

## **Give Emeryville residents and businesses a choice: Join the county-wide Community Choice energy program!**



October 17, 2016

Dear Mayor and Members of the Emeryville City Council:

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has committed over \$3.7 million to establishing a Community Choice energy program that will enable cities in the county to offer their residents and businesses a choice of electrical energy service provider—without financial risk to the cities.\*

Community Choice, provided for in California by AB 117, enables cities and counties to form a public energy agency, which can decide where the electricity for their homes and businesses will come from. This means we can choose to get more of our electricity from renewable energy sources: we can do that by purchasing renewable electricity on the market or, even better, by developing local renewable energy resources in the community.

Under a Community Choice program, the incumbent investor-owned utility company (PG&E) continues to deliver electricity and provide customer service.

In the Bay Area, the counties of San Francisco, San Mateo, Sonoma, and Marin have already established successful Community Choice programs.

### **Climate Action, Clean Energy Jobs, and Community Benefits**

Community Choice is a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the impact of climate change by reducing energy consumption and demand, switching to renewable energy sources, and building local renewable electricity generation.

By developing local renewable energy resources, Alameda County's Community Choice program can spur economic development in the community, provide family-supporting and union clean energy jobs, boost our local economy, allow for cheaper and more stable electric utility bills, improve public health by reducing pollution, and provide other community benefits.

### **Join the Proposed Joint Powers Authority**

The East Bay Clean Power Alliance is a county-wide Community Choice advocacy coalition supported by over 58 community-based organizations and collaborating with the Alameda Labor Council. We have been working for over two years to bring Community Choice to our communities as a way to address climate change, provide direct benefits to Emeryville's residents and businesses, and strengthen sustainability and community resilience.

We urge Emeryville to become a founding participant in this new energy program.

By joining the proposed Joint Powers Authority, Emeryville will not only be able to offer its residents and businesses a choice about where their electricity comes from, it will be able to help shape the Community Choice program from the start to ensure that their interests are represented. The more cities that join early on, the quicker the program will meet its goals.

Sincerely,

Jessica Tovar,  
Coordinator of the East Bay Clean Power Alliance  
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*\* The proposed Joint Powers Authority provides a firewall protecting cities from any financial risk associated with operation of the Community Choice program.*