



April 28, 2017

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

William Carney, President  
Bob Spofford, Vice President  
Jerry Belletto, Secretary  
Greg Brockbank  
Jim Geraghty  
Linda Jackson  
Kay Karchevski  
Kiki La Porta  
Jesse Madsen  
Sue Spofford

415.457.7656

San Rafael City Council  
1400 Fifth Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901

**RE: Preliminary FY 2017-18 Budget (Item 7b)**

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,

Sustainable San Rafael welcomes the proposed inclusion of 'Deep Green' 100% renewable electricity in the City's preliminary budget, offset by cost savings from the solar arrays recently installed on City facilities.

Since additional solar is 'in the pipeline' for installation this fiscal year, together with ongoing conversion of street lights to LEDs and other cost-saving energy efficiency measures, we urge you to also commit the additional \$18,000 – \$22,000 needed to complete the switch of all City accounts to Deep Green during FY 2017-18.

100% renewable power is foundational to effective climate action in our community, enabling residents and businesses to convert all their building systems to clean electrical appliances and HVAC and to plug in emission-free electrical vehicles. Taken together, these subsequent steps can reduce one's GHG pollution by the 80% that scientists say we all must achieve to stem the worsening impacts of climate change.

Some of those fiscal impacts are foreshadowed in the County's 'BayWave' Vulnerability Study released last week, showing risks to up to \$2.6 billion in property assets in San Rafael alone, including \$1.7 billion in single-family home values and 4,700 housing units.

Faced with such risk, the cost-effective means of reducing the City's greenhouse gas emissions by switching to Deep Green electricity sets a powerful example for residents and businesses to do likewise. The City would join six other Marin jurisdictions that have now decided to use only renewable electricity, and three more that are poised to do so.

Thank you for keeping San Rafael in the vanguard of responsible climate action in Marin.

Sincerely,

William Carney  
President, Sustainable San Rafael