

August 4, 2015

To: Ballot Simplification Committee
From: Eric Brooks, Coordinator
Our City San Francisco

Re: Requests for Reconsideration of Digests for Proposition G

Dear Ballot Simplification Committee,

On behalf of the local nonprofit organization Our City San Francisco, I would like to request reconsideration of the ballot digest for Proposition G ("Disclosures Regarding Renewable Energy") approved by the Committee in your meeting Monday, August 3, 2015. Our suggested amendments are as follows (with proposed new versions in **bold text**).

1) Make clear to voters that Proposition G limits the use of some renewables within California by changing:

The Proposal: Proposition G would limit the definition of "eligible renewable energy resources" to one of these categories. It would define "renewable, greenhouse-gas free electricity" to mean:

- electricity obtained exclusively from renewable resources located within or adjacent to the California border; or

.....

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

- limit the definition of "renewable, greenhouse-gas free electricity" to mean electricity derived exclusively from renewable resources located within or adjacent to the California border or electricity derived from Hetch Hetchy;

to:

The Proposal: Proposition G would limit the definition of "eligible renewable energy resources" to only one of these categories and would exclude some state certified renewable electricity sources, such as rooftop solar panels or rooftop wind generators, from being defined as "renewable, greenhouse-gas free electricity". Proposition G would define "renewable, greenhouse-gas free electricity" to mean:

- **electricity obtained exclusively from renewable sources located within or adjacent to the California border, with the exception of many renewable sources placed behind utility meters inside and on top of buildings, such as rooftop solar panels or rooftop wind generators; or**

.....

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

- **limit the definition of "renewable, greenhouse-gas free electricity" to mean electricity obtained exclusively from renewable sources located within or adjacent to the California border, with the exception of many renewable sources placed behind utility meters inside and on top of buildings, such as rooftop solar panels or rooftop wind generators; or electricity derived from Hetch Hetchy;**

Why this change is needed:

Many renewables placed inside and on top of buildings, behind utility meters, such as solar panels and small wind turbines on rooftops—whether located within California or even within San Francisco—would not count as “renewable, greenhouse gas-free electricity” under this measure because they are considered Category 3 renewables under state law and Proposition G only allows Category 1 renewables to be labeled “renewable, greenhouse gas-free electricity”. Therefore, the existing ballot description text is wholly factually inaccurate and must be corrected.

2) Make clear to voters that Proposition G would hold CleanPowerSF to a different and more restrictive standard in defining electricity as “renewable, greenhouse gas-free” than that applied to other retail electricity providers, by changing:

The Proposal:

.....

CleanPowerSF would not be allowed to market, advertise or make any public statement that its electricity is “clean” or “green” unless the electricity is “renewable, greenhouse gas-free electricity” as defined in this measure.

to:

The Proposal:

.....

Proposition G would hold CleanPowerSF to a different and more restrictive standard in defining electricity as “renewable, greenhouse gas-free” than that applied to other retail electricity providers. Under proposition G, CleanPowerSF would not be allowed to define electricity as “clean” or “green” or “renewable, greenhouse gas-free” unless that electricity falls under only one of three “eligible renewable energy resources” categories defined under State law. However all other retail electricity providers would be still allowed to define electricity as “clean” or “green” or “renewable, greenhouse gas-free” under all three “eligible renewable energy resources” categories defined under State law. Among other impacts, this more restrictive standard would prevent CleanPowerSF from defining many renewables such as rooftop solar panels or rooftop wind generators, from being defined as “renewable, greenhouse-gas free electricity”.

Why this change is needed: The measure holds CleanPowerSF to a different standard in defining “renewable, greenhouse gas-free electricity” than all other retail energy providers, including private direct access providers and PG&E. The measure set two separate local reporting standards to San Francisco customers of “clean”-ness or “green”-ness—one for PG&E and other retail providers (which under Proposition G will be allowed to call all three categories of State eligible renewables “renewable, greenhouse gas-free electricity”) and a more restrictive standard for CleanPowerSF which will only be able to label only Category 1 eligible renewables “renewable, greenhouse gas-free electricity”. These dramatic consequences of the measure need to be laid out. Otherwise, voters will not understand the distinctions being created.

We believe these two amendments will make the ballot digest for Proposition G much more clear, accurate, and informative for the voter. We greatly appreciate your attention and service to the voters of the City and County.

Sincerely,

Eric Brooks, Coordinator
Our City San Francisco