



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7
2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704
PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177 kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

18c

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 2, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Amended Community Choice Energy Letter to East Bay Municipal Utility District

RECOMMENDATION

Amend the Community Choice Energy letter to the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD).

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley is working with the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to conduct a prefeasibility analysis of an EBMUD Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) energy program to potentially serve Berkeley and other East Bay communities. CCA allows public agencies, such as the EBMUD, to procure electric power on behalf of electric power customers. Under a CCA, PG&E would continue to provide delivery of the power and customer billing. Customers would have a choice to continue to purchase power directly from PG&E by opting out of the CCA. One of the key objectives of the EBMUD analysis would be to determine whether CCA can help the City achieve its Climate Action goals.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 510-981-7170

Attachment:

1. EBMUD Community Choice Considerations

Date: September 11, 2012

To: ~~Berkeley City Council~~ **EBMUD**

Cc: ~~Neal DeSnoo, Secretary, City of Berkeley Energy Commission~~

From: ~~Community Choice Working Group, Berkeley Climate Action Coalition~~

Subject: EBMUD Community Choice Considerations

We, ~~the City of Berkeley, the undersigned, co-chairs of the Community Choice Energy Working Group, Berkeley Climate Action Coalition,~~ write to express our support for exploring the possibility of an East Bay Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program administered by East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). In that regard we wish to describe the basic principles upon which we would like to see an EBMUD CCA program established.

We have a great deal of respect for EBMUD and the wide range of services that it provides to nearly 1.3 million customers in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The addition of Community Choice electricity services – reflecting the basic principles set out below – is consistent with EBMUD’s stated mission and its reputation for environmental stewardship. We applaud the agency for taking this issue under consideration and ask that it press forward with all possible haste on determining how to provide these services in a way that maximizes benefits to the community.

In our opinion, the CCA program would:

- Transition to a fossil fuel-free and nuclear-free energy base as soon as possible. It would do this by procuring electricity with the highest possible “renewable” attributes from sources that are located in or near the Bay Area.
- Achieve the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other toxic air contaminants principally through the development of local renewable energy resources rather than the purchase of renewable electricity or renewable energy credits (RECs) on the open market.
- Offer comprehensive demand reduction and energy efficiency programs that would reduce electricity costs to all segments of the population and businesses.
- Develop local renewable electricity generation assets in accordance with an East Bay energy plan that specifies renewable energy development projects and programs and their financing, environmental impacts, and workforce requirements. This plan would exploit all practical renewable energy technologies, such as solar, wind, geothermal, small hydro, combined heat and power.
- Leverage the development of energy efficiency and local renewable generation assets to reduce electricity bills below those of PG&E, thereby avoiding opt-outs as the program grows and assuring the viability of the CCA program.
- Provide workforce development opportunities for local communities, especially those hardest hit by the economic crisis and the impacts of climate change.
- Provide a governance structure that would be representative of participating cities and of stakeholder communities. This kind of democratic structure would assure that the CCA program would reflect the values of East Bay residents.

~~Tom Kelly and Al Weinrub~~