

## County Administrator

County Administration Building  
651 Pine Street, 10th Floor  
Martinez, California 94553-1229  
(925) 335-1080  
(925) 335-1098 FAX

**David J. Twa**  
County Administrator

## Contra Costa County



## Board of Supervisors

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5<sup>th</sup> District

November 13, 2015

# SAMPLE

Gus Vina, City Manager  
City of Brentwood  
150 City Park Way  
Brentwood, CA 94513-1396

### **RE: Request for Authorization to Obtain City Electric Load Data for Community Choice Aggregation Study**

Dear Mr. Vina:

On October 13, 2015, the Board of Supervisors directed County staff to investigate three alternatives for Community Choice Aggregation in the unincorporated area of the County, and to engage cities within the County to determine the interest of cities in studying these alternatives. The three alternatives under consideration are as follows:

- Form a new Joint Powers Authority (JPA) comprised of the County and interested cities within Contra Costa County for the purpose of Community Choice Aggregation
- Form a new JPA comprised of interested cities in Contra Costa County and Alameda County and its participating cities for the purpose of Community Choice Aggregation
- Join the existing Community Choice Aggregation JPA established in Marin County, known as Marin Clean Energy

Please reply to this letter by January 31, 2016, to indicate your city's interest in authorizing the County to obtain your city's electrical load data from PG&E for the purpose of studying alternatives for Community Choice Aggregation, and to indicate your city's willingness to share in the cost of such a study. A sample resolution and letter of authorization are attached for your convenience; either document is sufficient to meet PG&E's approval requirements.

## Background

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is the practice of aggregating consumer electricity demand within a jurisdiction or region for the purpose of procuring electricity and selling it to customers. Authorized in California State law since 2002, Community Choice Aggregation has been practiced in several states across the country for the past few decades.

CCA has benefits, costs and risks for local governments to consider. Potential benefits include increasing the proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources; lower electricity rates for residents, business and public agencies; increased competition in the electricity market; and, greater local control over decisions related to the procurement and consumption of electricity.

Costs and risks associated with CCA include the cost of the various start-up activities necessary to initiate service to customers and the risk these costs may not be recovered. Costs and risks will vary depending on the CCA alternatives chosen by local jurisdictions.

The investigation of CCA alternatives in Contra Costa County requires a technical study to estimate the electricity rates that would be charged to customers under the three CCA alternatives under consideration. Such a technical study requires that electricity load data for each participating jurisdiction be obtained from PG&E. Subject to direction by the Board of Supervisors, my office will initiate such a data request on behalf of participating jurisdictions within the County. The County is interested to know if your city will authorize the County Administrator to request load data on the City's behalf. Your permission for the County to request your community's electrical load data from PG&E would in no way obligate your city to participate in CCA.

Once electricity load data is received by the County from PG&E for participating jurisdictions, this data may be used to conduct a technical study that will evaluate electricity demand within these jurisdictions to estimate the electricity rates that would be charged to customers under the three CCA alternatives being considered. The County is interested to know if the City would be willing to share in the cost of this technical study. The total cost of the study would likely be in the range of \$75,000 - \$150,000. The County proposes this cost would be shared among the participating jurisdictions. For example, if the County and nine cities were to share in the cost of the technical study, the estimated cost for each participating jurisdiction would be in the range of \$7,500 to \$15,000. Following the conclusion of this study, participating jurisdictions would evaluate its findings and decide whether to pursue one of the CCA alternatives studied. Depending on the chosen course of action, some or all of the start-up costs may be recoverable.

To assist County residents, business owners, elected officials, and other interested parties to better understand Community Choice Aggregation, the County will host three (3) workshops in West, Central and East County during the month of December. The meeting times and locations are as follows:

- December 10, Walnut Creek City Hall, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
- December 14, Hercules Public Library, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
- December 16, Brentwood Community Center, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jason Crapo with the County Dept. of Conservation and Development at (925) 674-7722 or [jason.crapo@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:jason.crapo@dcd.cccounty.us).

Sincerely,



DAVID TWA  
County Administrator

*Enclosed: Sample load data authorization resolution and authorization letter*

**SAMPLE**