

THOUSAND OAKS CITY COUNCIL



Supplemental Information Packet

Cynthia M. Rodriguez

Agenda Related Items - Meeting of October 23, 2018
Supplemental Packet Date: October 18, 2018

5:00 P.M.

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed, typically a minimum of two—one available on the Thursday preceding the City Council meeting and the second on Tuesday at the meeting. The Thursday Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk Department, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Boulevard, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). Both the Thursday and Tuesday Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Boulevard.

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From: Michelle Leahy <michelleleahy@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2018 10:46 AM

To: cncلمانfox@aol.com; Rob McCoy <RMcCoy@toaks.org>; Al Adam <AAdam@toaks.org>; claudia4slowgrowth@roadrunner.com; Joel Price <JPrice@toaks.org>; Helen Cox <HCox@toaks.org>; Jay Spurgin <JSpurgin@toaks.org>; Cyndi Rodriguez <CRodriguez@toaks.org>

Subject: 100% renewable!

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OF THOUSAND OAKS

Greetings Mayor, Council Members and City Staff:

I understand you have made a selection for Thousand Oaks' renewable energy default with Clean Power Alliance (CPA); I urge you to reconsider and **increase it to 100%**. While the 50% option is certainly better than 36%, 50% is still only halfway to 100%. There are three weeks left to change your selection before the October 31 deadline, so please do not overlook this opportunity. As one of the largest participating jurisdictions in CPA, what you decide is of great importance.

Setting the default at 100% renewable is one of the most immediate, tangible, and significant ways to drastically **cut polluting emissions**. It will take your community much more time, effort and expense to achieve this kind of progress otherwise.

Defaults have immense power to affect social outcomes. Research shows that the choice of a default suggestion may turn out to be the most important decision a private or public institution makes. By setting the default at 100% renewable, you will get much more participation at that level than if you set it at a lower tier. Likely only a small percentage of customers will opt down, most will remain at 100%. Likewise, if you set the default at a lower tier like 36% or 50%, that's mostly what you'll get. Despite our best intentions, few of us would opt up, not because we don't want to, often just because of inertia or the busyness of life.

Industry studies reveal there is **overwhelming public support** for renewable energy, and people are willing to pay more for it. I've heard from a number of council members in CPA cities, that with elections coming up, supporting clean energy is **politically popular**. Customers **want cleaner energy and they want it now**.

California recently passed legislation which targets 100% clean energy by 2045. Now, consider this...the 100% default gives our local communities an opportunity to **achieve that goal 25 years ahead of schedule!** Simply by setting the default at 100%, as early as the middle of next year when service begins, we will be powered by close to 100% renewable, a huge improvement from the roughly 30% renewable mix that is standard today.

The projected cost difference for the 100% option is 7-9% more than Edison's base rate, but the renewable content is 66% more. That's a very **compelling return**. And it's a small price to pay for the **long-term benefits**. While there's a slight rate savings of 0-1% in the 50% tier and 1-2% in the 36% tier, there's far less renewable in those, so we must consider the costs of associated externalities like more polluting emissions.

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Emissions are costly to our society and need to be factored into our decision-making. The perception of saving a buck or two in the short term is a dangerous illusion.

And what's noteworthy is that there's a provision allowing **low-income customers to participate in the 100% plan at no additional cost** in those jurisdictions with a 100% default.

The default isn't a rate hike, it isn't a mandate, it's not forcing anything on anyone, it's simply making a suggestion. **Customers have the freedom and ability to choose another plan** according to their own preferences and priorities. With the default, you are either suggesting 36% or 50% or 100%. **Why would you want to suggest anything other than 100% renewable energy for Thousand Oaks?**

In closing, the default plan you select today will impact the amount of renewable energy powering us into the future. This is likely one of the **biggest impact decisions** you will make for your community. Renewable energy is now readily available and affordable, we just need to **start choosing it**.

It would be fantastic to have Thousand Oaks join the other member agencies stepping up and doing 100% (which currently includes Santa Monica, Culver City, West Hollywood, Ojai, Ventura County and likely others), and help **lead the way to a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable tomorrow**.

Thank you.

Michelle Ellison
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CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS
ENERGY DEPARTMENT



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October 16, 2018

Thousand Oaks City Council
City Hall, Council Chambers
2100 E. Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Thousand Oaks, CA

Re: Clean Power Alliance CCA – Set a 100% renewable energy default

Dear Thousand Oaks City Council Members,

Today Ventura County opted to set 100% renewable energy as the default tier for customers when the CCA launches in 2019. Yesterday, the City of Ventura set 100% as the default tier. Other municipalities including Ojai, Culver City, West Hollywood and Santa Monica have done so as well.

It's not too late to consider upping the default rate for Thousand Oaks to 100% as **you have until October 31 to make a final decision.**

Firstly, the United Nations IPCC just released a shocking report that says we need to transition off of fossil fuels as soon as possible or face a global and catastrophic climate crisis by 2040.ⁱ Less than a year ago, the Thomas fire raged through Ventura County in December introducing the prospect of a year-long fire season. California's firefighting costs have tripled in 5 years to \$773 million in the fiscal year that ended June 3.ⁱⁱ We can expect more of this, more extreme weather events, droughts and fires due to an unnaturally rapid rate of global warming.

At a time when the world needs leadership, you are in a unique position to send a message of hope and commitment by setting a 100% renewable energy default for Thousand Oaks. This is what the majority of your constituents want. The Public Policy Institute of California recently surveyed Californians and reported, "Majorities support action on climate change **even if it brings increased costs.**"ⁱⁱⁱ

People are willing to pay more to avert a climate crisis. The good news is that in this case those costs are minimal, just 7-9% for the 100% rate tier (and a cost savings of at least 5% relative to SCE's comparable 100% renewable plan). Plus, those rates can be lowered for consumers with energy efficiency incentives.

Secondly, you can take the step of setting a 100% tier default **without foisting higher costs on anyone who doesn't want that tier or can't afford it.** Everyone will be offered multiple opportunities to choose a 50% or 36% renewable energy plan at the outset and can opt down any time. You can do extensive education about this option to make sure everyone is informed.

What's more, for those communities with a 100% default, CARE and other low-income customers will have the plan benefit at no additional cost. From a social and environmental justice perspective, this is ideal. The most financially

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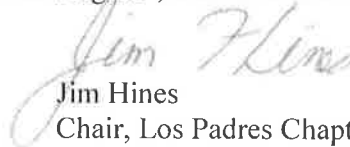
vulnerable customers will be protected but still enjoy the benefits of using clean, renewable energy. And communities impacted by pollution associated with fossil fuel power production will breathe easier because of the choice you made to direct more investment in renewable energy instead. It will also be a driver of jobs. Renewable energy is creating jobs 12 times faster than the rest of the economy^{iv} and employs more people in the U.S. than fossil fuels.^v

Lastly, a 100% default would be good for Thousand Oak's green image, be consistent with what the County and City of Ventura have now chosen and inspire other municipalities. Already 88 cities across the country have joined Sierra Club's "Ready for 100" campaign by committing to 100% renewable energy.

California currently targets 100% clean energy by 2045. The 100% default gives us an opportunity to achieve that goal 25 years ahead of schedule. Simply by setting the default at 100%, as early as the middle of next year 2019 when service begins, our communities will be powered by close to 100% renewables, a huge improvement from the roughly 30% renewable mix that is standard today. **At the City Council level, you may never get another chance to make such a substantial leap forward in such a tangible, immediate, or easy way.**

As Debra Roberts, Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group II says about their report that was written and edited by 91 scientists from 40 countries who analyzed more than 6,000 scientific studies, "The decisions we make today are critical in ensuring a safe and sustainable world for everyone, both now and in the future. This report gives policymakers and practitioners the information they need to make decisions that tackle climate change while considering local context and people's needs. **The next few years are probably the most important in our history.**" We urge Thousand Oaks to consider the local context, the unique opportunity you have this month, and choose to be on the right side of history by choosing a 100% renewable energy default.

Regards,



Jim Hines

Chair, Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club
Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties

ⁱ "Global Warming of 1.5 °C," Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, October 2018 (<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>)

ⁱⁱ "Burning money: The facts on California's soaring cost to fight wildfires," PolitiFact, August 2018 (<https://www.politifact.com/california/article/2018/aug/03/burning-money-facts-californias-soaring-cost-fight/>)

ⁱⁱⁱ Californians' Views on Climate Change, Public Policy Institute of California, September 2018 (<http://www.ppic.org/publication/californians-views-on-climate-change/>)

^{iv} "Renewable Energy Is Creating Jobs 12 Times Faster Than the Rest of the Economy," Fortune, 2017 (<http://fortune.com/2017/01/27/solar-wind-renewable-jobs/>)

^v "U.S. Clean Energy Jobs Surpass Fossil Fuel Employment," NRDC summary of a Department of Energy Report, February 2017 (<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/lara-ettenson/us-clean-energy-jobs-surpass-fossil-fuel-employment>)