

San Jose Clean Energy – A New Unnecessary City Bureaucracy

San Jose City Council will likely vote on April 25th to establish a new City Department called San Jose Clean Energy (SJCE), under California's Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) law.

Ratepayers and taxpayers should oppose the creation of SJCE as an unnecessary function of local government that will not achieve the stated goals.

Building Utility Scale Solar Projects in San Jose

Even if you believe in the threat of climate change having the City finance and build large solar arrays is a waste of our money. The power markets are increasingly unstable and cheap due to large daytime solar generation. Large-scale affordable power storage does not exist and natural gas, by necessity, will provide the majority of power needed after sunset.

100% Renewable Power Supply is not possible

If we intend to maintain our standard of living we must have reliable quality power supply 24 hours a day. Since there is no sun after sunset and wind, hydro, and geothermal are limited resources we will need nuclear and gas generation. It is a waste of money to chase an unrealistic objective.

All Goals of SJCE (except 'Local Control') can be achieved with existing Law and Practice

Any PG&E Rate Payer can sign up for 100% renewable power. We do not need 18 new City bureaucrats to do this for us. 'Local Control' means using electric rates to fund counter productive renewable projects in San Jose.

City and Council do not have the skills, finances or time to get into the Power Business

The business of electric power is complicated and requires deep experience and understanding to function wisely. Council Members and Staff will never be competitive and will employ expensive consultants, at a cost of hundreds of thousands per year, for the foreseeable future.

Are there any reasons that SJCE should be organized for the benefit of the citizens?

Yes! - Electric power rates are instruments of public policy not primarily driven by economics. If SJCE offers the lowest possible rates for energy on a 'Time of Use' or 'Day Ahead' pricing approach based on the wholesale power market, the savings for ratepayers would be substantial.

Please urge your Council Member to delay commitment to San Jose Clean Energy. The market will change dramatically in the next 5 years – We can wait.