



Staff Report January 9, 2018

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council
FROM: Roger Carroll, Finance Director
DATE: January 4, 2018
RE: Pioneer Community Energy

Recommendation

Receive presentation on the implementation of Pioneer Community Energy's community choice aggregation program.

Issue Statement and Discussion

On April 11, 2017, the Town Council received a presentation on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) from Placer County Treasurer, Jenine Windenhausen, and subsequently completed the necessary requirements to join the Sierra Valley Energy Authority. The Sierra Valley Energy Authority later changed its name to Pioneer Community Energy.

As the Town's residents are beginning to get notification of the changeover from Pacific Gas and Electric to Pioneer Community Energy, staff felt it would be good for the Town Council to get a "refresher" on what the program is and what the citizens can expect to happen.

Chuck Heisleman and Steve Nichols will give a presentation and update, then take any questions the Council or public may have.

Here is an excerpt from the April 11 staff report:

CCA Overview

Assembly Bill 117 was passed in 2002 authorizing Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs to operate in California. This legislation enables California cities, counties, and joint powers agencies to aggregate the electricity demand of its constituents and to procure or generate the electricity to meet their electricity demand. The CCA sets rates, determines rebates and incentives, and can provide other energy related programs and services based on local goals and priorities. Most PG&E customer programs continue to be available to the CCA's customers. The host utility, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), continues to provide transmission, distribution, maintenance and repair, and billing services.

The main purposes and benefits of CCA programs in Placer County are that it:

- offers consumers a choice of energy providers and sources,
- provides local control over rates, programs, rebates and incentives,

- provides an opportunity to utilize and develop local energy resources for the benefit of Placer County residents and businesses,
- has the potential to provide economic benefits, such as job creation, economic incentives and other programs with the potential to provide additional benefits such as environmental and social benefits based on local goals and priorities.

Under California law, enrollment in a CCA is automatic for electricity account holders. However, if customers do not want to participate in the CCA and prefer to continue purchasing their power from PG&E, customers may opt-out of the CCA program at any time. In the jurisdictions that have implemented a CCA, the participation rates have been high, ranging from 90% to 99%.

CCA Operations

A CCA replaces energy procurement and energy generation that are currently provided by PG&E. PG&E continues to deliver the energy to the customer. It maintains and repairs the transmission and delivery lines and responds to outages. PG&E also continues to provide customer billing, including the CCA energy charges. Figure 1 illustrates the energy procurement and delivery process under a CCA. The customer does not receive any duplicate charges, because the CCA and PG&E provide unique services.

CEQA Requirements

There are no CEQA issues.

Financial and/or Policy Implications

None

Attachments

None