

## Defining Clean, Green, and Renewable Energy\*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

**Status:** Draft for Consideration

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**Members:** Packard, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen, Unruh

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**Deadline to Request Reconsideration:** TBD

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**The Way It Is Now:** State law allows local governments such as San Francisco to develop Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs, in which local governments may purchase energy to sell to residential and business customers in their jurisdiction. Under state law, local governments implementing a CCA program must give potential customers the choice to opt out.

San Francisco has created its own CCA program called CleanPowerSF, which the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) will administer. The City, through its SFPUC, generates hydroelectric power at its Hetch Hetchy facilities in Tuolumne County. The City currently uses this power to meet its municipal power needs and does not sell electricity to most San Francisco residents or businesses.

CleanPowerSF has not commenced buying energy to sell to customers. Until CleanPowerSF begins doing so, most San Francisco residents and businesses must purchase their power from a private company.

State law requires all retail electricity suppliers, including CCAs, to disclose the sources of power being provided from various categories, including from eligible renewable energy resources.

There is currently no definition under local law for "Clean Energy," "Green Energy," "Renewable Greenhouse Gas-free Energy," or similar terms used to describe the source or environmental impact of electric energy.

State law requires that a certain percentage of the electricity provided to customers come from "eligible renewable energy resources." Examples of "renewable resources" include biomass, solar thermal, photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, solid waste conversion, landfill gas, ocean wave, ocean thermal, and tidal current. Under State law, "eligible renewable energy resources" include renewable energy credits as well as renewable resources located in the Western United States, Canada, and Mexico. State law allows San Francisco to use power from its Hetch Hetchy facilities to meet its required renewable resource percentage.

**The Proposal:** Proposition \_\_\_ would create a definition of the terms "Clean Energy," "Green Energy," "Renewable Greenhouse Gas-free Energy," and similar terms used to describe the source or environmental impact of electric energy.

Under Proposition \_\_\_, those terms would be defined as energy from "eligible renewable energy resources" under State law. Also included in this definition would be energy from large hydroelectric facilities such as the Hetch Hetchy facilities.

This definition would apply to all City programs and expenditures.

Proposition \_\_\_ would encourage the SFPUC to inform customers and potential customers in San Francisco of the percentage of "Clean Energy," "Green Energy," and "Renewable Greenhouse Gas-free Energy" in each communication required by law regarding CleanPower SF.

Proposition \_\_\_ would also encourage the SFPUC to limit the use of certain types of renewable energy credits.

**A "YES" Vote Means:** If you vote "yes," you want to create a definition of "Clean Energy," "Green Energy," and "Renewable Greenhouse Gas-free Energy" that tracks the state law definition of "eligible renewable energy resources," and

*\*Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*

encourage the SFPUC to inform customers and potential customers in San Francisco of the percentage of "Clean Energy," "Green Energy," and "Renewable Greenhouse Gas-free Energy" in each communication required by law regarding CleanPower SF.

**A "NO" Vote Means:** If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes.