



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

April 5, 2023

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Michele Gardner, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Approve request for the Town to sign on to a California Community Choice Association (CalCCA) letter urging the California State Legislature to address the state's interconnection crisis and ensure timely and equitable access to the electrical grid.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve request for the Town to sign on to the attached letter.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Cutrano requested that this item be added to the agenda for the Council's consideration, in response to a request from MCE. The attached letter will be sent to the State Legislature by CalCCA. If approved by the Town Council, the Town would be included as a signer on the letter.

CalCCA is circulating the attached sign-on letter to a wide range of stakeholders, including local governments, housing developers, labor unions, environmental and environmental justice organizations, and energy developers, to ensure that policymakers understand the full scope and urgency of the issue, and prioritize it in the current legislative session.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ATTACHMENT

CalCCA letter

[Logos]

Over [redacted] organizations urge the California Legislature to address the state's interconnection crisis and ensure timely and equitable access to the electrical grid

We the undersigned parties — [*potentially including housing developers and labor unions; environmental, climate, and environmental justice organizations; city and county governments; and local energy providers*]— urge the California policy makers to take action to address unacceptable delays in connecting new construction, critical services, renewable energy, building decarbonization, and other projects to the state's distribution and transmission grids.

California is facing an unprecedented climate crisis and is pursuing bold efforts to transition to zero-carbon energy. At the same time, California has a housing availability and affordability crisis which demands the rapid construction of new buildings. These goals cannot be realized because many projects cannot connect to the power grid. This results in long delays, ranging from months to years, that harm residents, businesses, and the state and local economies.

Severely delayed and abandoned electrical projects are a growing problem in communities throughout California. Hundreds of local projects have been delayed or cancelled, including service extensions to new affordable housing units and critical service sites ranging from hospitals to police/fire stations. Hook ups for new electric vehicle charging stations and utility-scale and residential renewable energy projects are also in peril. Examples of impacted projects are listed below.

Interconnection delays and resulting project cancellations threaten California's ability to respond to the climate and housing crises; prevent Californians from accessing important critical services; and harm communities by increasing project costs and reducing job opportunities.

We respectfully urge California policy makers to take immediate and decisive action. We must ensure interconnection and service extensions to new construction, renewable energy, building decarbonization, and other electrical projects are completed in a timely manner in order to achieve our state's ambitious climate, housing, equity, and economic development goals and mandates.

Thank you for considering our request. We stand ready to work with you to build our state's future.

Sincerely,

[Orgs]