

# Public Comment

2 - Oral Communications on Items  
Not Included in the Agenda

**From:** [NorCal Broads](#)  
**To:** [Administrator](#); [Lori Taketa](#); [Nancy Stephenson](#)  
**Subject:** Selection of Renewable Energy Providers and Contracts  
**Date:** Monday, December 6, 2021 7:04:52 PM

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Dear Directors of Redwood Coast Energy Authority,

Thank you for your management and lead role in community choice energy aggregation to secure alternative energy supply contracts. Your choices of power generation sources on behalf of your consumers are essential to lower costs and managing a green generation portfolio are necessary to secure climate resiliency and a transformed economy. The decisions you make today must be made with urgency, conviction and careful consideration as matters of public trust, fiduciary responsibility, transparency and with the best scientific available information.

As you select sources for alternative renewable energy for your communities of consumers, it is necessary that you consider the location of renewable energy generation projects.

I am writing to you on behalf of [Great Old Broads for Wilderness](#). *Great Old Broads for Wilderness (Broads) is a national grassroots organization, led by women, that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Conceived by older women who love wilderness, Broads gives voice to the millions of Americans who want to protect their public lands and wilderness for future generations. We bring knowledge, leadership, and humor to the wilderness preservation movement. **Also, we are educating communities about the critical connection between healthy public lands and climate change mitigation as stated in our [Climate Position Statement](#).***

We want to draw your attention to the essential role that undisturbed desert soils play in carbon sequestration. As climate change continues to accelerate, it is essential to protect natural habitats that act as carbon sinks. When these areas are developed and disturbed,

additional carbon is released into the air and the plants and soils in those ecosystems are impacted, reducing their ability to absorb and store carbon. Studies around the world have shown that desert ecosystems can act as important carbon sinks. Per a 10- year study in the Mojave Desert at the Nevada Desert Free-Air CO<sub>2</sub> Enrichment Facility (NDFF), deserts store 9.7% of California carbon. This study and its implications can be found in the document [Science Brief Climate Mitigation in California, the Importance of Conserving Carbon in Deserts](#). **Therefore, appropriate siting of renewable energy generation facilities must avoid disturbance of desert soils and these projects are best suited near transportation corridors, on brownfields and integrated with agricultural usage whenever possible.**

**Secondly, we are advocates of maintaining support of rooftop solar and the programs that accelerate its installation and access by consumers.** In our urgent race against climate change, rooftop solar is a tool that must be in our clean energy toolbox. We will not be able to meet our renewable energy goals without rigorous support of rooftop solar, which should include a strong net metering program, no penalty fees for installing solar panels, and support of employment in the green energy sector. Our transformation to a clean energy future requires investment in the community of consumers' ability to generate electricity. Furthermore, rooftop solar reduces the need for transmission lines and disturbance of public lands for renewable energy projects as referenced in our [Climate Position Statement](#).

**The Northern California and Southern California chapters of Great Old Broads for Wilderness ask that you carefully select your investments and contracts and make project location part of your vetting and selection criteria. Intact wildlands sequester carbon and wild public lands should be prioritized for carbon storage, mitigating climate change, biodiversity, and promoting resilient landscapes.**

We look forward to your reply and careful consideration of your decisions as public stewards.


Respectfully,

Maureen Forney

[she/her](#)

San Leandro/Bear Valley (Alpine County)

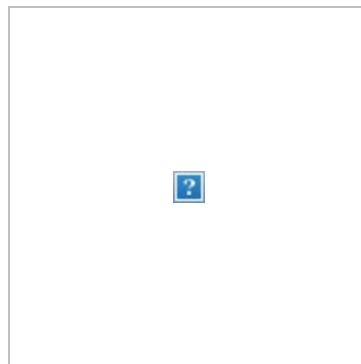
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[Great Old Broads for Wilderness](#)

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**From:** [Paul Woodworth](#)  
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**Subject:** NEM 3 Action  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 11:02:38 AM

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To the RCEA Board Members & Staff:

Recognizing that it is late for the RCEA board to take action on this matter, we nonetheless want to bring your attention to the gutting of net energy metering (NEM) by the CPUC proposed decision just released on Monday December 13th. The proposed decision would eliminate the current economic benefits of rooftop solar to consumers as well as charge monthly fees for each kWh installed. It is frustratingly similar to AB1139 which your board voted to oppose back in May, it would likewise devastate the rooftop solar industry and derail progress towards California's climate goals. Besides the very real threat to our livelihoods, our crew, and 50,000 other solar jobs, the following statement in response to the CPUC proposed decision summarizes the situation:

“California is on a path to 100% renewable energy, and that path requires a sustained commitment to growing rooftop solar. Instead the CPUC’s proposal is the equivalent of tying cement blocks to our ankles as we race to transition away from fossil fuels. State regulators calculate that to get to 100% clean energy, California needs at least 28 gigawatts (GW) of customer-sited solar by 2045; that’s nearly three times as much as we have today. The momentum that rooftop solar has now would help us reach our goal – but to gut net metering is to gut that momentum. The CPUC needs to put California’s climate change efforts first, ahead of the financial interests of the big utilities.”

- Laura Deehan, State Director at Environment California Research & Policy Center.

Referenced Report: [www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2021/2021-sb-100-joint-agency-report-achieving-100-percent-clean-electricity](http://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2021/2021-sb-100-joint-agency-report-achieving-100-percent-clean-electricity)

The final NEM3 decision is expected **January 27, 2022** - just six weeks away. Please help! Please take action to let Governor Newsom and the CPUC know this proposal is unacceptable. A letter from the San Diego CCA, SDCP is linked below. If you or an organization you belong to would also be willing to write a letter to Governor Newsom & the CPUC, we will do what we can to support that to happen. Please let us know.

CPUC proposed decision: <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M430/K903/430903088.PDF>

California Solar and Storage Association analysis: <https://calssa.org/blog>

San Diego Community Power NEM Support Letter (prior to Monday's proposed decision): [https://global-uploads.webflow.com/5e9348ebf70fbb64400b9e40/6153b9575c5cd41783ce4dcc\\_SDCP%20Staff%20Edited%20Letter%20re%20NEM%20%5B5%5D.pdf](https://global-uploads.webflow.com/5e9348ebf70fbb64400b9e40/6153b9575c5cd41783ce4dcc_SDCP%20Staff%20Edited%20Letter%20re%20NEM%20%5B5%5D.pdf)

Thank you for all the good work that you do,

Amber & Paul Woodworth  
707-502-7229

*RISE ENERGY*  
CCL# 973891