

From: Ben Schwartz [<mailto:ben@clean-coalition.org>]
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 12:03 PM
To: City Clerk Group <cityclerkgroup@cityofgoleta.org>
Subject: Clean Coalition Comments for the July 16th Meeting

Hi City Clerk,

I am providing written comments about the Goleta Strategic Energy Plan on behalf of the Clean Coalition. I will attach a document with the comments below this email.

The Clean Coalition is committed to accelerating the transition to renewable energy and a modern grid. Here is a small portion of the comment letter to explain what the Clean Coalition is doing in the region;

"Goleta is an area that is extremely disaster prone and transmission vulnerable. In a 70-mile area from Point Conception to Lake Casitas, called the Goleta Load Pocket, there are two transmission lines running on the same system. As a result, if one line goes out or is damaged, neither of the two transmission lines will be able to transmit electricity. While there is a smaller distribution line coming from Carpinteria that can be energized in the case of this kind of emergency, it would not bring enough electricity to power the entire area. As part of the Clean Coalition's Goleta Load Pocket Community Microgrid this entire area would be powered by local renewables and energy storage, which according to our calculations, can be done with 200 megawatts of solar and 400 megawatt-hours of energy storage.

The Clean Coalition wants to highlight a proposal in the City of Goleta Strategic Energy plan to add solar power and energy storage to Fire Station 10. This is almost identical to a Clean Coalition project called the Montecito Microgrid Initiative, which will provide 100% renewable backup energy and storage for three critical facilities in Montecito - the fire district, the water district, and the Montecito Union School - without increasing electric costs at any. Plans for the fire station, the first step of the initiative are underway. This project is a catalyst for the Clean Coalition's vision across the Goleta Load Pocket: proving that a microgrid is the economically sustainable solution that brings resilience to the community."

I will also be at the meeting tomorrow to comment in person. Thanks.

-Ben Schwartz
Clean Coalition Policy Intern

July 15, 2019

To the Goleta City Council,

I would like to begin by saying that the Clean Coalition fully supports the ambitious renewable energy goals the council has set and believes that drafting this Strategic Energy Plan is an important first step. To focus on action first; the first step the city should take is to quickly provide permanent renewable drive backup energy for important critical facilities like fire stations, police stations, schools, water district, and hospitals.

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As a result, the Clean Coalition urges that the SEP be amended to go further in plans to outfit these critical facilities, especially schools. Public schools provide a unique opportunity because they have a large roof space and parking lots for solar energy, as well as open space so energy storage systems can be installed in a secluded location. Schools – including UCSB – are the emergency shelter facilities across the city and the county. Outfitting them to provide renewable energy would make the city a role model and would also provide essential resilience.

The city should prioritize taking an active role in educating the public about how important it is to combine renewable production with storage. This can be done through education about financial benefits like SGIP, but also the ways in which using a storage system to offset demand can substantially lower electrical bills.

Sincerely,

Ben Schwartz

Clean Coalition Policy Intern