



June 15, 2021

Mayor and City Council
City of Escondido
201 N. Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025

RE: Join an existing Community Choice Energy program, specifically San Diego Community Power

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

We applaud Escondido for its commitment to reaching 100% clean energy by 2030, and urge the City to fulfill that commitment by joining an existing Community Choice Energy (CCE) program, specifically, San Diego Community Power.

The only pathway to 100% clean energy is through CCE, as the incumbent investor-owned utility has made no commitment to reaching Escondido's legally binding 2030 target. Also critical is deciding which CCE program can help the City not only achieve its 100% clean energy goal, but also be efficient, scalable, and able to create new good green jobs, while centering equity and sustainability.

Thankfully our region has an existing, scalable, sustainable, and equity-driven CCE program that is already offering cost competitive rates, building new clean energy projects with good middle class jobs, and developing inclusive programming to ensure that all residents in its member cities can access a 100% clean energy future. That program is San Diego Community Power (SDCP). Here are some of the benefits SDCP has to offer its member cities:

- Efficiency: existing programs offer an easier and safer path to 100% clean energy. 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, Escondido can negotiate with SDCP 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.
- Scale: size does matter 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 green jobs and steel in the ground projects, and develop inclusive programs. In the San Diego region, SDCP is offering the most cost competitive rates for all member cities, is quickly building its reserves, and is the only CCE program building new clean energy projects to meet their member city's 100% clean energy goals. This is only possible because of SDCP's size and economies of scale.

- Values: transitioning to 100% clean energy requires centering community, equity and sustainability. Of the existing CCE programs in the region, SDCP is the only one that embraces strong environmental, equity, local economic development, and worker provisions to meet its member city's CAP goals. Just as Escondido demonstrated in its Climate Action Plan update by creating Priority Investment Neighborhoods, SDCP values and centers equity, good jobs, and sustainability in its founding documents and policies. The City and SDCP's values are well aligned to partner and help Escondido meet not only its 100% clean energy target, but its other climate and equity goals.

Escondido has a unique opportunity to lead North County cities toward an inclusive clean energy future. We urge the City to have proactive conversations with SDCP to explore joining their JPA and the regional movement to 100% clean energy. We look forward to having further discussions with your offices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Vasilakis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Vasilakis
Co-Director of Policy
Climate Action Campaign