



Berkeley Energy Commission

## ENERGY COMMISSION FINAL MINUTES

Wednesday, June 22, 2016  
North Berkeley Senior Center  
1901 Hearst Street  
6:30 P.M.

### **Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Camacho at 6:40 PM.

Present: Bell, James, Camacho, Myers, Jiang, Schlachter and Murray

Absent: Constantine

Leave of Absence: Bernhardt

Staff: Billi Romain

Guests: Byron Pakter

Public: Erica Etelson

2. Public Comments and Announcement

None

3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting (May 25, 2016)

The minutes were corrected to list Commissioner Schlachter with "Leave of Absence".

Motion/second to approve the corrected minutes (Murray, Myers). The motion carried 7-0-0-2. (Ayes: Bell, James, Camacho, Myers, Jiang, Schlachter, Murray. Noes: None.

Abstain: None. Absent: Constantine, Bernhardt)

### **Discussion and Action Items**

4. Report on Community Choice Energy

Public Comment: Erica Etelson gave comments from Berkeley Community Choice Energy Working Group supporting Berkeley's participation in the Alameda County CCE along with several additional recommendations documented in written comments including postpone decision to "opt-down", include ex officio community members on the JPA board and minimize the use of renewable energy credits. Sierra Club San Francisco Bay also submitted a letter strongly supporting Berkeley participation.

Discussion: Commission reviewed research conducted by UC Berkeley Energy and Climate Institute and discussed support for CCE with the considerations that voting structure represent Berkeley community, Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) be minimized in the short term and eliminated in the long term, the CCE support the emission reduction goals of Berkeley's Climate Action Plan with an emphasis on energy efficiency and community members are represented as ex officio members of the JPA board.

Motion/second for Commission to recommend that City of Berkeley join the Alameda

County CCA (Myers, Murray). The motion was carried 6-1-0-1. (Ayes: Bell, James,

2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704 Tel: 510.981.7432 TDD: 510.981.6903 Fax: 510.981.7490  
E-mail: [bromain@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:bromain@cityofberkeley.info)

Camacho, Myers, Jiang, Murray. Noes: Schlachter. Abstain: None. Absent: Constantine, Bernhardt)

5. Report on Solar Plan and Programs

Commission discussed Solar Plan implementation and expressed support cost effective strategies and emphasized the importance for the Alameda County CCE to prioritize local solar.

Motion/second for lead Solar Commissioner Jiang with support from Commissioner Myers to draft a report to Council to approve the Solar Plan and direct City Manager to advance its implementation to meet the goal of obtaining 50% of energy needs from Solar Power by 2030 (Camacho, Myers). The motion carries 6-0-1-2. (Ayes: Bell, James, Camacho, Myers, Jiang, Murray. Noes: None. Abstain: Schlachter. Absent: Constantine, Bernhardt)

6. Reports from other commissions/council

- City Council – BESO Amendment recently passed, consideration of additional PACE providers and adoption of the Regional Collaborative Service Agreement for PACE providers.

7. Report on State Energy Policy

CPUC consideration of a single statewide administrator for some energy efficiency programs.

8. Report on East Bay Energy Watch

No report

9. Report on Energy Upgrade California Programs

No report

10. Report on the Building Energy Saving Ordinance

Amendment going to Council for consideration

11. Items for Next Month's Agenda

Micro-grid, solar reach codes

Communications

Late Items: Berkeley Community Choice Energy Working Group written comments supporting CCE and Sierra Club East bay letter supporting CCE (attached).

Adjournment

Motion/second to adjourn at 8:55 PM (Camacho, Murray). Motion carries. (Ayes: Bell, James, Camacho, Myers, Jiang, Murray, Schlachter. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Constantine, Bernhardt)

To: Berkeley Energy Commission  
From: Berkeley Community Choice Energy Working Group  
Re: East Bay Community Energy Formation  
Date: 6/22/16

The Berkeley Community Choice Energy Working Group urges the Energy Commission to take the following actions with respect to the formation of East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) and Berkeley's participation in this program:

1. Recommend that the City of Berkeley participate
2. Postpone decision on whether Berkeley will be an "opt-down" jurisdiction (in which default service is 100% clean energy with "opt-down" to a dirtier portfolio) until survey data and additional community input is available
3. Request that Alameda County include the following language in the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement: "The purchase of non-local renewable power and use of renewable energy credits is intended only as a transitional method to decrease regional greenhouse gas emissions; local renewable energy projects are the preferred method." This language is contained in Recital D of [Sonoma Clean Power's JPA](#), and Mayor Bates suggested to EBCE Steering Committee that it be included in our JPA so as to ensure that, like Sonoma Clean Power and Marin Clean Energy, the use of RECs is minimized.
4. Request that the JPA provide for ex officio community representatives to serve on the governing board
5. Request that the technical study prepared by MRW (draft of which was included in Energy Commission's packet) address the following:

### **Community solar**

The MRW study estimates that the development of small-scale local solar (<3MW) will cost 55% more than projects in "areas with the best solar resource" (which we take to mean utility-scale solar projects located in the central valley and desert of southern California). A [recent report](#) by the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) states that "community-scale solar" (.5-5MW) can be cost-competitive with utility-scale solar. RMI identifies measures that can be taken to reduce costs of community solar by up to 40%.

Furthermore, RMI notes that community solar is inclusive of renters and low-income households (equity goals that EBCE subscribes to) and has siting and transmission advantages over

remote utility-scale solar projects. RMI concludes that community solar is the "sweet spot" between behind-the-meter and utility-scale solar.

Unlike Marin and Sonoma counties, Alameda has numerous substations that require no upgrading to integrate community solar arrays. Appendix A to this memo is a map showing substations.

MRW should model buildout scenarios that substitute various quantities of community-scale for utility-scale solar development. We'd like to see how the inclusion of community solar would impact economic development and rates.

### **Demand side management**

MRW models 6 Gwh of annual incremental energy efficiency savings. This represents only .075% of load.

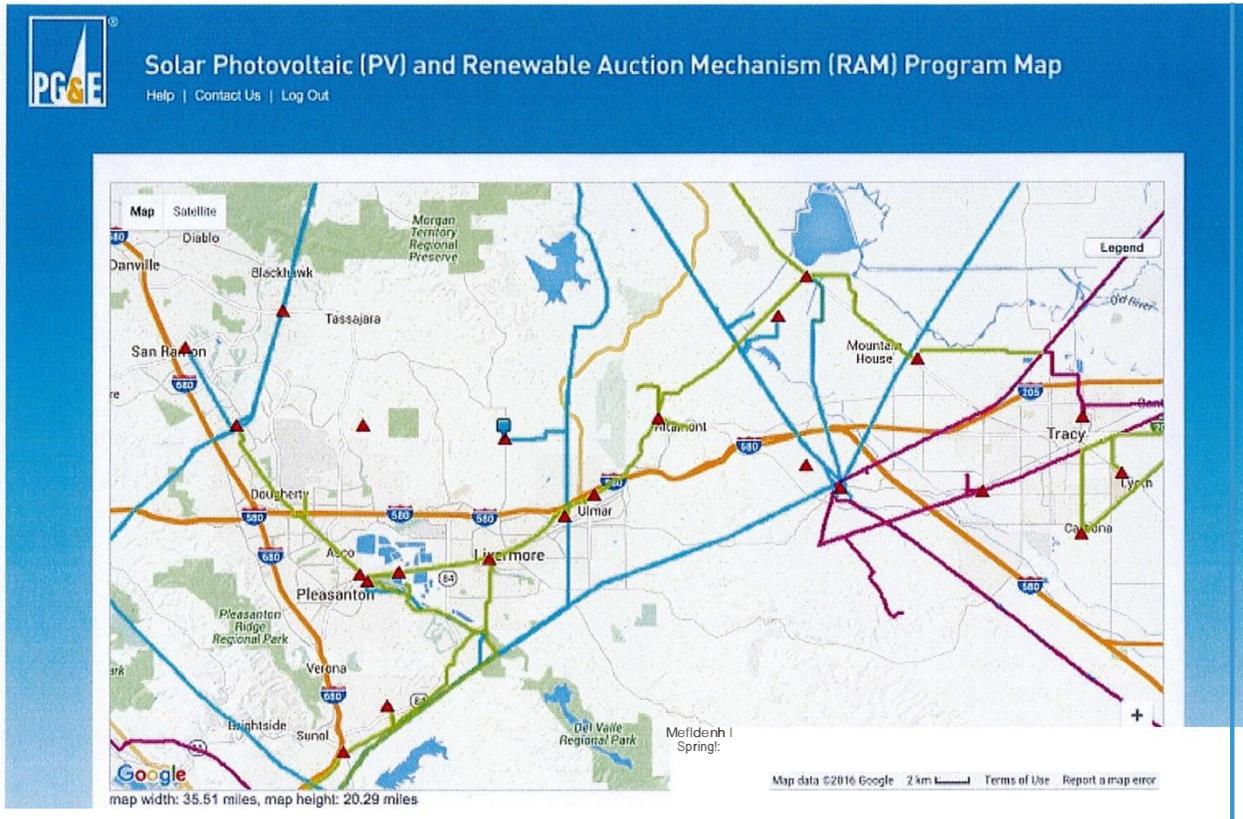
[SB350 calls for energy efficiency standards that are projected to reduce energy demand by 30% by 2030.](#) Much of this demand reduction will be achieved in the electricity sector.

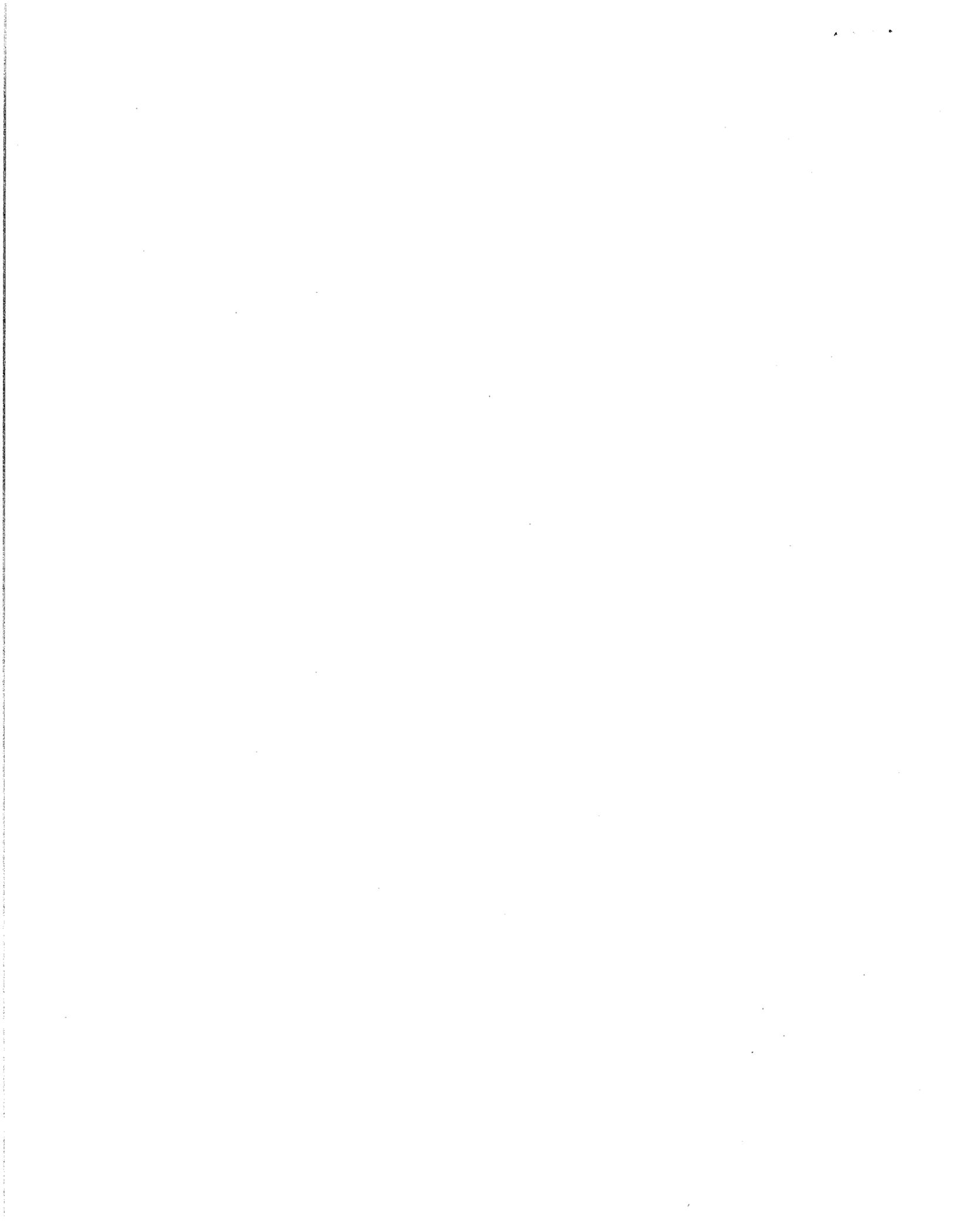
MRW should incorporate scenarios in which EBCE achieves demand reduction of 5% (matching [Marin Clean Energy's demand reduction goal](#)) and 18% by 2025, a [national goal prescribed by RMI](#). Such reductions can be achieved using [demand side management methods](#) in addition to making energy efficiency improvements in buildings.

It's important to understand now how big a role demand reduction will play in EBCE as this will affect the content of the RFP and, ultimately, the choice of program service provider(s).

6. Request that the county begin developing a local buildout plan prior to launch of EBCE. This kind of planning will take some time and should be undertaken as soon as possible. If EBCE launches without having at least some idea of the who, what, when, where and how of developing local renewables, it will not be well-positioned to make optimal decisions about rates, procurement and staffing.

# Appendix A







Serving Alameda, Contra-costa, Marin and San Francisco counties

June 22, 2016

Chair Emilio Camacho and Members of the Energy Commission  
1901 Hearst Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94709

**RE: Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)**

The Sierra Club appreciates the opportunity to comment on the matter above and strongly supports the Energy Commission moving forward in having the City of Berkeley participate in the program.

We support the development of a CCA program that provides electricity rates that are competitive with Pacific Gas & Electric and has a portfolio of renewable and clean energy sources that meets and actively moves to exceed the Renewable Portfolio Standard (the use of unbundled renewable energy credits should only be temporary and be minimized to the maximum extent feasible). In addition, the program should assist the potential participating cities, such as Berkeley, in achieving their emission reduction goals, prioritize the development of local renewable and clean energy sources, which will spur the creation of clean energy jobs and promote local economic development, administer incentives that decrease energy consumption and demand, and overall aid the transition from fossil fuels to a clean energy economy and future.

As an advocate for public participation, we are supportive of a governance structure in the Joint Powers Authority that includes members of the community in order to have inclusive representation in the decision-making process of the CCA program.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Energy Commission and the City of Berkeley in shaping a CCA program that reflects the values of the residents and businesses it will serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luis Amezcua".

Luis Amezcua  
Co-Chair, Energy-Climate Committee  
**Sierra Club, San Francisco Bay Chapter**

cc: Berkeley City Council

