



CALIFORNIA SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SOLAR INDUSTRY PROPOSES CHANGES TO MARIN CLEAN ENERGY PROPOSAL
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The proposed Marin Clean Energy Plan proposes forming a Joint Powers Authority for the purpose of allowing the citizens of Marin County to bypass PG&E for purposes of buying energy through a Community Choice Aggregation structure. CALSEIA has reviewed the plan and discussed the plan with its proponents. CALSEIA has concerns.

The California Solar Energy Industries Association (CALSEIA) supports the expanded use of all solar technologies, including residential, large-scale, and generation within a community (sometimes called distributed generation). Solar technologies include solar thermal, solar electric, and solar pool heating. Each of these technologies contribute to reducing demand for natural gas and electricity, reduce pollution in the community, and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The solar industry is also creating new opportunities for jobs at all skill levels for a variety of jobs: administration, financing, installation, inventory/warehouse, etc.

1. **LOCAL BUSINESSES AND JOBS COULD BE ADVERSELY IMPACTED.** The business plan targets 13MW of locally-sourced solar energy by 2019.¹ This means that the majority of Marin's renewable energy will not be generated in Marin County. The Marin Clean Energy proponents have suggested that, if approved, it may establish local supply targets.
2. **DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN DOES NOT INCLUDE SOLAR.** The underlying assumptions for the plan do not include any solar procurement. Out of 200 megawatts of renewable procurement planned by 2014, zero megawatts are assumed to be solar.²
3. **THE TITLE MARIN CLEAN ENERGY IS CONFUSING.** Voters may believe they are voting for a clean energy initiative when they will actually be using natural gas, not renewable energy, for much of their electricity generation. According to the plan, natural gas will provide as much as 75% of the electricity generated. This is important to the solar industry as it relates to the first two points – voters could believe that the program will use solar and will foster a local jobs, when it appears that this is not likely to be the case. The only incentives for solar will be those provided through the PG&E rebate program – the same as currently exists from PG&E.

CALSEIA appreciates that Marin Clean Energy proponents have provided assurances to us, such as forming a local solar advisory council after the plan is approved to provide recommendations regarding installation sites and plans for rate structures, encourage Marin county residents and businesses to install distributed generation, and possibly create goals for renewable distributed generation. However, CALSEIA remains concerned that the commitment to local renewable projects may not materialize.

CALSEIA recommends that the Marin Clean Energy Proposal make a firm commitment to local renewable power through this plan or through alternative means.

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¹ http://www.marincleanenergy.info/pdf/FINALBUSINESSPLANA-MARINCLEANENERGYApr12008_v4_3_.pdf

² http://www.marincleanenergy.info/pdf/Marin_Assumptions-January_2008.pdf