



Agenda Report

DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO SEND A LETTER ON COMMUNITY CHOICE
AGGREGATION TO CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

On June 2, the City Council heard a presentation on Community Choice Energy (CCE) and how it may contribute to the Climate Action Plan's goal of increasing renewable energy and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. On June 16, City Council approved of forming an Ad Hoc Committee (AHC) to study various options to proceed or not proceed with a CCE and to make a recommendation back to Council. On August 25, the AHC met and recommended that a letter be sent to Contra Costa County's Internal Operations Committee urging them to explore creating a regional CCE initiated by the County.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Mayor to send a non-binding, no-cost letter to Contra Costa County's Internal Operations Committee urging them to explore creating a regional CCE initiated by the County at their next meeting and authorize the Mayor to contact other public officials within Contra Costa County encouraging them to send similar letters of support.

DISCUSSION:

On August 18, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors approved referring CCE to their Internal Operations Committee to study further. The Internal Operations Committee is expected to meet on September 14, 2015. The purpose of the referral is to study the CCE concept further, explore merits and disadvantages and return to the full Board with background information and a recommendation. The Board may subsequently make a decision regarding whether or not to initiate CCE for the County.

A regional CCE for Contra Costa County has the advantage of providing greater local control over electricity procurement and rates, as well as CCE decisions, compared with joining other CCEs. The AHC does not recommend that Walnut Creek initiate CCE on its own, and that joining an existing CCE or future County CCE is a more viable approach.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS:

None.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

Council can decide not to authorize a non-binding, no-cost letter to Contra Costa County's Internal Operations Committee.

DOCUMENTS:

None.

COUNCIL ACTION RECOMMENDED:

Authorize the Mayor to send a non-binding, no-cost letter to Contra Costa County's Internal Operations Committee urging them to explore creating a regional CCE initiated by the County at their next meeting authorize the Mayor to contact other public officials within Contra Costa County encouraging them to send similar letters of support.

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