



The Climate Reality Project

ORANGE COUNTY, CA CHAPTER



Citizens' Climate Lobby

August 10, 2021

The City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92701
Via email

SUBJECT: Governor Newsom's accelerated climate goals for California

Dear Hon. Mayor Sarmiento, Mayor Pro Tem Penalosa, Councilmember Bacerra, Councilmember Hernandez, Councilmember Lopez, Councilmember Mendoza and Councilmember Phan,

As a coalition of organizations and advocates dedicated to climate and social justice in Santa Ana, we want to make you aware of some exciting news with important relevance to the climate resolution currently under consideration by the council.

On July 9, Governor Newsom announced that he requested the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and California Air Resources Board (CARB) to accelerate California's progress toward its nation-leading climate goals. At the Governor's request, **CARB will evaluate pathways for the state to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035** – in advance of the 2045 target – including strategies to reduce fossil fuel demand and supply. **The CPUC will work to establish a more ambitious greenhouse gas emissions target for electricity procurement by 2030**, stepping up the state's pace in achieving zero carbon electricity. Earlier this year, the Governor

requested that CARB analyze pathways to phase out all oil extraction, focusing on benefits in disadvantaged communities and opportunities for job creation and economic growth.

California's climate policies and programs have cut carbon emissions, created jobs and catalyzed innovation. **California has exceeded its 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target – four years ahead of schedule – while growing its economy 26 percent.** These accomplishments demonstrate what is possible with sustained focus on climate action while creating substantial health and economic benefits, including jobs along the way.

Santa Ana is the [most at-risk city](#) in the U.S. to climate impacts and has the second lowest degree of climate readiness. Santa Ana must take action to advance measures that will put the City on the path to climate safety.

The key to addressing the climate crisis at the local level is to begin rapidly reducing emissions using affordable technologies that are available now. The fastest and easiest way for cities to do that is with clean electrification through Community Choice Energy (CCE). CCE programs currently serve more than 11 million residents in over 200 California cities and counties, providing cleaner electricity, choice, competitive pricing, and funding for local community programs that advance equity and protect residents from climate impacts.

Orange County's first CCE, called the OC Power Authority (OCPA), launched last year. **OCPA and other CCE programs in the region present Santa Ana with an opportunity to achieve 100% clean energy in line with Governor Newsom's new climate goals while creating new and good green jobs and providing funding for local climate readiness programs.** Over time, CCEs will save customers and cities millions, prevent rolling blackouts, make our grid more resilient, bring revenue and relief to our community by keeping our rate payer dollars in **our city**, bring programs to green our city and allow us to convert to renewable energy faster. 80% of OC residents want more funding for these projects and CCE is our path forward.

Yesterday, the IPCC released a landmark study that warns of increasingly extreme heatwaves, droughts, and a key temperature limit being broken in just over a decade. According to the head of the UN, the report "is a code red for humanity". But scientists say a catastrophe can be avoided if we act fast and make deep cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases.

We urge the City to adopt the resolution and emissions targets in line with the

Governor's new 2030 goals that were outlined in the previously agendized draft version. We also encourage you to have proactive conversations with CCE programs in the region to explore joining a CCE joint powers authority and California's movement to 100% clean energy.

For example, the Clean Power Alliance (CPA) in Los Angeles is the fifth largest electricity provider in California and the single largest provider of 100% renewable energy to customers in the nation. CPA is helping businesses save money and improve their bottom line with the CPA Power Response Program. CPA is also creating energy resiliency opportunities through the purchase of large-scale battery storage. Resilience measures help to prevent black-outs and brown-outs and protect customers from heat crises.

We would like to thank the council for its past support of Citizen Climate Lobby's carbon pricing bill (city resolution 2019-037), which illustrates the council's ability to work together on climate action for the health and prosperity of our community.

We look forward to having further discussions with your offices. At your February council meeting, the Mayor offered an opportunity for a rebuttal to the CCE presentation. Or "Let us know when you are available to meet." Please let us know your earliest availability.

Sincerely,

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