



ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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Agency Director

AGENDA ITEM No. _____
June 2, 2015

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May 28, 2015

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Alameda County Administration Building
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA)
PROGRAM – STEERING COMMITTEE AUTHORIZATION AND
APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Create the Alameda County Community Choice Aggregation Program Steering Committee (“Committee”).
- B. Approve the appointment of twenty-five Regular and At-Large members, and an Unincorporated Area Member to the Committee (list of appointees is attached).
- C. Direct Staff to initiate the Committee and convene its first meeting in early June, 2015.
- D. Direct the Committee to provide quarterly reports to the Transportation and Planning Committee, or more often as determined necessary.
- E. Direct the Committee to focus on issues related to hiring of a Technical Consultant, and analysis and preparation of a CCA Technical Study, as a first order of business.

BACKGROUND:

In June 2014, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors began exploring the possibility of a countywide Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program. An important part of this investigation is the formation of a Steering Committee that can advise the Board and Community Development Agency (CDA) staff during the formation process on key aspects of the program's development. The Committee could continue in that role if the County and its cities decide that a CCA program is viable and can convey significant benefits to residents and businesses. The CCA Steering Committee members will be made up of both experts and stakeholders from across Alameda County. It will provide a forum through which interested parties and the public can express their views.

After the full Board approved of exploration of the CCA concept, the Board Transportation and Planning Committee directed staff to form the Steering Committee. The T&P Committee endorsed the following membership structure:

Group 1- Three appointees from each of the five Supervisorial Districts. These appointees would represent both geographical diversity across the county and diversity in stakeholder interests and expertise.

Group 1- One representative from each of the County's 14 cities and one from the Unincorporated Area. These participants should be selected by their respective municipalities, would participate on behalf of their jurisdictions and should have decision-making authority. As of this date, 13 Cities have selected Committee representatives.

Group 3 - Three to five "at large" representatives that have either: (a) particular energy expertise (e.g., distributed generation/clean power technology); or (b) county-wide or regional interests.

Each member from any group could designate an alternate to substitute at a Committee meeting.

The T&P Committee also endorsed a standard application form for use by the County, which was used by all Group 1 and Group 3 applicants. Apart from the City appointments, all were welcome to apply for Committee membership. The County accepted applications until April 15.

In order to solicit interest in the CCA Steering Committee, staff sent out notifications to approximately 400 individuals and several dozen organizations in the County and the incorporated cities. Staff also issued a press release in March 2015 explaining the County's CCA goals and extending an invitation to apply for a position on the Committee. For the fifteen Regular committee positions and five At-Large positions, the County received a total of 47 applications. In selecting committee members from among the above group, consideration was given to geographical diversity as well as balance from among environmental, labor, business, social justice and end-user interests. Staff from all five supervisorial districts reviewed the applications, resulting in an original list of 21 applicants that was presented to the full Board for its approval.

At a hearing on May 5, 2015, Board members considered the slate of 20 candidates plus one unincorporated area candidate. The Board heard criticisms of the proposed slate of candidates from citizens who testified that the draft slate was not diverse enough with respect to gender and culture, and that the proposed slate had drawn heavily from a single interest group. The Board subsequently directed staff to reopen the application period and add another five (5) slots to the original 20, which staff has done. Twelve (12) new applications were received in all.

Therefore, as of May 27, 2015, for the twenty-five Committee positions, the County has received a total of 59 applications, broken down as follows:

- District 1 – 7 applications
- District 2 – 6 applications
- District 3 – 12 applications
- District 4 – 8 applications
- District 5 – 26 applications
- At-Large (All Districts) – 6 applications out of the above

From this set, a revised draft slate of 26 candidates has been prepared that reflects this extended application process, the new applications received, and the desires of the Board to see expanded diversity on the Committee. This list may be found in Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION:

In revising the draft slate of committee members, consideration was given to both gender and cultural diversity, along with environmental, labor, business, social justice and end-user interests. Staff from all five supervisorial districts reviewed the applications, resulting in the list of 26 applicants that is being presented to the full Board for its approval.

This composition means that the Committee could have up to 40 members, including City appointees. Each member from any group may designate an alternate to substitute at a Committee meeting.

County staff expects that appointees will participate for a period of approximately two years to see the CCA formation process through most likely, until February 2017 (with extensions possible if needed). Otherwise, there are no set time limits. The Committee could go on after the JPA is formed, but it would require reauthorization. Otherwise, the only criteria for committee participation are:

1. Preference will be given to a resident, business owner, employee or representative of a community-based organization in the County of Alameda.
2. Applicants should be committed to serving on the Steering Committee through February 2017 and attending regular meetings. Meetings will be no more frequent than once per month, with the first meeting to take place in June, 2015.
3. Committee members will come from all areas of Alameda County, and members may be asked to travel several miles to attend meetings. After formation, the Committee may select the site or sites where it will choose to meet.

The Steering Committee will require one or more meetings to start up, define protocols and set priorities. Staff anticipates the first meeting on or about June 18. The Committee would be advisory to the Board of Supervisors. Decisions of the Committee would typically be governed by consensus, unless it was felt on a specific issue that a formal vote is necessary.

One of the first tasks of the Committee will be to help finalize the scope of the CCA technical study. The new Committee will examine the scope of work and program objectives, and make recommendations about adjustments to emphasis and details in the scope in order to ensure the broadest reasonable level of community representation. These recommendations, as appropriate, would then be presented to the prospective technical consultants as the final scope of work, hiring would occur, and the CCA feasibility analysis would then commence. Future efforts of the Steering Committee will help shape policy and address possible technical conflicts that could arise as the program ramps up to full implementation.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The costs of operating the CCA Steering Committee were anticipated in the original request for funding for the CCA program in June 2014. Currently, activities and costs for the Committee and CCA program are being absorbed within existing CDA budget and staffing.

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There is no additional Net County Cost as a result of this action.

Very truly yours,

Chris Bazar, Director
Community Development Agency

Attachments:

Complete Draft List of Steering Committee Membership Appointees
Draft Resolution