



City of Los Banos

At the Crossroads of California

Los Banos Council To Decide On Joining Community Choice Energy Agency

Approval could benefit consumer power bills, environment, economy

LOS BANOS, CA – October 6, 2020 – The Los Banos City Council this month will decide whether the City should join Community Choice Energy (CCE) agency Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE), a partnership that is expected to provide positive economic and environmental benefits to local residents and businesses.

A proposal for the City to become a member of Peninsula Clean Energy will be introduced at the City Council's Oct. 7 meeting, ahead of an Oct. 21 vote by the Council.

Officially joining with Peninsula Clean Energy would:

- Allow Los Banos homes and businesses to reduce their electric generation charges by 5 percent;
- Allow Los Banos customers to benefit from the solar power generated by the Wright Solar Project;
- Provide economic development benefits from local clean power production and programs; and,
- Help the City achieve local and regional greenhouse gas reduction targets.

A key aspect of the Los Banos/PCE partnership is the ability for Los Banos residents and businesses to receive the solar power provided by the 200-megawatt Wright Solar Project, which is located within the City's boundaries and generates power exclusively for Peninsula Clean Energy customers.

"The City has been carefully examining the CCE model and a partnership with PCE for well over a year. I'm excited that the Council can now pave the way for the cost savings and environmental and economic development benefits to our community that I believe would result from joining PCE," Los Banos City Manager Alex Terrazas said.

CCEs allow local municipalities to pool, or aggregate, their energy demand to purchase electricity separate from an investor-owned utility such as PG&E, which would still continue to provide the transmission of power, distribution grid maintenance and billing services.

PRESS RELEASE

Peninsula Clean Energy is a CCE program that is the official electricity generator to all of San Mateo County and provides power that is 95 percent free of carbon emissions and at a lower cost than PG&E. It is on track to deliver electricity that is 100 percent carbon-free by 2021 and 100 percent renewable on a 24/7 basis by 2025. As a community-led, not-for-profit agency, Peninsula Clean Energy is also making significant investment directly in its communities to expand access to sustainable and affordable energy.

PCE has also earned investment grade credit ratings from Moody's and Fitch, which underscores fiscal stability amid uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic and aftermath. The benefits of the investment grade credit ratings include the potential for Peninsula Clean Energy to negotiate even lower energy prices and improved credit terms for future power projects that could bring jobs and other economic benefits to Los Banos and the broader region.

Members of the public are encouraged to virtually attend the Oct. 7 and Oct. 21 City Council meetings on the [City of Los Banos YouTube page](#). A full agenda for the Oct. 7 meeting, including a City of Los Banos staff report regarding the proposal to join Peninsula Clean Energy, [is also available](#).

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