

Mayor Robert Garcia and Members of the City Council
City of Long Beach
Via Email

August 25, 2020

Re: City Council Agenda Item 10, August 25, 2020
Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

Dear Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

I am writing in support of Agenda Item 10, and recommend rejection of Agenda Items 7 and 8, relating to Community Choice Aggregation.

My name is Ron Gastelum. I am a principal in Water Conservation Partners, a water supply company specializing in water conservation, storm water collection and recycling.

I am also a former CEO of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, where I managed MWD's extensive water and electrical energy facilities. I serve on the Board of Trustees of The Nature Conservancy. I do not now, and have never worked for SCE, or any other retail electrical energy supply company or agency.

There are three reasons for my recommendations:

1. Like water, electrical energy is an essential public service. A reliable and affordable supply of these essential services is foundational to the health and prosperity of our community. Like our guaranteed fundamental Constitutional rights, proposed material changes and impacts should be strictly scrutinized and held to the highest standard of care.
2. While we must work diligently to meet the challenge of Climate Change and pervasive inequities in our society, we must do it smartly. Changes in the City's electrical energy service are ongoing, and will continue to be required to keep pace with the needs, including doing our part to meet the challenge of global Climate Change. However, it is vital that proposed changes and solutions be directly relatable, in specific measurable terms, to the potential costs and benefits to the City's residents and businesses. There is no room for guessing or pursuing aspirational goals with unknown consequences in the very serious business of providing essential services to the public.
3. The cost and reliability of electrical energy service is of paramount interest to our residents and small businesses least able to afford rate increases, or

take risks that could affect reliability. We owe them, as well as everyone in the City, a CCA study process that errs on the side of more study, transparency, and public information. In this process, the public should be informed in plain language how proposed changes could affect their electrical rates and service, and the environmental conditions in the neighborhoods where they live and work. They should also be given multiple opportunities to ask questions and offer their own opinions.

The proponents of CCA are to be commended for looking for new ways to deal with today's environmental challenges. Although the CCA promise is no longer to produce lower rates, which was the original premise, the movement has spurred regulated utilities to look at themselves more critically and try harder to compete for our business.

We are actually in a good position to take our time to study the facts and opportunities. Because of our size and capabilities, we can develop a smart strategy to pursue the course that will work best to meet our particular circumstances and needs. It is way too early to really know what our hand is, much less to show it!

With the great uncertainties facing cities in today's economy, including from the pandemic, the best course is the cautious one.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Gastelum

Cc: The City Manager

From: Padric Gleason Gonzales [mailto:padric.gleason@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 4:37 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>
Cc: Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>
Subject: Public comment for Agenda Item #7 for 8/25 City Council Meeting re: CAAP

-EXTERNAL-

PASS THE CAAP! I cannot believe that the CAAP has been unendorsed by this Council for over one year since its draft was presented in 2019. Your inaction is inexcusable. You must endorse the CAAP today and codify Long Beach's commitment to a more sustainable future. If you chose to avoid your responsibilities, we will organize against you to ensure we're represented by leaders who speak out against environmental injustice and who take action to promote carbon alternatives.

Padric Gleason Gonzales

-----Original Message-----

From: Bryan Quigley [mailto:gquigs@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 6:00 PM

To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

Subject: City Council Meeting today, About CPAs

-EXTERNAL-

Hi,

Due to technical issues, I was unable to due a phone comment.

"I fully support looking into CCAs. Any option to increase Long Beach's investments in renewable energy are critically important to help fight climate change and reduce pollution. I would like to see my electric bill fund Wind power in Long Beach itself. The closer power is generated to where it's needed; the more of an impact it makes - both in cleaner air and more jobs.

If a CCA or SCE framework can result in us getting more locally generated renewable power, it should be pursued. If not, we should look at other aggressive options to have more renewable energy as part of Long Beach energy resources. We should aim to do better than the California requirements.

Thank you for investigating this."

Kind regards,
Bryan

Lead the way. Build it Right. Make it Accountable.

Yes. I know what I did. I am sorry. Truly. It was not fair.

The SERRF facility was the place to start. It took me quite a bit of time to realize this.

I get it. We have been working so hard for so long, why could we not just do it the way it had always been supposed to go? Well, whatever the reason, that simply is not good enough anymore.

Look. Davids do not betray. We find a better way. We all have been seeing what is happening in this country. When they start coming for the mailboxes, that should bring our inner Thomas Paine out.

It does mine.

[For the record: Eric Newkirk, sir! Of course he was a righty! Told ya the left is quicker. You owe me a beer in San Diego – Modern Times, not Ballast Point.]

What do you honestly think of me?

Look, I love my town. This place is very important to me. We have to be more accountable to each other – but first we have to find a way to chill out. I truly do believe in this: Self-management and self-directedness, fairness to facts, accountability to oneself and others, but most of all, to the work.

To paraphrase the words of the great Bill Russell: Each person must draw a line in themselves, across which no person is allowed to cross. My name shall forever be my own, though to say so I may suffer.

I am proud of what work we have accomplished.

We have a good partner in Clean Power Alliance. The Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy believes the best path forward is to continue to partner with them, learn everything about the process possible, and above all else, preserve Local Control. We Love Long Beach. Start with the “L”.

What have I been trying to do if not that?

Yes. Dave Shukla will always preserve the will to believe. The will to believe in oneself, the people around them, their town, how cities function, what is at stake. That we can always turn the tide. Our problems are planetary, sure, but if there was ever any moment to show our true quality, to focus attention, take the heat for others, sweat it out, and let folks make up their own minds, this was that time. My point has been made.

Local Control. That means starting at square one. That means doing it right the first time.

Look, I think if we slow this down to a crawl, have the decency to just be good neighbors, have an accountable process for understanding the stakes and problems involved, we have on our hands one of the cooler optimization problems around. That is all to say at this moment. Maybe we can talk Friday.

Dave Shukla
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