice Aggregation programs and return with recommendations.”

We strongly encourage a yes vote on agenda item 9C because we believe the South Bay Clean Power draft JPA and Business Plan provide the best direction to achieve the mutual goals that have driven our participation in the Working Group:

1. The fastest path to 100% clean renewable power – with a goal of reaching that 10 years after our CCA launches;
2. No use of Category 3 unbundled Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to achieve our 100% renewables goal;
3. A Distributed Energy Resources model (DER, which refers to distributed renewable power generation, storage, energy efficiency, demand response and electric vehicle infrastructure) with a Los Angeles County-wide buildup of infrastructure to maximize our DER potential;
4. A focus on local economic investment, local power generation, local jobs, local career opportunities;
5. A partnership with labor – including project labor agreements, community benefit agreements, sustainable workforce agreements, job training, and apprenticeship program;
6. A program focus and emphasis on environmental justice in frontline communities where economic, workforce, and health needs are the greatest.

There are many ways to create and run a Community Choice Aggregation program but we favor the South Bay Clean Power approach which makes its priorities local control, local economic investment and jobs, maximizing our local distributed energy resources, and embracing a partnership with labor. We especially support a CCA program that would focus on opportunities and benefits for impacted communities like Torrance and Carson.

Last but not least, Food & Water Watch embraces the regional approach of multiple CCAs in Los Angeles County working together through an umbrella JPA of CCAs to leverage economies of scale while still providing for true regional representation and local authority.

Sincerely,

Andrea León-Grossmann
Southern California Organizer