



November 8, 2021

Honorable Mayor Jones and City Councilmembers
City of San Marcos
Via Email

RE: Sierra Club NCG SUPPORT San Marcos' participation in Clean Energy Alliance

Dear Mayor and City Council:

First, thank you, San Marcos City Manager Jack Griffin and staff for the update workshop on November 1, 2021. I am pleased to report that Sierra Club North County Group (NCG) is in strong support of the city's participation in the Clean Energy Alliance which we understand will be heard at the November 9, 2021 meeting. This action will enable San Marcos to begin to enjoy all the benefits of a CCA in 2023.

The Clean Energy Alliance (CEA) serves the residents of Carlsbad, Del Mar and Solana Beach and is the North County CCA. Escondido recently also approved its participation. The feasibility study says that joining an existing CCA will save San Marcos time, money, and valuable staff resources. A partnership with other North County cities will increase the economies of scale and benefit all of the cities.

There are several compelling reasons to move forward with this decision:

- Residents and businesses of San Marcos would get more renewable energy, at less cost than SDGE, through a CCA.
- SDGE announced in 2019 that it is moving out of the power buying and selling that sector of its business.
- A CCA is the most cost-effective way for San Marcos to reach its major CAP goal for renewable, clean energy and GHG reductions.

Some of the other benefits of a CCA are:

- **Local Control** - Unlike SDGE's decisions, the CCA's decisions are made in public meetings by local elected representatives that we can hold accountable.
- **Local Reinvestment** - CCAs reinvest customer revenue into local clean, renewable energy projects. CEA, like many CCAs, offers rooftop solar customers better terms. This leads to more solar jobs, fewer greenhouse gases, and customer savings—all at the local level.

- **Local Jobs** - More rooftop solar and large renewable projects in our backyard lead to more good paying, local jobs for installation and construction.
- **Real Choice** – A CCA is the only way to give rate payers a real choice. If someone doesn't like the CCA they can stick with SDGE.

The City of San Marcos should move forward on a CCA now so that it can be ready for implementation in 2023. The benefits are significant, local control, local jobs, local investment and more renewables. And, it will save San Marcos residents and businesses money at the same time. It's time for a real choice for where our electricity is coming from instead of the current monopoly.

We are in the midst of a climate crisis and we need to do everything we can to reduce GHGs. Delaying action is not an option. We should pursue more renewable energy now at less cost.

Sierra Club NCG urges the San Marcos City Council to join the Clean Energy Alliance. Please contact Sierra Club organizer Karl Aldinger karl.aldinger@sierraclub.org, Laura Hunter at laurahunter744@gmail.com or Alan Geraci at alan@alangeraci.com with questions or for more information.

Sincerely,



Laura Hunter, Chair
NCG Conservation Committee
Member, Escondido Community Advisory Group for Environmental and Climate Action



Alan Geraci, Board Member
NCG Executive Board and Political Action Committee