



*Angeles Chapter*

12442 Stanwood Place  
Los Angeles, CA 90066

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Honorable Mayor Detoy, Mayor Pro Tem  
Jackson and Council Members  
City of Hermosa Beach  
1315 Valley Drive  
Hermosa Beach, California 90254

**Re: Agenda Item #XIIIb for Wednesday, September 28, 2022 –  
Introduction of an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of  
Hermosa Beach Approving the Joint Powers Agreement for Clean  
Power Alliance of Southern California and Authorizing the  
Implementation of a Community Choice Aggregation Program**

Dear Mayor Michael Detoy, Mayor Pro Tem Raymond Jackson and  
Councilmembers Stacey Armato, Mary Campbell, and Justin Massey:

The Sierra Club writes in strong support for Hermosa Beach pursuing  
Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), and specifically for joining the Clean  
Power Alliance at the 100% renewable energy default rate.

The City of Hermosa Beach has long been a leader in addressing greenhouse gas  
(GHG) emissions and has committed itself to the GHG emissions reductions  
spelled out in the Kyoto Protocol. In pursuit of these goals, the City of Hermosa  
Beach was one of the first cities in the South Bay to seriously consider the CCA  
model.

Since then, Clean Power Alliance (CPA) has become the largest CCA in  
California and is the largest provider of 100% renewable energy in the USA. As  
the staff report states, “Joining Clean Power Alliance would be the most efficient  
and impactful strategy for further reducing the City’s overall GHG emissions.”

California is currently in the midst of a 22-year megadrought that ranks as the  
driest 22-year period in at least 1,200 years, intensified by humanity’s heating of  
the planet.<sup>i</sup> We can expect more of this, more extreme weather events, droughts  
and fires due to an unnaturally rapid rate of global warming. The United Nations  
IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report warns that we need to transition off of fossil  
fuels as soon as possible or face a global and catastrophic climate crisis by 2040.<sup>ii</sup>

At a time when the world needs leadership, you are in a unique position to send a  
message of hope and commitment by joining CPA and setting a **100%  
renewable energy default** for the City of Hermosa Beach. 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.**”<sup>iii</sup>

People are willing to pay more to avert a climate crisis. The good news is that in this case those costs are minimal. Currently, CPA's Lean Power rate costs 1% less than SCE's base rate, Clean Power is at parity, and 100% Green Power costs just 3% more.

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 40% renewable energy plan at the outset and can opt down any time. In addition, you have time to 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 vulnerable customers will be protected but still enjoy the benefits of using clean, renewable energy. And those communities most afflicted 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<sup>iv</sup> and employs more people in the U.S. than fossil fuels.<sup>v</sup>

A 100% default would be good for Hermosa Beach's image as a great place to live, work, and visit. It would inspire other cities and counties. Almost 200 cities across the country have joined Sierra Club's "Ready for 100" campaign by committing to 100% renewable energy. Within the Clean Power Alliance, to date 21 of the 32 member agencies have made 100% Green Power their default, including Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, Agoura Hills, Beverly Hills, Calabasas, Camarillo, Claremont, Culver City, Hawthorne, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Ojai, Oxnard, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills Estates, Santa Monica, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, Thousand Oaks, Ventura, and West Hollywood, so Hermosa Beach will be in very good company.

As Debra Roberts, Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group 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 you to act on behalf of City of Hermosa Beach, to consider the local context, the decision you are empowered to make, and choose to be on the right side of history with a 100% renewable energy default.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David A. Haake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent part.

David A. Haake, MD  
Chair, Clean Break Team, Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club  
Member, Clean Power Alliance Community Advisory Committee

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<sup>i</sup> Western Megadrought is Worst in 1,200 Years, Intensified by Climate Change, Study Finds (<https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2022-02-14/western-megadrought-driest-in-1200-years>)

<sup>ii</sup> “Sixth Assessment Report”, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, August, 2021 (<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>)

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

<sup>iv</sup> “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/>)

<sup>v</sup> “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>)