



May 11, 2017

Gary Gero
Chief Sustainability Officer,
LA County Office of Sustainability
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W Temple St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Gero:

Emerald Cities Los Angeles is pleased to support the Los Angeles Community Choice Energy Program. Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC) is a national nonprofit organization (www.emeraldcities.org) dedicated to addressing issues of pollution and poverty in low-income and communities of color in major metropolitan areas throughout the United States.¹ We strongly support innovative clean energy options that deliver triple bottom-line outcomes related to improving the environment, economy and equity in our communities.

ECC applauds the goals of the Los Angeles Community Choice Energy program to deliver clean and affordable energy options for the region's utility customers. LACCE has the potential to: 1) accelerate the region's contributions to lowering the State's greenhouse gas emissions to below 1990 levels by 2020 as mandated by AB32, the Global Warming Solutions Action, 2) increase the use of renewable sources of energy in conformance with targets of 50% renewables by 2030 and the even more aggressive targets recently offered in SB584 to 50% by 2025 and 100% renewable by 2045; 3) lower consumer utility bills, 4) build more resilient local energy infrastructure; and 5) maintain and create new high wage jobs in construction and utility operations.

Specifically, LACCE asserts the importance of the economic impact of the community choice energy program. It identifies over 2000 construction and permanent jobs that will be generated. It commits to a "Just Transition" to minimize the impact of job loss with existing utility workers. And it upholds prevailing wage standards to ensure family wage jobs are created. Just as critical is LACCE's commitment to inclusion of small, minority, women and veteran contractors and disadvantaged workers in these economic opportunities. ECC supports harnessing these economic opportunities to build a stable and high quality energy sector workforce. It will be critical for sustaining a high quality municipal energy infrastructure.

¹ Los Angeles, San Francisco, Alameda County, Seattle, Cleveland/Cuyahoga County, New York City and Rhode Island.



The LACCE also addresses the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and lower utility costs as its primary objectives and seeks to address the health of the communities most affected by air pollution and climate change as an important objective. It is widely recognized that low-income communities suffer from high rates of asthma, other respiratory ailments, cancers and premature deaths as a result of living in and near toxic emitting sources. These communities are also most at-risk of climate impacts -- heat islands - and are least resilient in being able to mitigate the impacts.

Finally, LACCE also commits to establishing a community advisory committee to help plan and implement customer services/programs, to ensure that rates are appropriate for low-income communities and to be a venue for on-going citizens support and engagement.

We look forward to helping L.A. County -- and cities party to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) -- establish a greener, healthier, more affordable and economically viable community choice program. .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise G. Fairchild". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Denise G. Fairchild,
President/CEO