

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2021**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 11

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO JOIN COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY AND TAKE RELATED ACTIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

Community Choice Energy (CCE) is an energy supply program that allows cities and counties to meet local energy needs by aggregating the buying power of individual customers within a defined area to secure alternative energy supplies. The pooling of purchasing power to buy or generate electricity gives customers the choice of where to purchase their power. Choice, competition and local control are the bedrock of CCE. Today, there are twenty-four CCEs operating throughout the State, serving more than eleven million customers, including two CCEs in San Diego County.

In 2019, the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance stating the County's intent to form or join a CCE. The Board also adopted five Guiding Principles setting County terms to join others in forming a Joint Powers Authority (JPA). On April 6, 2021, the Board adopted Revised Guiding Principles and directed staff to engage in discussions with the San Diego Community Power (SDCP) and Clean Energy Alliance (CEA) CCE JPAs and return to the Board with options for potential County participation in those CCE JPAs consistent with the Revised Guiding Principles. Since that time, staff engaged in discussions with both CCE JPAs and worked with a consultant to evaluate County's options for joining one of the JPAs. The results of these efforts are summarized below.

Today's action would authorize the County's membership in either the SDCP or CEA JPA, make related CEQA findings, authorize execution of the Joint Powers Agreement of the selected CCE, appoint Supervisors as the County's Director and Alternate Director for the selected JPA Board of Directors, and authorize any payments that may be necessary once a CCE JPA is selected.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find that the proposed actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and are exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5), 15060(c)(2), (3), 15061(b)(3), and direct the Department of General Services to file a Notice of Exemption as authorized by CEQA and state CEQA Guidelines.
2. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, or designee, to either:
 - a. Execute the Clean Energy Alliance Joint Powers Agreement, in substantially the form attached as Attachment B (CEA JPA), and to take all actions necessary to establish County membership in the Clean Energy Alliance Joint Powers Authority; or
 - b. Execute the San Diego Community Power Joint Powers Agreement, in substantially the form attached as Attachment C (SDCP JPA), and to take all actions necessary to establish County membership in the San Diego Community Power Joint Powers Authority.
3. Appoint one Supervisor as the Primary Director and one Supervisor as the Alternate Director to represent the County on the Board of Directors of the selected Joint Powers Authority.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The pooling of purchasing power to buy or generate electricity gives customers the choice of where to purchase their power. Authorization to join a CCE could benefit county residents with competitive utility rates and cost savings compared to the current utility company, as well as provide local control and more renewable power. County staff conducted a series of five public meetings throughout the unincorporated county to gather public input on a possible County CCE. Overall, public comment was highly supportive of County participation in a CCE. It is expected that members of all equity-seeking groups could benefit from today's requested action.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Operational Plan for the Finance and General Government Office Executive Office. If approved, this request will result in costs and revenue of up to approximately \$80,000 if the CEA JPA (recommendation 2a) is selected or \$0 if the SDCP JPA (recommendation 2b) is selected. The funding source is unassigned General Fund Fund Balance. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Fletcher, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took the following actions:

1. Found that the proposed actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and are exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5), 15060(c)(2), (3), 15061(b)(3), and directed the Department of General Services to file a Notice of Exemption as authorized by CEQA and state CEQA Guidelines.
2. Authorized the Chief Administrative Officer or designee to: execute the San Diego Community Power Joint Powers Agreement, in substantially the form attached as Attachment C (SDCP JPA), and to take all actions necessary to establish County membership in the San Diego Community Power Joint Powers Authority.
3. Appointed Supervisor Lawson-Remer as the Primary Director and Supervisor Nora Vargas as the Alternate Director to represent the County on the Board of Directors of the selected Joint Powers Authority.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher

NOES: Anderson, Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter

