

**City of Palo Alto**  
*Office of the Mayor and City Council*

March 22, 2018

Assembly Member Jim Patterson  
State Capitol, Suite 3132  
Sacramento, CA 94249

*Re: Support for AB 2809: California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program: hydroelectric generation facilities, as introduced*

Dear Assembly Member Patterson:

The City of Palo Alto is pleased to support your bill, AB 2809. As you know, this bill would revise the definition of an eligible renewable energy resource, for purposes of the State's Renewable Portfolio Standards, to include power received from hydroelectric generation facilities of greater than 30 megawatts (large hydro). As water is naturally clean and renewable, it makes sense to include the energy it produces, through large and small generation, in the State's Standards. This is especially true as the State moves forward in its climate goals of producing and delivering more clean and renewable energy.

The City of Palo Alto operates an electric utility for all of our residents and business. In 2013, our electric portfolio became carbon neutral and consists of sources such as wind, landfill gas, solar, and large and small hydro. In 2017, over 81% of our energy was sourced from large hydro power; in a normal rain year about 50% of Palo Alto's power supply comes from large hydro generation facilities such as those contemplated in your bill.

Unfortunately under current law, our utilization of this particular clean resource cannot "count" when we report to the State our progress in meeting its Standards. In order to meet the State target while leveraging large hydro, State law allows utilities receiving 50% of its generation from hydro resources to achieve a Standards level of less than 50%, without penalty, as long the remainder of the electric supply comes from hydro resources. AB 2809 would void the need for this carve out in State law while making tremendous movement towards meeting State and local climate and renewable goals.

For these reasons, we support your bill.

Yours,

  
Liz Kriss  
Mayor, City of Palo Alto

Cc.  
Member and staff, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Senator Jerry Hill  
Assembly Member Marc Berman  
Palo Alto City Council  
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