



February 21, 2017

John Kopchik
Director, Department of Conservation and Development
Contra Costa County
30 Muir Street
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Mr. Kopchik:

This letter is in response to your request for East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) to indicate its desire to expand beyond Alameda County and its willingness to engage interested Contra Costa County jurisdictions as EBCE members. This letter also outlines the terms of EBCE membership.

As you may know, the EBCE Board of Directors met for the first time on January 30, 2017. During that meeting, the Board had a robust discussion on this topic and was strongly in favor of formally inviting Contra Costa County and its Cities to join EBCE. The general sense was that it would be an exciting and positive development to have a more regionally focused East Bay Community Choice Energy (CCE) program. Some EBCE Board members expressed a willingness to present at your upcoming Board of Supervisors and City Council meetings as Contra Costa County officials deliberate on which CCE option would be in the best interests of their constituents.

With regards to the terms of membership, the EBCE Board discussed each of the points your letter raised, and we can provide you the following feedback:

- ***Cost to Join:*** The Board agreed that there would be no cost for Contra Costa County jurisdictions to join the JPA. EBCE will absorb all of the initial launch expenses, including load data analysis, communications costs and noticing requirements. The Board believes these one-time costs are offset by the longer-term value of including Contra Costa County communities in order to form a larger, regional program. We do request, however, that new member jurisdictions identify appropriate municipal staff to assist in coordinating the JPA resolution and Agreement, passage of the CCE ordinance and help with local public outreach, such as organizing workshops and having a presence at community events.
- ***Required actions and steps in the membership process:*** The Board agreed that the steps for joining EBCE would be the same as for the Alameda County jurisdictions, namely that the prospective members must pass the required CCA ordinance, authorize access to their load data, hold at least two duly noticed public hearings, and pass the JPA resolution in order to become a party to the EBCE Joint Powers Agreement. A copy of the CCE ordinance, JPA Agreement and JPA resolution are attached for your reference. For the purposes of completing EBCE's implementation plan, conducting public outreach, and procuring power for customers in new member jurisdictions, we request that interested jurisdictions cast deciding votes by June 30, 2017. It should be noted that there will be additional opportunities to join EBCE in 2018, if that is preferred. See below for more information regarding timing.

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- **Representation on EBCE Board:** Each Contra Costa County jurisdiction choosing to join EBCE will have a seat on its Board, which is the same manner of representation as other Alameda County members. As you may know, EBCE has a two-tiered voting structure, the first being one-city/one-vote with simple majority to carry the vote. In this case, every jurisdiction will have one equal vote, and it is anticipated that most votes will proceed in this fashion. However, if at least three members call for a weighted vote, then each city's voting share would be determined by its electrical load; weighted votes may only be used to overturn an affirmative vote and may not be used to resurrect or overturn a negative vote. Please see Attachment 4 for a comparison of EBCE and CCCo jurisdictional loads. New Board members can be seated once the JPA resolution has been passed, and the first and second readings of the CCE ordinance are complete.
- **Estimated date of service commencement:** Your letter asked for a date when electric service could begin. As of this writing, it is likely that EBCE will begin serving Phase 1 customers (a subset of the total number of accounts) in Spring of 2018. Phase 2 customers, including additional Contra Costa County accounts, would be enrolled in the Summer or Fall of 2018. Cities that join after the June 30th deadline or in 2018 will be enrolled in Phase 3, likely to be the late Fall of 2018 or Spring of 2019.

The EBCE Board is excited about the prospect of creating a regional East Bay Community Energy program. A member of our Board and Alameda County interim staff will attempt to attend as many of your upcoming presentations as possible, including the Board of Supervisors meeting on March 21. If possible, we would very much like the opportunity to make a more formal presentation at that meeting if the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and staff are agreeable.

Finally, for the purposes of planning, it would be helpful to know how many Contra Costa County jurisdictions would be interested in joining EBCE. As noted above, we are requesting that the County and any interested cities complete their decision-making and passage of the required resolution and ordinance by June 30, 2017 if they are interested in a Spring/Summer 2018 enrollment period.

We hope this addresses your questions on behalf of Contra Costa County and interested cities. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you'd like to discuss any of these matters further.

Sincerely Yours,



Chris Bazar
Director, Alameda County Community Development Agency

Cc: EBCE Board of Directors

Attachments:

- 1) EBCE JPA Agreement and sample resolution
- 2) Copy of CCE ordinance
- 3) PG&E Attestation form for load data authorization
- 4) Load size / voting shares comparison by jurisdiction