



July 17, 2017

Michael Kadish, Executive Director
GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles
1338 S. Flower Street
Los Angeles CA, 90015

The Honorable Kathryn Barger
The Honorable Janice Hahn
The Honorable Sheila Kuehl
The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas
The Honorable Hilda Solis

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

As the nation's largest non-profit solar installer, GRID Alternatives (GRID) understands the unique barriers that prevent low-income clean energy adoption across states and markets. Deliberate, focused, and thoughtfully-designed programs can help increase equity and access. GRID has been honored to use the organization's on-the-ground experience to help shape and participate in the development, implementation, and administration of some of the most equitable and progressive solar programs in California and across the country.

GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles (GRID GLA) views the growing number of community choice aggregation (CCA) programs in California as a promising step in the state's continuing evolution as a global leader in clean energy adoption and climate change mitigation. Indeed, the Los Angeles Community Choice Energy (LACCE) program is a significant opportunity for Los Angeles County, its municipalities and most importantly, its citizens, to optimize and harness the CCA model as a tool for job creation, greenhouse gas reduction, and the equitable distribution of both.

Los Angeles County must use this blank canvas opportunity to take the lead in progressive energy policy and the equitable treatment of low- and moderate-income energy customers. As home to a majority share of the state's disadvantaged community population, there is not just a moral imperative for such a stance, but an investment motivation as well. Disadvantaged communities are eligible for hundreds of millions of state investment dollars annually, aimed at alleviating pollution burdens and extending access to clean energy technologies such as solar photovoltaics and electric vehicles. GRID is the state administrator for two such investment programs, including the Single-Family Affordable Solar Homes Program (SASH) and the Low-Income Weatherization Program - Single-Family Program, which together are responsible for over 2 MW of residential solar capacity for more than 600 low-income homeowners in Los Angeles County since 2014. GRID is also subcontracting partner for the Low-Income Weatherization Program – Large Multifamily Program, which extends solar rebates to affordable housing property owners and their residents. LACCE must take advantage of the state's progressive clean energy rebate programs and work to maximize investment on behalf of their future low- and moderate-income customers.

LACCE must also look outside of the state for policies that have been proven successful in extending clean energy access to all customers. An example of a progressive energy policy that has yet to take hold in California is community solar. Starting in 2017, community solar is expected to consistently drive 20% - 25% of the annual non-residential PV market by 2019 (GTM Research, 2017). GRID has experience designing and implementing an array of community solar programs and has partnered with eight utilities to develop community solar projects that benefit their low-income customers, bringing technical assistance, EPC services, program design and management, financial support, community outreach and job training. GRID is an active participant in the White House's National Community Solar Partnership, and is partnered with the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) to implement the CEO's Low-income Community Shared Solar Demonstration Project, with a goal of bringing 50% electric bill savings to 300 low-income and energy burdened households across Colorado. GRID is also actively developing community solar projects that benefit affordable housing providers and their tenants.

GRID GLA is also in support of a strong workforce development component being included as part of the LACCE strategic design. The solar industry is booming, and is now hiring more workers annually than coal, gas and oil *combined* (The Solar Foundation, 2017). GLA alone is responsible for linking more than 300 trainees to jobs and organized labor in the solar industry since 2013. These are well-paying, non-outsourcable jobs in an industry that California has committed to support and nourish through long-term climate legislation. Adequate training mechanisms must be in place to ensure inclusion among these low- and moderate-income individuals and disadvantaged communities.

With broad experience in policy design, program implementation and workforce development, GRID GLA is in a unique position to provide valuable insight to ensure an equitable distribution of the financial and job creation benefits of a future LACCE program. We believe our perspective and experience would benefit the planning stages of the LACCE program and we would be honored to serve on any future advisory committee tasked with designing a CCA program that truly benefits all.

Sincerely,



Michael Kadish
Executive Director
GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles