Subject: EBCE-Board Agenda Item 8 -- Implementation Plan Elements

June 6, 2017

Chair Scott Haggerty and Board Members
East Bay Community Energy Authority
3600 Norbridge Avenue
Castro Valley, California 94546

Dear Chair Haggerty and Board Members:

East Bay Clean Power Alliance (EBCPA) is proud to support East Bay Community Energy as an innovative electrical services provider that is a meaningful alternative to the existing monopoly utility, which fosters key economic and environmental benefits to its local communities, and which conforms to commitments made in the JPA Agreement.

Accordingly, as stated below, the EBCPA is very concerned about EES/ RS2 Energy’s proposed Implementation Plan Elements, especially 1, 2 and 4. We urge the Board to instruct staff to modify these elements, so that the Implementation Plan leaves room for important programmatic elements in East Bay Community Energy.

The Local Development Business Plan (LDBP) currently in progress is meant to be a “roadmap for the development, procurement, and integration of local renewable energy resources.” We expect the results of this plan will include recommendations for exciting programs and policies to implement the roadmap, bringing multiple economic development, job creation, and environmental benefits to Alameda County.

The EES/ RS2 Energy’s recommendation to launch EBCE “with minimal program offerings” eliminates the possibility of developing and integrating local renewable resources. While we understand that financial viability and building up reserves are critical, East Bay Community Energy should not adopt exclusive policies that conflict with the program’s stated goals and commitments or with the recommendations of the LDBP.

On a similar note, EBCPA is concerned that proposed element #2, which restricts staff and relies heavily on consultants, would undermine East Bay Community Energy's
development and implementation of innovative policies and programs due to a lack of staff capacity.

Given that the Implementation Plan is due to be submitted in July, EBCPA urges the Board to move forward in a way that avoids adopting policies that would preempt proposals of the LDBP or tie the hands of a new CEO. We further urge that any future policy recommendations acknowledge and support the unique features of East Bay Community Energy.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this matter, and we look forward to continue working with you on making EBCE a success.

Sincerely,

Jessica Tovar on behalf of the East Bay Clean Power Alliance