

The Board of Supervisors

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

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Contra Costa County



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

July 9, 2019

President Michael Picker
Commissioner Liane M. Randolph
Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves
Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen
Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma

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

RE: CONTINUED FUTURE OF REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORKS

Dear President Picker and Commissioners:

On March 27, 2019, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued a ruling (Rulemaking 13-11-005) to seek comments on future policy regarding the regional energy networks (RENs). As you know, the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) along with Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) were the first RENs established by the CPUC in early 2013. The County of Contra Costa would like BayREN to continue providing services to our constituents.

Since its inception, BayREN has provided energy efficiency programs to all of its 101 incorporated cities and unincorporated communities throughout the entire nine-county Bay Area region. This includes energy efficiency rebate programs for the residential sectors as well as important resources to assist local governments to improve compliance with the State's progressive energy code requirements. BayREN plays a critical role for providing additional resources to our disadvantaged communities in the Bay Area by leveraging its resources with other programs to support California's goals in making a substantial impact to address climate change. BayREN's multi-family program, known as the Bay Area Multifamily Building Enhancement (BAMBE), was recently recognized in a report by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) as one of the most successful energy efficiency programs offered in the nation.

BayREN also coordinates with the various Community Choice Aggregators (such as MCE) and investor-owned utilities (such as PG&E) to fill existing utility service gaps and develops flexible and innovative programs that build on local government values to serve constituents needs. Contra Costa County and its 19 cities, like the other Counties and cities within BayREN rely on this funding to support our efforts to meet our Climate Action Plan goals and help California achieve its environmental goals.

The County of Contra Costa requests that the CPUC permanently continue to fund BayREN.

Sincerely,

JOHN GIOIA
Chair, Board of Supervisor