



January 24, 2017

Monterey City Council
580 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Monterey City Council:

The Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association represents the interests of taxpayers and ratepayers, including taxpayers and ratepayers in the City of Monterey. We are concerned about the city's plan to join a proposed Santa Cruz-based public energy agency called Monterey Bay Community Power.

We have no particular enthusiasm or animosity toward Pacific Gas and Electric, which generally seems to provide electric power adequately despite significant government regulation. But few people in the City of Monterey know about Monterey Bay Community Power. Because electric customers are automatically switched to this public agency for electricity generation unless they opt out, we expect 90% of electric customers to find out it is their new source of electricity.

We are concerned that this proposed agency is being driven by a coalition of organizations from Santa Cruz that may choose to prioritize "social justice" and "climate solutions" at the expense of reliable electricity at a reasonable price. If fighting climate change and ending poverty are the primary concerns of this public agency, it presumably would see social good in coercing changes in individual, household, municipal, and corporate behavior regarding electricity use.

We notice that an influential force behind Monterey Bay Community Power is a Santa Cruz-based Roman Catholic social justice organization wanting to achieve goals expressed in Papal encyclicals. This organization is even promoting Monterey Bay Community Power during church services. Electric customers need to know more about this organization, its sources of funding, and how it intends to participate in the development and implementation of Monterey Bay Community Power.

To ensure public accountability to ratepayers, we will inform our members and allies about this plan in our next newsletter and on our website. Please examine the proposal closely and critically.

Sincerely,

Ron Pasquinelli
President
Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association