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September 2, 2015
California State Assembly Member Das Williams
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Williams,

I stand with the Community Environmental Council in commending you for your efforts to help pass SB 350 – one of the most significant and forward-thinking pieces of climate legislation in the country, with the potential to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the biggest emitters in California: the energy, transportation, and building sectors. **However, I have concerns about the proposed amendments by San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), which would limit local decision-making and increase costs for customers of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs.**

I see Community Choice as the single most effective action that the Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo region can take to rapidly increase the demand for renewable energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I am strongly opposed to actions that would hamper this effort, and therefore have two concerns with the proposed amendments to SB 350:

First, SDG&E’s proposal to allow the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to have authority over a CCA’s procurement plan undermines local control and policy making. Allowing the CPUC oversight of CCA procurement not only contravenes existing law but also robs the community of local control of programs and policies. It also adds a significant burden to the CPUC and reduces straightforward governance structures by local elected leaders.

Second, SDG&E’s proposed amendment to ensure that bundled customers do not experience any cost increases as a result of implementation of a CCA program is both redundant and dangerously expands current practices. As written by law, “The implementation of a community choice aggregation program shall not result in a shifting of costs between the customers of the CCA and the bundled service customers of an electrical corporation.” [Public Utilities Code Section 366.2(a)(4)] Expanding upon this language sets a dangerous precedent for CCA customers to subsidize utility services.

Community Choice is a powerful tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, incentivizing local renewable energy projects, and inserting choice and competition into the energy marketplace. I support the GHG reduction goals of SB 350, but strongly urge you to reject the proposed amendments, as they undermine the core of CCA programs.

Sincerely,