



## ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 29, 2016

TO: Alameda County City Councils and City Managers

FROM: *CB* Chris Bazar, Alameda County Community Development Director

RE: **East Bay Community Energy**

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Thank you for the opportunity to address your elected body; we are very excited about the road ahead as we make our way towards the creation of an Alameda County Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) energy program.

As you may know, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in June 2014 to allocate \$1.3M to explore the creation of a CCA program, and directed County staff to undertake the steps necessary to evaluate its feasibility. CCA enables local jurisdictions to procure electricity on behalf of customers within their borders. Established by AB117 in 2002, California currently has four active CCA Programs in Marin, Sonoma, and San Francisco Counties, as well as the City of Lancaster. Dozens of other local governments are exploring CCA options across the State.

Here in Alameda County we are now more than 18 months into a rigorous community process that includes representation from all eligible cities in our County, as well as a robust steering committee that includes stakeholders from environmental and social justice organizations, labor, regional government, and more. One of the major milestones in assessing the viability of a CCA program is completion of a technical/feasibility study, which we expect will be completed in the next two months.

Assuming we get results from our technical study comparable to what other jurisdictions have seen, we expect a CCA program would be very feasible and could result in an East Bay Clean Energy program serving 1.5 million residents that would be the largest in the state. Our technical study also includes an economic development and job creation element to ensure project benefits can be achieved locally.

Our work in creating a Joint Powers Agency (JPA) is also well underway. A draft document is being reviewed by your City Attorneys in coordination with our County Counsel; the object is to help City Attorneys become comfortable with the terms and language for eventual inclusion of the jurisdiction into the JPA. We hope to have every eligible city in Alameda County as a member of the JPA by Fall 2016.

Through the spring and summer we will be visiting each city represented on the steering committee (all cities in the County except Alameda) with a brief introduction/preview into the CCA concept, plus an update on the work to date. These presentations are intended to cover CCA generally, answer any questions about the process, and help prepare the various City Councils/City Managers to take the necessary steps to join the JPA in the fall of 2016.