

May 25, 2017

Gary Gero
Chief Sustainability Officer, County of Los Angeles
LA County Hall of Administration
222 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA, 90012

Dear Mr. Gero,

Please accept this letter from Environmental Defense Fund in support of the County's efforts to accelerate the development of the largest ultra-low carbon and reliable electric grid in nation. The leadership exhibited by the county through its work developing Los Angeles Community Choice Energy (LACCE), in cooperation with municipalities and stakeholders across the region, has the potential to move Southern California even farther towards achieving the state's ambitious climate change and renewable energy goals, and improving the quality of life for Californians for years to come.

As authorized under state law, local governments, (including counties and cities), are allowed to purchase electricity in the wholesale power market, develop and operate generation assets, sell electricity to their residents and businesses; and provide customer programs such as energy efficiency and renewable energy incentives. When done right, these programs can result in economic, social and environmental benefits by creating new opportunities for customers from all walks of life to utilize low emitting resources to power their homes and businesses.

There are many benefits discussed and planned for in the LACCE business plan and governance documents, including lower rates, reductions in greenhouse gases, increases in renewable resources, enhanced economic development and job creation, and local control over energy management. Notably, to achieve these benefits, LACCE intends to facilitate new development in low carbon distributed generation projects at the local and regional scale, and incorporate environmental justice principles into the overall decision making. By integrating these, and other, goals into the LACCE framework, LA County is well-positioned to achieve the bold vision of the initiative.

Of course, not all Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) efforts are created equal. As California's energy market undergoes massive changes, it will be essential that new market entrants maintain commitments to the state's clean energy goals, and do not benefit one customer at the consequence of another. Thus, it is critical to get LACCE's effort right for both the people of Southern California and for the planet. We look forward to working together with your office, and the rest of LA County stakeholder community, to achieve the vision set forth in the business plan and ensure success of the effort going forward.

Sincerely,

Jayant Kairam
California State Director
Clean Energy Program

Timothy O'Connor
Senior Attorney, California State Director
Oil and Gas Program