

Orange County Power Authority Statement

Re: County of Orange's Operational Performance Audit of the Orange County Power Authority

The Orange County Power Authority (OCPA) embraces transparency and welcomes the County of Orange's Operational Performance Audit of OCPA. OCPA received the report on the afternoon of December 12, 2022 and will take the appropriate time to review it to provide context, clarity and correct any misinformation in the findings.

Following a cursory review, OCPA offers the following points of reference:

OCPA member communities took bold steps to address climate change by setting default rates at 100% renewable (Buena Park, Huntington Beach and Irvine) and 69% renewable (Fullerton) – making it one of the greenest community choice energy providers in California. Customers always have the option to move to different tiers, including the Basic Rate, which costs the same as SCE and is slightly greener, as noted in the County's report. However, OCPA's 2023 rate design that will go into effect in January shows that its Basic Choice rate will be lower than SCE's rates for all of 2023.

OCPA is financially strong, as demonstrated by the June 30, 2022 financial statements validated by an Independent Auditor's report. OCPA is slightly smaller in scale, but is operating from a position of strength and purchasing the necessary power for its customers who are committed to bringing cleaner energy to our communities and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

OCPA is a startup organization. It is a typical business practice to utilize the expertise and experience of consultants in the early formation of a new business and begin building the full-time employee headcount as the organization launches, services are provided and revenue is earned. OCPA has now hired a number of employees who bring decades of Community Choice Energy (CCE) and other energy utility experience to OCPA.

OCPA followed all legally required communications to its customers regarding automatic enrollment and opt-out information. The communications were approved by the California Public Utilities Commission. OCPA also conferred with numerous California community choice aggregation organizations on best practices for customer communications.

No other California CCE has faced the likes of the political misinformation campaigns that have been waged against OCPA. Some in Orange County have chosen political gain over a healthier, more resilient community for our children and future generations. We encourage customers to get the facts and decide whether community choice energy is right for them.

OCPA remains focused on fulfilling its mission to provide cleaner, renewable electricity choices at competitive rates, and invest in innovative programs that benefit residents, businesses, the environment and the economy in our communities.