



GLOBAL  EXCHANGE BRIGHTLINE DEFENSE PROJECT

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ENVIRONMENTAL, WORKER, & SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUPS HAIL BREAKTHROUGH IN CLEANPOWERSF PROGRAM

San Francisco, October 11, 2011 – Environmental, worker and social justice organizations praised the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission’s decision today to prepare a detailed plan for the city’s CleanPowerSF program that would result in hundreds of local workers being hired to install hundreds of megawatts of local clean energy projects over the next several years. (See a jobs estimate for the plan at <http://www.localcleanenergy.org/files/CleanPowerSFJobsEstimate.pdf>)

Until last week, the PUC was considering a less ambitious plan to only purchase renewable electricity from distant providers on the open market with no firm commitment to local installations. Such a program would have done little to provide local jobs, or to build a local clean energy infrastructure.

But today, after four years of negotiations, a diverse coalition of local clean energy and green jobs organizers secured a commitment from the PUC that it will now engage detailed citywide electricity use studies and installation site mapping in order to design the local build-out of hundreds of megawatts of renewable electricity generation and efficiency measures within CleanPowerSF. The milestone was announced by both activists and City officials at the joint meeting of the PUC and the San Francisco Local Agency Formation Commission (SF LAFCo).

David de la Torre of the Laborers’ Local 261 said, “Bay Area construction trade workers are suffering badly right now under very high unemployment rates. This plan sets us on a path to putting hundreds of people to work right away, on high-quality prevailing wage jobs, in a brand new industry that will create not just hundreds of jobs, but hundreds of lifetime careers.”

Sierra Club’s John Rizzo said, “The convergence of the ongoing economic crisis, and the worsening global climate emergency, makes this local green energy plan vital to putting San Franciscans to work and for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The SFPUC is showing real leadership in committing to make this plan real.”

Joshua Arce of Brightline Defense Project said, “San Francisco has already outsourced far too many jobs and industries. I feared we were also about to outsource badly needed green jobs by only purchasing renewable electricity from a distance, instead of installing clean energy right here in the City. This new commitment from the SFPUC to make the local build-out plan real, holds the promise of creating hundreds of new good-paying union jobs for our communities within the first five years of the program.”

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