

The Great Debate: CCAs and RECs Under Attack in California

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CCA is once again under attack by monopoly utilities in California, who use electrical union organizations as a front for their legislative dirty work. If passed, [AB2145](#) will cripple CCA in California by requiring local programs to be opt-in vs. opt-out – a requirement that in long-term, wholesale energy markets like California’s simply won’t work. AB 2145 is a CCA killer and we need all hands on deck to oppose this bill. Please see LEAN’s [sign on letter](#) and [Click Here](#) to sign-on to the petition.

In addition, labor lobbyists falsely accuse California CCAs of relying on renewable energy credits (RECs) as the only source of clean energy, implying that they are not legitimately achieving significant GHG reductions and production of new clean power supply. It’s time to set the record straight on CCAs and the REC issue. In California, the REC argument is overblown and has been used to discredit Marin Clean Energy (MCE) and CCAs in general. RECs are a *minority percentage* of Marin and Sonoma’s power portfolios and are used to support green energy goals while keeping electricity rates affordable. Without some RECs in the power mix, Marin wouldn’t be achieving what it is today while keeping customer rates competitive. It’s worth noting that utilities buy and sell RECs regularly– mostly interstate. And municipal aggregation programs across the country use RECs far more liberally to green up their short term aggregation contracts. RECs aren’t perfect, but they are a legitimate market tool that yields billions of dollars annually for new renewable power development. This is money that the government doesn’t have to cough up by the way. Focusing the debate on local power development vs. RECs is a bad idea. When it comes to energy procurement, it’s a both/and solution.