

ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

P L A N N I N G D E P A R T M E N T

Chris Bazar
Agency Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Supervisors' Transportation and Planning Committee

FROM: Chris Bazar, Director, Community Development Agency

DATE: October 6, 2014

SUBJECT: Community Choice Aggregation (CCA): Update and Progress Report

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BACKGROUND

On June 3, 2014, the Board of Supervisors authorized County staff to pursue actions that could result in formation of a new Joint Powers Agency (JPA) agency to implement a Community Choice Aggregation program for Alameda County, including outreach to jurisdictions, steering committee formation, load data procurement, hiring and retention of consultant(s) as necessary to help prepare the Feasibility Study, Feasibility Study preparation, peer review of the Feasibility Study, public outreach by staff and consultants, bid solicitation, and development of implementation plans. The Board also authorized the expenditure of up to \$1,325,000 for the tasks described above. The following updates the process so far, with suggested next steps.

DISCUSSION

- 1) One of the first steps in preparing a feasibility study is acquiring electrical load data for all potential CCA participants from PG&E. Staff has worked with the County Administrator to contact all City jurisdictions within the County to obtain permission from each to request load data from PG&E on its behalf. To date, all jurisdictions have responded in the affirmative, with the exception of the City of Oakland, which has not yet responded. Once the full slate of jurisdictions has responded, the County Administrator will be able to formally request the load data from PG&E.
- 2) CDA staff is in the process of hiring, under a small contract, an administrative consultant who can assist with several start-up tasks, including preparation of the load data request letter, advice on technical and legal issues, assembling an appropriate work scope for the hiring of a technical consultant to prepare the feasibility study, and assisting with public meetings and advisory committee formation. CDA staff has assembled an interview panel from a handful of surrounding cities and Stopwaste.org to interview and assess the applicants; these interviews will take place on October 14, 2014.
- 3) CDA staff met with labor representatives from the IBEW and Alameda County Labor Council in August at a meeting set up by District 1. Topics included labor's concerns that a CCA could reduce opportunities for local labor jobs to be sustained or created, and might rely upon power generation and renewable energy certificates (RECs) from distant energy sources which may exclude labor and fair wage workers. IBEW and ACLC asked that the County continue to include their organizations and other labor representatives throughout the CCA process, maintaining open lines of communication with labor during all phases of the effort.

- 4) CDA staff has been providing the Stopwaste Energy Council with regular updates. The Energy Council recognizes that Stopwaste's JPA cannot fulfill the role required by a CCA program and that a new JPA would need to be formed for the new agency. However, the Energy Council has asked that the CCA, once formed, use the Council as the main conduit for funds dedicated for energy efficiency upgrades, as that has been its role for some time and it is equipped to consider projects that would benefit from those funds. Staff believes that this may be a proper role for the Energy Council to play, and has agreed to keep this matter under consideration as the process continues. It has also been suggested that the Energy Council could serve as a technical advisory committee during the CCA formation process currently being explored.
- 5) Staff has prepared a draft set of eight Goals and Objectives for the CCA process and implementation; this document is attached to this Memorandum. The proposed Goals and Objectives includes, in no special order, provisions for electric rate competitiveness, renewable energy maximization, carbon footprint reduction, local job creation, union labor considerations, and use of revenues for local renewable energy, energy efficiency upgrades, and investment in low-carbon infrastructure and technology. Staff requests that the Transportation and Planning Committee provide input on this draft as a working document for the CCA process, subject to revision and refinement.

NEXT STEPS

- Hire administrative consultant to supplement staff and augment staff knowledge
- Work with County Administrator to prepare load data request for PG&E
- Prepare and circulate Request for Bids/Proposals for technical consultants to help prepare Feasibility Study
- Organize and coordinate public workshops on CCA with the intent to form a citizens' advisory working group with interested citizens and members of labor, energy, environmental and community organizations.
- Organize and coordinate a steering committee composed of municipal staff members and representatives from labor, energy, environmental and community organizations; formation of a technical advisory committee may also be considered.

Based on the information contained in this memo and its attachments, Staff seeks further direction from the Transportation and Planning Committee at this time, especially with respect to the draft Goals and Objectives.

Attachments

cc: Each member, Board of Supervisors
Susan Muranishi, CAO