



August 17, 2021

Mayor and City Council
City of San Clemente
910 Calle Negocio
San Clemente, CA, 92673
Via email

RE: Join an existing Community Choice Energy program with 100% renewable electricity, transparency and good governance

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

Climate Action Campaign is a leading nonprofit organization in the region with a simple mission: to stop the climate crisis. We promote 100% clean energy policies and programs to help protect our quality of life. **We applaud San Clemente for considering Community Choice Energy (CCE), and urge the City to join a CCE that offers 100% renewable energy, is transparent in process and demonstrates good government practices.**

The only pathway to 100% clean energy is through CCE. The incumbent investor-owned utility has made no commitment to reaching 100% renewable energy by 2030, which Governor Newsom recently announced as a goal for the state of California. President Biden is also calling for a clean energy standard by 2035.

CCE is a powerful model that is successfully serving more than 11 million customers in more than 200 cities and counties in California. By delivering 100% clean electricity to residents through CCE, San Clemente can bring choice, competition, cleaner air, competitive pricing, new jobs, economic development and local control to San Clemente residents and businesses.

Climate change is causing a wide range of impacts that will affect San Clemente and virtually every person on Earth in increasingly severe ways. Cities have a key role to play in reducing the emissions that are driving the climate crisis. According to the United Nations, although cities occupy just 2% of Earth's land mass, they consume 78% of the world's energy and produce more than 60% of greenhouse gas emissions.

Orange County residents are worried about the climate crisis and want their leaders to take action. According to Chapman University's 2021 Orange County Annual Survey, 79 percent of respondents say the threat of climate change is a serious problem. In 2020, Yale University reported similar climate opinion [findings](#) for OC.

We recommend that San Clemente join a CCE that helps address these concerns. Here are some of the qualities we recommend looking for in a CCE program:

- **100% Renewable Energy:** Wind and solar power are **the cheapest form of new electricity** in most of the world today. Renewable energy also brings numerous co-benefits such as clean air, water and reduced climate impacts.
- **Scale:** Size is an important factor in the success of CCE programs in California. Scalable programs are able to generate higher revenue, build more reserves, and sign more affordable electricity contracts quickly to provide cost competitive rates, create local jobs and steel in the ground projects, and develop local programs.
- **Efficiency:** Existing programs offer an easier and safer path to the benefits of CCE. Whether establishing a stand-alone CCE program or negotiating a new Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement with other cities, starting a new CCE program takes significant City staff time and resources. Instead, San Clemente can negotiate with a strong, established CCE in the region and offer its residents cleaner, green energy options quickly and efficiently. Joining an existing program in a JPA also removes financial risks from member cities, protecting City coffers.

San Clemente has a unique opportunity to lead South County cities toward a clean energy future. We urge the City to have proactive conversations with CCEs in the region and join the regional movement to 100% clean energy. We look forward to further discussions with your offices.

Sincerely,

Ayn Craciun
Policy Advocate
Climate Action Campaign