

Tehipite Topics

Community Choice Energy for the Central Valley

What is it, and why Sierra Club members and others in the Central Valley should care about it.

by Woody Hastings



First, a bit of background

In 2002, in the wake of the electricity crisis of 2000/2001, the legislature enacted AB 117, a bill that established *Community Choice Aggregation*, as it is formally known, a state policy that empowers local governments (cities and counties), to take control of the decision-making about sources of energy for electricity generation. In so doing, they created the single most powerful tool available to local government to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The new law instructed the big three utilities in the state to “cooperate fully” with any local government pursuing Community Choice.

One of the big selling points of the electricity deregulation experiment of the late ‘90s that led to the crisis was the idea that with a competitive market, people would be able to choose their electricity provider, enabling them to, for example, choose greener power. AB 117 was the legislature’s effort to salvage that customer choice aspect of deregulation, fully cognizant of the pitfalls of deregulation, empowering *communities* to offer choice in an accountable way.

Early pioneering efforts included the San Joaquin Valley Power Authority in the 2007-2010 time-frame. That early effort experienced attacks from the monopoly utility, criticism from the environmental community for planning to build a gas plant, and ultimately, the budget-busting economic recession of 2008 that put the nail in the coffin. But the Valley effort played a big part in legislation enacted in 2012, SB 790, which spelled out for the utilities what “cooperate fully” means and that placed restrictions on the for-profit utilities against anti-Community Choice marketing.

Fast forward to 2019 and there are now nineteen operational Community Choice agencies (CCAs) in California all serving their customers with bread and butter cleaner power at competitive rates, plus a wide variety of products, programs, and services that respond to the needs of their respective communities and that are good for the environment.

So, what exactly is Community Choice Energy?

Community Choice Energy is, in a nutshell, a local, not-for-profit agency made up of a city, a county, or grouping of cities and counties, that is empowered by state law to procure and/or own electricity generation facilities on behalf of its

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see also:

Wanted in Fresno County — Transparency, Engagement, Leadership

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Lame-Duck Congress Water Proposal Would Harm the Environment

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The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

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Tehipite Chapter Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings

Second Wednesday of each month ~ members welcome

January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, and
October 9, November 13, and December 11

The Conservation Committee meets at 7 PM. The Executive Committee meets at 8 PM.

University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno (between First and Fresno Streets)

Tehipite Chapter General Meetings

Third Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 PM, except for July and August

OUR GENERAL MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND PARKING IS FREE.

University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno (between First and Fresno Street)

Merced Group Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings

The first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM — at Rod Webster's home, 345 E. 20th St., Merced.

The Conservation meeting is first and can last 30-40 minutes.

Anyone with an interest in local, state, or national conservation issues is welcome to attend.

Merced Group Monthly Meetings at the Methodist Church

In the new year the Merced Group will resume its normal schedule of holding general meetings for members and the public on the third Thursday of each month. We will continue to meet at 7:00 PM at Merced United Methodist Church, 899 Yosemite Parkway (also known as Hwy 140 to Yosemite). As always, it is easiest to park in the lot on Cypress Avenue and enter there to reach the Fireside room.

Volunteer Opportunities Coming up:

[These are not Sierra Club sponsored activities.
The information is included as a courtesy to members.]

South Fork Trailblazer — December Trail Dates.

The soil is soft, the air is cool, and the bugs are gone! A perfect time for trail work. Several outings are planned to fit your schedule.

See event details posted at the Facebook public group: "South Fork Merced River Trailblazers" (link provided below).

Our primary goal this month is to recon and maintain passage of the Hite's Cove Trail in anticipation of a spectacular wildflower bloom. Alternate work will be to clear brush from the old Bolton Trail above Indian Flat.

Dates/Time: Look on Tehipite website for January dates.

Meet in Mariposa to carpool, or at the worksite to fit your schedule.

For safety reasons, rain on day of or before cancels event.
FB public Group — "South Fork Merced River Trailblazers",
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1488628871465907/>, or
Bill King at explorer@sti.net

Christmas Bird Count at UC Merced Vernal Pool and Grassland Reserve

For the two prior years a bird count has been done on the Reserve which is adjacent to the UCM campus.

This year Aaron Rives, who works for the National Resource Conservation District, will head up the effort. If you are interested in helping you can get 'on the job' training the day of the count. That date has not yet been determined, but it will be sometime after the New Year.

If you would like to be contacted with details, email or phone Rod Webster, (209) 723-4747, rwebster@elite.net.

Upcoming Tehipite Chapter General Meetings in 2019



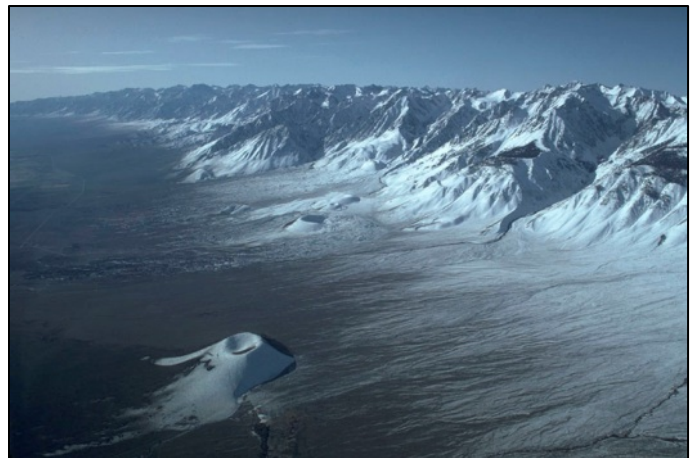
Wednesday, January 16, 7:00 PM — “Creating Inspirational Backpacking Challenges for Kids,” with Mike Murphy, co-founder and guide for Trans-Sierra Xtreme (TSX)



Wednesday, February 20, 7:00 PM — “Searching for Downed WWII Aircraft in the High Sierra,” with Tony Krizan, aircraft enthusiast



Saturday, March 16, 5:00 PM, at The Big Red Church, 2131 N. Van Ness Avenue, Fresno — Our Annual Potluck Banquet — “Sustainability, Walkability, and Economic Growth in Fresno City Planning,” with Keith Bergthold, retired city planner and director of Fresno Metro Ministry



Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 PM — “Geology of the Sierra Nevada,” with Bob Turner, former high school geology and physics teacher



Wednesday, May 15, 7:00 PM — “Heat & Drought and the Growth & Death of Sierra Forests,” with Anne E. Kelly, Director, UC Merced Yosemite and Sequoia Field Stations



Wed, June 19, 7:00 PM — “Wilderness Medicine,” with Susanne Spano, MD, Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine at UCSF Fresno and member of the Fresno County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue Mountaineering Team

Wanted in Fresno County Governance:

Transparency, Engagement, and Leadership from the Board of Supervisors

by Bob Turner, Tehipite Chapter Land Use and Transportation Chair

“Two foundational pillars of democracy are (1) Government based on the consent of the governed and (2) Government operating in accordance with the rule of law. With respect to the implementation and revision of the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, neither of these conditions are being met.”

So stated the message sent last August to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors from a network of thirteen concerned public interest organizations, including the Tehipite Chapter of Sierra Club. The network came together because of a common concern with how the Fresno County government is undertaking its rewriting of the County’s General Plan.

Importance of the General Plan

Every city and county in California is required by State law to prepare and maintain a planning document called a general plan. These general plans are designed to serve as a constitution or blueprint for future decisions concerning land use, infrastructure, public services, and resource conservation. All development-related decisions made by a jurisdiction must be consistent with its general plan.

Two decades ago, Fresno County residents came together to craft the County’s “2000 General Plan” to address economic and environmental challenges that have held our region back. This plan is comprehensive and highly specific. As the network’s letter stated, “The Plan embodies a set of goals that represent not the way Fresno County is but the way we want it to be — a county with better paying jobs, sustainable agriculture, cleaner air and water, greater personal safety, increased recreation and much more.” The Plan requires the County to review the document and evaluate the County’s economic development strategy every five years. Before its expiration in 2020, it was expected there would be a thorough update to carry the Plan forward for another twenty years.

Transparency

Years have passed since the Plan’s adoption in 2000. Implementation of the Plan is entrusted to the Board of Supervisors and the composition of the Board has changed in the interim. Today the Plan is rarely implemented properly, and the process for revising it is dimly understood. Scheduled reviews have not occurred. With the Plan’s end fast approaching, it appears that the County’s planning staff is attempting to extend the General Plan’s horizon to 2040 rather than engaging the public in a comprehensive update.

One proposed change would eliminate a requirement for five-year reviews by changing the word “shall” to “should.” In all documents currently presented to the public, the County is avoiding the word “update” and engaging instead, it would appear, in its long-overdue “review” of the Policy Document.

Meanwhile, the proposed new Zoning Ordinance, which is undergoing an update, is being presented to the public without a redlined document, making it unnecessarily difficult for residents to see which parts are proposed for revision. Since the formation of our watchdog network last summer, our group has met with the five County Supervisors, seeking clarification of this update process.

Engagement

We have also encouraged the Supervisors to create a robust

method for engaging public participation in the update process. Board members appear to agree that the public ought to be more involved, as they quickly arranged for a series of public meetings in each district to inform residents about the “General Plan Review and Zoning Ordinance Update.”

However, they left little time to mobilize public interest, so these meetings ended up being sparsely attended. At a recent Board meeting, staff informed the Supervisors that attendees have mainly been the same familiar faces of the network activists, who are increasingly being perceived as more of an irritant than as legitimate stakeholders acting in the public interest. Posting notices of these meetings on library bulletin boards is hardly sufficient as a means of public outreach.

Leadership

As we have been moving through this process, I am left to wonder who is really in charge. Are the elected Supervisors, who are supposed to answer to the People’s will, actually driving the review, or have they abrogated their responsibility to the planning staff? In whose interests are changes being made? Are the Supervisors just taking the easy way out, or are they currently letting developers have the upper hand in influencing the General Plan review?

We have one Board member who used to sit on the Fresno City Council and is familiar with the City’s recent overhaul of the City of Fresno General Plan, which is a model for how this needs to be done, so I still have hope that the Board will take hold of the process and move it forward in the right direction.

What’s Needed

Nothing will change without greater pressure from the voting public. We must pause the process to better inform and engage the public, especially in low-income communities that bear the brunt of negative impact from industrial development and sloppy agricultural practices. These communities have great needs that the County must address in the Plan — clean water supplies, sidewalks to schools, transit for the poor, more construction of affordable housing, and an end to the pollution that is driving an epidemic of asthma in Valley children.

Here is an opportunity for the next generation to become involved, those who have the most stake in the success of a sound and wise General Plan. I recommend that teachers alert their students, and encourage them to proactively document their community’s needs, perhaps by creating video documentaries illustrating deficiencies in the quality of the environment where they live, work, and go to school.

Developers should not wish for a general plan that will be subject to years of lawsuits and court-mandated revisions. They too should want a transparent process with robust community involvement, so that everyone is working together toward the same goals. The Supervisors must go above and beyond what is legally required. They must aspire to create a blueprint for the County’s future that is the product of everyone’s input, expertise, and aspirations. They must administer a process that is inclusive, so that the result reflects the interests of all the people of Fresno County. When everyone owns it, then we will all work together to implement it, and our future will be brighter for it.

Lame-Duck Congress Water Proposal Would Harm the Environment

by Gary Lasky, Tehipite Chapter Legal Chair

The Republican Congress is meeting this month in a lame-duck session and threatening to do damage to the environment in advance of the 2019 Democratic House majority being seated.

In particular, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) and California Senator Dianne Feinstein are working with the Trump administration to deliver a huge slice of Holiday pork to the Westlands Water District and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. These powerful water players have been thirsting for more northern California water. Westlands' chief lobbyist, David Bernhardt, was appointed by President Trump to the key position of Undersecretary of the Interior, where he will preside over federal water projects in the San Joaquin Valley, including the proposed Temperance Flat Dam, which the Sierra Club opposes.

The State Water Resources Control Board is meeting later this month to consider a proposal to restrict water exports from the San Francisco Bay Delta estuary in order to protect the salmon and other endangered species now in critical danger of extinction. In response, Congress is proposing a \$670 million extension of the WIIN Act, the 2016 emergency drought legislation to make it easier for Central Valley and Southern California water districts to impound water headed for the Delta.

On the next page I have excerpted a December 3 memo on this proposed legislation from Ron Stork of Friends of the River, and below, in its entirety, is an opposition letter from Sierra Club and eight other environmental groups.

LETTER FROM THE SIERRA CLUB and Eight Other Environmental Organizations in Opposition to the WIIN Act Extension Now Under Consideration by the Lame Duck Session of Congress:

RE: Oppose House Rider that Threatens Fishing Jobs and California's Bay-Delta Estuary

Dear Member [of Congress]: November 30, 2018

On behalf of the undersigned conservation groups and fishing organizations, we are writing to urge you to oppose the new appropriations rider recently proposed in the House that would undermine protections for salmon, thousands of west coast fishing jobs, and the health of California's rivers and Bay-Delta estuary. This proposed rider would extend, without any hearing or public review, the temporary operational provisions of subtitle J of the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) until the year 2028, which would give the Trump Administration additional authority to override protections critical for sustaining California's salmon runs and other endangered fish species. The rider would also authorize hundreds of millions of dollars of new spending on dams and water storage projects throughout the West, giving the Trump Administration an infusion of cash for environmentally harmful projects such as the proposed raise of Shasta Dam in California, a project that violates State law, and would destroy Native American sacred sites and harm fish and wildlife.

The operational provisions of the 2016 WIIN Act were explicitly a short-term measure to respond to California's historic drought, and these provisions do not sunset until 2021. There is no reason to rush to extend these provisions

during the Lame Duck, given that they already will remain in effect for several years, California's historic drought ended in 2017, and they were intended to be a short term measure. These provisions are inconsistent with California law and violate the requirements of biological opinions protecting salmon and other native fish under the Endangered Species Act. As such, they are likely to lead to extensive litigation and undermine progress on long-term solutions. While these provisions of the WIIN Act attempt to weaken existing protections, State and federal agencies have already concluded that greater protections for salmon and other endangered fish species are necessary to avoid extinction.

Congress should not give the Trump Administration additional authority to undermine environmental protections in California, which would threaten thousands of fishing jobs in California, Oregon and Washington that depend on Endangered Species Act protections for salmon in the Bay-Delta. Rather than negotiating to extend the anti-environmental provisions of the WIIN Act in the Lame Duck, in 2019 the new Congress should develop funding for sustainable water solutions for communities throughout the west.

We strongly urge you to oppose inclusion of this poison pill rider in any appropriations bills or other legislation during Lame Duck.

Sincerely,

Defenders of Wildlife Earthjustice
Golden Gate Salmon Association
League of Conservation Voters
National Audubon Society
Natural Resources Defense Council
Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations
Sierra Club The Bay Institute

Proposal in the Lame Duck Congress to Extend the WIIN Act

Summary of Amendments

On November 30, 2018, Majority Leader Rep. McCarthy, Governor Brown, and U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein announced their support for amendments to the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN). These amendments would extend the deadlines for findings of feasibility by the Secretary of the Interior of WIIN storage projects by seven years and would provide authorization for appropriations of \$134 million per year for another five years. The amendments would extend nearly all of the provisions of the California Water subtitle of the WIIN by seven years. The proposed amendments also would extend by seven years the provisions of the WIIN giving state and federal water contractors extensive access to Endangered Species Act (ESA) biological assessment and opinion development on the operations of the Central Valley (CVP) and State Water Projects (SWP).

Presumed Purpose of the Proposed WIIN Amendments

These amendments would increase available federal funding for WIIN dams by \$670 million, making authorized funding go to \$1.0 billion with \$335 million already appropriated. According to press accounts, this increased funding and the time extension for feasibility findings are seen as sweeteners for dam owners and diverters to sign voluntary settlement agreements that would substitute for actions by the State Water Control Board (SWRCB) in the Board's pending updates to the Bay/Delta Water Quality Control Plan. These updates would affect tributary flows to the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers and the Delta.

Settling these tributary flow issues is seen by many as helping to facilitate Board decisions regarding the Change of Point of Diversion petitions by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for the twin tunnels.

Also important, and probably for the same reasons, are the extension of the WIIN delta and delivery provisions. These provisions are seen by many as requiring that greater priority be placed on maximizing south-of-delta export deliveries than water quality and environmental conditions in the Bay/Delta and its tributary ecosystems.

This section is clearly being proposed to move more federal funds into WIIN storage projects and to provide these often less-than-feasible or less-meritorious projects more time to win their Secretarial feasibility findings. On the federal side, Reclamation's apparent feasibility finding for the \$1.3 billion Shasta Dam raise could be subject to challenge, given its illegality. The \$2.8 billion Temperance Flat dam has a new non-federal sponsor in formation, an idea to circulate a new draft or supplemental draft EIS, and some significant funding and permitting challenges. These proposed amendments may be seen by their boosters as a life preserver as they struggle with difficult circumstances.

Conclusion

If passed, the attempt from the authors and the Trump Administration will get additional years to approach feasibility and try for additional funding. If the Congressional appropriations committees, the Congress, and the President continue to fund up to the proposed authorized ceiling, the WIIN program will have a billion federal dollars behind it and more desire and momentum to ask for more. The morphing of a short-term drought bill would turn into a traditional Congressional Pork Barrel with water projects being the currency of exchange.

Perhaps more important is the extension of time for the drought emergency-based amendments to push for more south-of-delta export deliveries. Bad stuff there too.

Lots more work, too.

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Community Choice Aggregation Promotes Energy Democracy, Clean Energy Production, and Community Reinvestment

– CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE –

residents, businesses, and other institutional customers. They are only possible in investor-owned utility service territories (PG&E, SCE, SDG&E), and are only involved in the generation side of the electricity equation. The utilities continue to own and operate the poles & wires, meter the power, and bill for it. CCAs are a line item on the utility bill that *replaces* the utility generation line. CCAs have statutory authority on a wide range of electricity functions including rate-setting, energy efficiency, and locally tailored programs.

How and why is Community Choice a powerful tool?

If there is a magic wand in Community Choice, it is this. When a city or county votes to launch a CCA, there are two critically powerful aspects. One is that CCA is the default service in its territory, which means that when a CCA launches, all of the constituents of that jurisdiction are automatically enrolled and must proactively opt out if they want to remain a “bundled” customer of the big for-profit utility. On the date CCA service begins, known as the *cut-over* date, an existing revenue stream in the tens of millions, in some cases hundreds of millions of dollars, is redirected into local control and the local economy. The net revenues from the service no longer flow to corporate shareholders, but to reinvestment in the local economy. In my county, Sonoma Clean Power has brought about an eight-fold increase in in-county spending.

Where is it already happening?

CCAs have sprung up all the way from Humboldt County in the north to San Diego County in the south and all along the coast in between. In fact, even Orange County has several cities exploring the opportunity. In the inland areas, Placer County, Yolo County, Riverside County, and San Bernardino County all have active CCAs, as does the high desert community of Lancaster. Major population centers, including the East Bay, San José, and Los Angeles County, all have operational agencies. In the Central Valley, the city furthest along in an evaluation is Hanford in Kings County, and the City of Stockton in San Joaquin County is going to have CCA on its agenda in early 2019. But other than that, there is little activity on a program that can help address some of the Valley’s most pressing economic and environmental challenges.

Why the Central Valley?

Nearly the entire Central Valley is designated an *Environmental Justice* community in California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment’s CalEnviroScreen map. CalEnviroScreen is a screening tool used to help identify communities disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution, and with demographics that make them more sensitive to pollution. Much of the source of poor air quality in the Valley is the result of the use of fossil energy in agricultural and other industrial sectors, and in transportation. Community Choice can help on both counts, in the long term moving away from fossil sources for electrical power, and in the nearer term in a rapidly expanding role in the electrification of transportation. But for a CCA to make the right decisions on these matters, participation from the stakeholder community is critical. CCA makes this involvement from the community possible by fostering *energy democracy*.

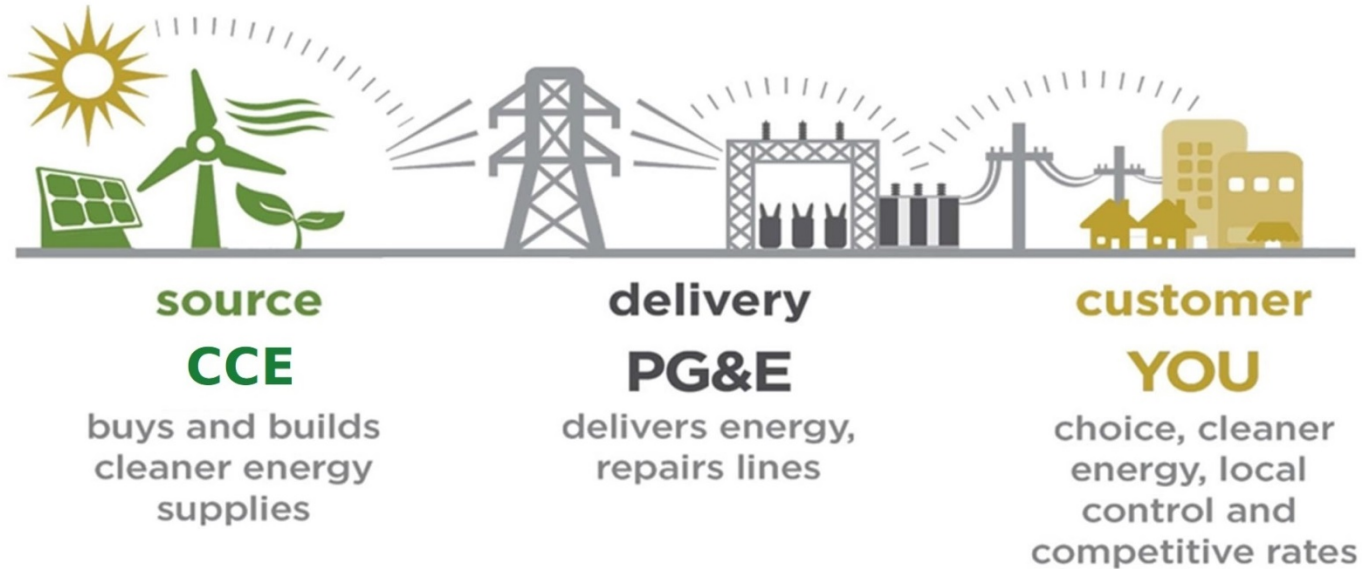
What is Energy Democracy and how does Community Choice advance it?

Energy Democracy begins with the understanding that energy is a fundamental need like water and air and that every community has the right to weigh in on decision-making about energy policies, programs, and projects. Under the current 100-year-old regulated monopoly system, community involvement is virtually non-existent. Community Choice lies at the crossroads between energy policy and social justice. It is an empowering force that invites a community to chart its own energy destiny. A fundamental given with Community Choice is that CCAs are public agencies, subject to the state’s open meeting laws, so communities have the opportunity to participate in decision-making meetings, something that is exceedingly difficult to do in the 100-year system that is, by the way, drawing to a close.

Why should I care?

In 2005, the organization I work for, the Center for Climate Protection, identified Community Choice as the single most powerful tool available to local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the 19 operational agencies are showing this to be true. A single case in point is the CCA in my own home county of Sonoma, where our CCA, Sonoma

How Community Choice Energy (CCE) Works



Clean Power, offers a power mix that is 48% lower in GHGs than PG&E's power mix. The climate crisis is already having dramatic impacts on wildlands and communities in the Tehipite Chapter region, with tree mortality in the Sierras and increasingly frequent extreme heat events in the populated areas on the Valley floor. A Community Choice agency in the Valley could, with a strong community push to set the right priorities, help play its part in addressing the crisis.

The larger context: the global energy sector transformation

There is a global energy revolution underway. It is a revolution that is transforming the 100-year plus *Central Station* utility model with big dirty power plants, long distance transmission, and ratepayers, not customers by choice, who just pay bills and don't have much say. It is evolving to a decentralized, democratized, cleaner system with ever-increasing opportunities for individuals and communities to participate and reap benefits.

How can I help get a CCA up and running in my community?

- Urge your local government elected leaders and staff
- Talk to your family, friends & neighbors about Community Choice Energy
- Use the resources below to learn more

What kinds of resources are available to learn more?

Find out more about Community Choice Energy at the Clean Power Exchange (www.cleanpowerexchange.org).

There you can:

- Visit a page dedicated specifically to issues related to the Central Valley
- Sign up for bi-weekly e-news specific to the Central Valley
- Download reports and view past webinars
- Find many other resources and information to learn about Community Choice



Woody Hastings is a long-time Sierra Club member, currently in the Redwood Chapter, Sonoma Group. Woody is an energy and environmental policy analyst, strategic planner, and community organizer with over 30 years of experience in the non-profit, governmental, and private sectors. Woody specializes in Community Choice Energy, a state policy that fosters energy democracy by empowering communities to establish their own not-for-profit electricity service, thereby taking control over decision-making about energy sources for electricity generation. Woody can be reached at (707) 525-1665 ext. 117 or via email at woody@climateprotection.org.

Operational Community Choice agencies:

- **MCE Clean Energy**, launched in 2010, Marin and Napa Counties, and cities in Solano and Contra Costa Counties
- **Sonoma Clean Power**, launched May 2014, Sonoma and Mendocino Counties
- **Lancaster Choice Energy**, launched May 2015, City of Lancaster in Los Angeles County
- **CleanPowerSF**, launched May 2016, City and County of San Francisco
- **Peninsula Clean Energy**, launched October 2016, San Mateo County
- **Silicon Valley Clean Energy**, launched April 2017, Santa Clara County
- **Apple Valley Choice Energy**, launched April 2017, City of Apple Valley in San Bernardino County
- **Redwood Coast Energy Authority**, launched May 2017, Humboldt County
- **Pico Rivera Innovative Municipal Energy (PRIME)**, launched September 2017, City of Pico Rivera in LA County
- **Pioneer Community Energy**, launched February 2018, Placer County
- **Clean Power Alliance of Southern California**, launched February 2018, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties
- **Monterey Bay Community Power**, launched March 2018, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito Counties, and the Cities of San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay in San Luis Obispo County
- **San Jacinto Power**, launched April 2018, City of San Jacinto in Riverside County
- **Rancho Mirage Energy Authority**, launched May 2018, City of Rancho Mirage in Riverside County
- **Solana Energy Alliance**, launched June 2018, City of Solana Beach in San Diego County
- **Valley Clean Energy**, launched June 2018, Yolo County
- **East Bay Community Energy**, launched June 2018, Alameda County
- **San Jose Clean Energy**, launched September 2018, City of San José in Santa Clara County
- **King City Community Power**, launched July 2018, King City in Monterey County

Emerging Community Choice agencies (CCAs):

- **Butte County Community Choice**
- **Central Coast Power** (Santa Barbara County and Cities of Carpinteria, Goleta, and Santa Barbara)
- **Desert Community Energy** (Coachella Valley — Central and Eastern Riverside County)
- **Hanford Community Choice** (in Kings County)
- **City of San Diego**
- **North Coastal San Diego County** (cities in San Diego County's North Coast)
- **Western Community Energy** (Western Riverside County Council of Governments)

Who's Next?

Sierra Club's California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee (CNRCC) **adopted this resolution in support of Community Choice Energy on April 30, 2017:**

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs allow local city and county governments in California to choose their communities' electricity supply. The Investor Owned Utility continues to operate the distribution grid and provide various supporting services. At the outset, all customers are automatically enrolled into the CCA, and may choose to "opt out" of the CCA and back to the Investor Owned Utility. **CCAs are the most potent and effective tool cities and counties have to scale up renewable energy systems and cut greenhouse gas emissions.**

(Note that only municipalities in Investor Owned Utility territories may form CCAs — public utilities, such as in the cities of Los Angeles and Sacramento, are already community-owned.)

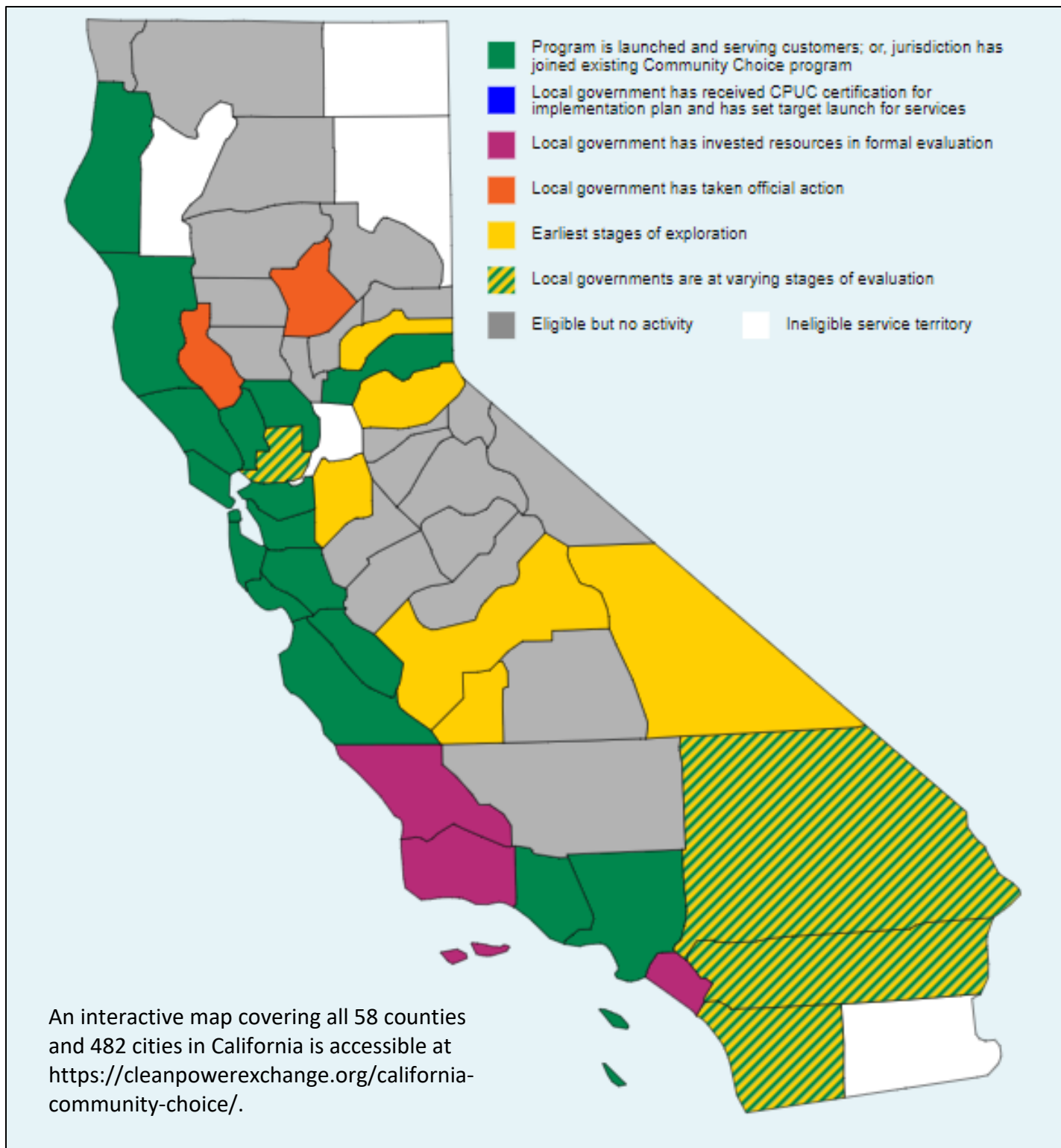
The way CCAs are designed and operated varies widely. This affects whether or not CCA programs can achieve Sierra Club goals in practice. Additionally, there are several "regional" models of Community Choice developing. **It is important that all of these initiatives incorporate community input, Sierra Club goals and best CCA practices.**

Goal by 2030: Over 50% of state electricity demand in CCAs or municipal energy programs

Actions for 2018: Work with national Club staff, chapters, activists, labor and other organizations to:

- *Ensure that CCAs incorporate community input and are designed to achieve Sierra Club goals;*
- *Reduce or eliminate exit fees and other unfair burdens on Community Choice Energy;*
- *Encourage local municipal officials to form and join CCAs in their locality and region;*
- *Push existing and new CCAs to prioritize and implement best CCA practices in energy efficiency, local, distributed renewable energy, and workforce development programs.*

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Community Choice is a local program that buys and generates electricity for businesses and residents. It introduces competition and choice into the electricity market with a focus on local, renewable energy to stimulate rapid innovations in clean energy systems. As not-for-profit public agencies, Community Choice energy providers are not beholden to increasing shareholder returns, but rather to stable, competitive pricing for consumers, and increasingly resilient and clean, local energy systems. Community Choice efforts are underway in more than half of California’s communities, resulting already in 1,300 megawatts of new renewable energy, \$90 million in annual savings for ratepayers, and thousands of new, local family-wage jobs. With CCAs, everyone in the community gets a voice in how returns are reinvested, fostering collaboration with local businesses, farms, and government agencies to fund innovative programs for electrifying transportation networks and farm equipment, which will improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for developing new grid-connected local clean energy generation and storage, which will build more resilience into our energy system in case of natural disasters or cyber-attacks.



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Tehipite Topics is published three times a year. Downloadable color versions are available on the Chapter website at www.sierraclub.org/tehipite/newsletters. Back issues are archived on the website beginning from April 2004. Articles and photographs from Sierra Club members are always welcome for our coming issues. Send your contributions for the Winter 2019 issue by email to robertsturner52@gmail.com before January 31.

TEHIPITE CHAPTER 2019 ANNUAL BANQUET

**“SUSTAINABILITY, WALKABILITY,
AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN
FRESNO CITY PLANNING”**

**A LECTURE ON INCORPORATING
ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES IN URBAN
DEVELOPMENT, WITH KEITH BERGTHOLD,
RETIRED FRESNO CITY PLANNER AND
DIRECTOR OF FRESNO METRO MINISTRY**

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 5–9 P.M.



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