

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553

John Gioia, 1st District
Candace Andersen, 2nd District
Diane Burgis, 3rd District
Karen Mitchoff, 4th District
Federal D. Glover, 5th District

Contra Costa County



David Twa Clerk
of the Board and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: ELIMINATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENERGY EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

Dear Commissioner Rechtschaffen:

Local governments were recently informed that investor-owned utilities (IOUs) are expected to make substantial reductions to their local government partnership budgets beginning calendar year 2019. The County of Contra Costa, like many other local governments in California, rely on this funding to support our efforts to meet our Climate Action Plan goals.

Recently, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) advised East Bay Energy Watch (local government partnership covering 35 jurisdictions within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties) that its administration, marketing, implementation, and non-resource budget for energy efficiency programs would be reduced by 29%. We have heard that other partnerships throughout the state have been advised of cuts as high as 65%, with some partnerships being eliminated altogether. These substantial cuts to our local government partnership budget will have an untenable impact on our ability to combat climate change and meet local and state climate goals, such as SB 350. Our local government partnership provides value and legitimacy to the energy efficiency programs offered by the IOUs, including outreach to our community members, who trust us. The elimination of these resources will have a significant impact on our local government goals, our ability to implement our climate action plans, and our constituents.

The proposed reductions in funding by the IOUs also directly contradict California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Decision 18-05-041, Ordering paragraph #30, which states that: *“The investor owned utilities must work with Local Government Partnership partners and support local governments’ efforts to increase local capacity to conduct energy efficiency activities.”* Unfortunately, we are only seeing substantial reductions to local government partnership budgets.

Local governments are an integral part of California meeting its goals to make a meaningful impact on climate change. The County of Contra Costa requests that the CPUC not allow the IOUs to reduce or eliminate local government partnership budgets.

Sincerely,

KAREN MITCHOFF
Chair, Board of Supervisor

cc: Parties to A.17-10-015 and R.16-02-007