Dear Chair Dr. Campbell and Committee Members,

On behalf of the undersigned environmental, community, labor, business, and climate and environmental justice organizations representing thousands of residents and businesses throughout the San Diego region, we write to support the City of San Diego in moving forward with a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program under a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that includes the following provisions and request that the Environment Committee moves to incorporate them, in no order of priority, in any City Resolution, Ordinance, policy documents, or other actions supporting the development of a CCA:

1. Accepts the feasibility conclusions of the CCA Business Plan report by MRW and Associates dated October 22, 2018, on file at the City Clerk as Document No. ________;
2. Adopts the JPA pathway as the City’s preferred approach to be further pursued;
3. Requires the Mayor or his designee to provide regular reports and updates to the Environment Committee and full City Council regarding JPA discussions and all other CCA matters;
4. Authorizes the Mayor or his designee to commence discussions and negotiations with local governments in the San Diego region for the purpose of exploring the interest and viability of creating a San Diego Regional CCA JPA with the intent to submit the necessary formation documents to the California Public Utilities Commission by December 31, 2019;
5. In order to protect ratepayers and ensure fiscal responsibility any CCA program in the City of San Diego shall ensure rates that are competitive with the incumbent utility.
6. Require opportunities for public participation and input as a JPA is developed.
7. By the end of the first year of the CCA’s formation, the JPA shall develop a Strategic Plan for the development, procurement and integration of renewable energy resources that will foster meaningful and equitable environmental and economic benefits in the San Diego region.
8. Ensures that any CCA program shall not procure energy from Category 2 or 3 energy resources as defined under the RPS and exclude coal and nuclear energy;

9. Pursues purposeful and focused investment in communities of concern, prioritization of local renewable power and workforce development, and policies and programs centered on economic, environmental and social equity;

10. Requires that any CCA in the City of San Diego shall, for any electric generating projects that it will own, sign multi-craft Project Labor Agreements and Community Benefits Agreements (CBA) that include local investments and local hiring, prioritizing communities of concern.

11. Requires that any CCA in the City of San Diego shall send at least three (3) written notices to potential customers, and each notice will include a description of the percentage of the power mix that comes from California solar, wind, geothermal, small hydro-electric or other state certified eligible renewable energy resources.

12. Requires that any CCA in the City of San Diego shall agree in writing to neutrality in the event employees or contractor employees wish to unionize.

13. Requires that any developer that enters into a power purchase agreement with a CCA in the City of San Diego shall pay prevailing wage.

14. Requires that any city or county that joins the CCA JPA shall adhere to the above provisions and these provisions will be included in any Resolutions adopted by the City Council;

15. Requires the Mayor or his designee to represent and advocate for the principles outlined above in discussions with other cities related to creating a JPA.

The City is at a key decision-making moment in ensuring that any CCA program in San Diego reflects the values of the residents and businesses it serves, and it is therefore imperative to establish a policy framework as the basis for JPA negotiations. The above provisions are critical to ensuring a transparent public process that provides opportunities for public participation and input to deliver a CCA program that prioritizes and fosters equity, creates and protects good, middle-class careers for working families, delivers cleaner energy at competitive rates, and addresses our climate crisis.

Thank you,

Signed--
San Diego Community Choice Alliance
  Alliance San Diego
  Business for Good San Diego
  California Nurses Association
  Center on Policy Initiatives
  Climate Action Campaign
  Environmental Health Coalition
  Greenpower
  GRID Alternatives San Diego
  Protect Our Communities
  San Diego 350
  San Diego Energy District
  Sullivan Solar Power
  The AFT Guild Local 1931
  United Domestic Workers Local 3930
  International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 569
  Sierra Club