

## Disclosures Regarding Renewable Energy\*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

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**Members:** Packard, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen, Unruh  
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**Deadline to Request Reconsideration:** TBD

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**The Way It Is Now:** State law allows local governments such as San Francisco to develop Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs, in which local governments may purchase energy to sell to residential and business customers in their jurisdiction. Under state law, local governments implementing a CCA program must give potential customers the choice to opt out.

San Francisco has created its own CCA program called CleanPowerSF, which the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) will administer. The City, through its SFPUC, generates hydroelectric power at its Hetch Hetchy facilities in Tuolumne County. The City currently uses this power to meet its municipal power needs and does not sell electricity to most San Francisco residents or businesses.

CleanPowerSF has not commenced buying energy to sell to customers. Until CleanPowerSF begins doing so, most San Francisco residents and businesses must purchase their power from a private company.

State law requires all retail electricity suppliers, including CCAs, to disclose the sources of power being provided from various categories, including from eligible renewable energy resources.

There is currently no definition under local law for “renewable, greenhouse-gas free electricity,” or similar terms used to describe the source or environmental impact of electric energy.

State law requires that a certain percentage of the electricity provided to customers come from “eligible renewable energy resources.” Examples of “renewable resources” include biomass, solar thermal, photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, solid waste conversion, landfill gas, ocean wave, ocean thermal, and tidal current. Under State law, “eligible renewable energy resources” include renewable energy credits as well as renewable resources located in the Western United States, Canada, and Mexico. State law allows San Francisco to use power from its Hetch Hetchy facilities to meet its required renewable resource percentage.

**The Proposal:** This measure would require the City to inform customers and potential customers of its CCA program of the percentage of “renewable, greenhouse-gas free electricity,” as defined in the measure. The City would have to include this percentage in each communication sent to customers regarding its CCA program. This measure would also require the City to disclose this percentage in at least three written notices to each potential CCA customer before enrolling the customer in the CCA program.

This measure defines “renewable, greenhouse-gas free electricity” to mean:

- electricity derived exclusively from renewable resources located in or adjacent to the California border; or
- electricity generated by the City's Hetch Hetchy facilities.

This measure would also prohibit the City from engaging in any form of advertising or marketing, or from making any public statement, that the electricity it is supplying or will supply in a CCA program is “clean,” “green,” or any similar term, unless the electricity is “renewable, greenhouse gas-free electricity” under the measure.

*\*Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*

**A "YES" Vote Means:** If you vote "yes," you want to:

- define the term "renewable, greenhouse-gas free electricity" to mean electricity derived exclusively from renewable resources located in or adjacent to the California border or electricity derived from Hetch Hetchy;
- require the City to inform customers and potential customers of its CCA program of the percentage of "renewable, greenhouse-gas free electricity"; and
- prohibit the City from stating that the electricity supplied in a CCA program is "clean," "green," or any similar term, unless the electricity is "renewable, greenhouse gas-free electricity".

**A "NO" Vote Means:** If you vote "no," If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes.