

An Open Letter to Gov. Newsom and CPUC:

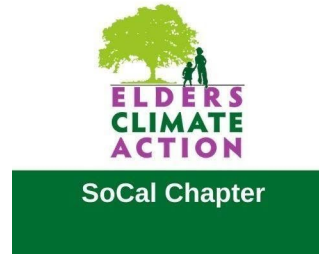
**Please increase local solar, prioritize equity & bring more clean energy storage to California**

(Letter follows logos)



LONG BEACH ALLIANCE  
FOR CLEAN ENERGY

**Better.**



**Dear Governor Newsom (cc: Members of the California Public Utilities Commission)**

California's climate emergency accelerated in 2020. Californians again faced the unacceptable choice of living without electricity or living with increased risk of wildfires, which displaced hundreds of thousands, and endangered millions, producing some of the worst air quality in the world.

This unfolding climate crisis, compounded by the economic pain of the pandemic, has touched nearly every resident. And, as is often the case, our state's most at-risk communities have been disproportionately impacted, with too many residents struggling to pay their electricity bills while suffering from the effects of fossil fuel pollution.

It is against this backdrop that we urge California to prioritize the following goals when it considers changes to net metering, one of the state's most important and successful clean energy and climate policies. Net metering allows Californians to use sunshine to power their homes, apartments, schools, farms and businesses, and receive a bill credit for the excess electricity they send to the grid. Net metering is the bedrock policy that made California the nation's rooftop solar leader with more than one million solar installations and nearly 75,000 solar jobs.

Yet net metering may be jeopardized by California's investor-owned utilities, who are opposed to the growth of rooftop solar and storage because it threatens their business model, which depends on building an ever bigger and more expensive grid at the expense of ratepayers. The utilities have improperly argued for years that rooftop solar and storage does not serve the interests of at-risk communities.

We are concerned that ill-informed changes to net metering, such as slashing solar bill savings or imposing new fees on solar users, will set back California's climate change and environmental justice goals, consign the public to annual power outages, reduce customer bill savings and harm low-income access to solar energy.

To keep solar in the hands of everyday Californians, we should preserve the framework of net metering and improve it to meet the following goals:

- 1) Keep Rooftop Solar Growing to Fight Climate Change and Build a Safer, More Resilient Grid:** Increasing the pace of rooftop solar and battery adoption is critical to meeting California's 100% clean energy goal, provides resilience in the face of power outages, empowers consumers with better choices to control their energy bills, and supports nearly 75,000 jobs in every corner of our state, with increasing investments and hiring from local job training organizations.
- 2) Prioritize Equity: Bring Rooftop Solar + Storage to More Low-Income Families and Communities:** Equity and low-income access to the benefits of clean energy are paramount. Today, rooftop solar is growing in lower- and middle-income neighborhoods, including on affordable multifamily apartment buildings. We should accelerate this trend so that more of California's Environmental Justice and Social Justice (ESJ) communities<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The California Public Utilities Commission's February 2019 [Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan](#) defines Environmental Justice and Social Justice (ESJ) communities as including but not limited to 1) Disadvantaged Communities located in the top 25% of communities identified by Cal EPA's CalEnviroScreen, 2) all

and renters benefit from the savings, reliability, resilience, health and workforce benefits of local clean energy. We must prioritize local clean energy deployment in ESJ communities so that they are not left behind by the clean energy transition, but instead are leading it and protecting themselves against the impacts of climate change.

- 3) Make Solar-Charged Batteries Standard with Rooftop Solar by 2030:** Solar-charged batteries reduce strain on the grid and can help accelerate the retirement of, polluting fossil fuel power plants. They also allow people to keep their lights on and food fresh during power outages without turning to dirty and dangerous backup generators. On the heels of California achieving one million solar rooftops last year, we should now strive for one million solar-charged batteries by 2030.

California cannot expect to decarbonize and achieve 100% clean energy without empowering the state's 40 million residents and businesses to contribute to this effort. All Californians must continue to have viable, cost-saving options to access clean energy and protect their families from extreme weather and outages. We must ensure a future that prioritizes the continued growth of local solar and battery storage and the benefits they provide to all California families.

Sincerely,

Name, Title, Organization

*To sign this letter, please email [dave@solarrights.org](mailto:dave@solarrights.org) with your*

- *Name*
- *Title*
- *Organization*
- *Organization Logo*

*Call Dave Rosenfeld at 916-778-0096 if you have questions. Thank you!!*

Signers to date:

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