



**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY GROUP**  
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To:  
Mayor and Council Members  
City of Santa Cruz

**Subject: 2/28/17 Council Agenda Item #21: Monterey Bay Community Power – Joint Powers Agreement, Resolution Establishing the Joint Powers Authority and Ordinance Implementing the Community Choice Energy Program**

Dear Mayor and Council members.

The Sierra Club thanks you for giving us the opportunity to present our views regarding Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP). As a Santa Cruz county-wide environmental organization representing some 3000 members we fully support the goals of Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP) *to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide electric power and other forms of energy to customers at competitive prices in the Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito County region. Additionally we support MBCP as it seeks to reduce energy consumption, stimulate the local economy by creating local jobs, promote long-term electric rate stability and reliability for the residents of our tri-county area.*

With a few modifications we can whole-heartedly endorse the current draft proposal before you today. This additional language will best achieve the aforementioned goals. We hope you will support these language modifications before giving the MBCP your blessing.

We are pleased to say MBCP won't use the Category III RECs, which are just greenwashing. We are also pleased MBCP will focus on just in-state power, or Category I. (Out-of-state energy, Category II, doesn't do anything to improve our environment, economy, or community.) But we want to focus on **local build-out of renewables and carbon-free projects**. This gets to the heart of the issue of what MBCP can accomplish if done properly, which must aim for true sustainability for the best environmental solution.

What we would recommend you require before signing onto MBCP is:

- Include a Business Plan in order to include a roadmap for the development, procurement, and integration of **local renewable energy resources**. The whole ideal about this program is to redirect monies that would have gone to PG&E back to our local community.
- Include a **Community Advisory Board**. The current proposal lacks a Community Advisory Board. This would give our community the democratic opportunity to influence how this program operates from various perspectives.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Greg McPheeters  
Chair, Santa Cruz Group, Sierra Club