

## WESTERN COMMUNITY ENERGY JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

This Joint Powers Agreement (“**Agreement**”), effective as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018 (“**Effective Date**”) is made and entered into pursuant to the provisions of Title 1, Division 7, Chapter 5, Article 1 (Section 6500 *et seq.*) of the California Government Code relating to the joint exercise of powers among the parties set forth in Exhibit A (“**Member Agencies**”). The term “**Member Agencies**” shall also include an incorporated municipality or county added to this Agreement in accordance with Section 3.1.

### RECITALS

A. In 2002, AB 117 was signed into law allowing public agencies to aggregate the electrical load of interested consumers within their jurisdictional boundaries and purchase electricity on behalf of those consumers.

B. The Member Agencies desire to establish a separate public agency, known as Western Community Energy (“**Authority**”), under the provisions of the Joint Exercise of Powers Act of the State of California (Government Code § 6500 *et seq.*) (“**Act**”) in order to collectively study, promote, develop, conduct, operate, and manage energy programs, and exercise any powers common to the Authority’s members to further these purposes.

C. The Member Agencies have each adopted an ordinance electing to implement through the Authority a community choice aggregation program pursuant to California Public Utilities Code § 366.2. The priority of the Authority will be the consideration of those actions necessary to implement the program.

### AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and conditions hereinafter set forth, it is agreed by and among the Member Agencies as follows:

#### SECTION 1. FORMATION OF AUTHORITY

1.1 Creation of Agency. Pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, California Government Code § 6500 *et seq.* and other pertinent provisions of law, there is hereby created a public entity to be known as the Western Community Energy. The Authority shall be a public entity separate and apart from the Member Agencies.

1.2 Effective Date and Term. This Agreement shall become effective and Authority shall exist as a separate public agency on the date this Agreement is executed by at least two Member Agencies after adoption of the ordinances required by California Public Utilities Code § 366.2(c)(10). The Authority shall continue to exist, and this Agreement shall be effective, until this Agreement is terminated in accordance with Section 5, subject to the rights of a Member Agency to withdraw from the Authority.

1.3 Member Agencies. The names, particular capacities, and addresses of the Member Agencies are shown on Exhibit A, attached hereto, as may be amended from time to time.

1.4 Purpose. The purpose of this Agreement is to establish an independent public agency in order to exercise powers common to each Member Agency to study, promote, develop, conduct, operate, and manage energy, energy efficiency and conservation, and other energy-related and climate change programs (the “**CCA Program**”), and to exercise all other powers necessary and incidental to accomplishing this purpose. The Member Agencies intend for this Agreement to be used as a contractual mechanism by which the Member Agencies are authorized to participate in the CCA Program. The Member Agencies intend that other agreements shall define the terms and conditions associated with the implementation of the CCA Program and any energy programs approved by the Authority.

1.5 Powers. The Authority shall have all powers common to the Member Agencies and such additional powers accorded to it by law. The Authority is authorized, in its own name, to exercise all powers and do all acts necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of this Agreement and fulfill its purpose, including, but not limited to, each of the following powers:

1.5.1 Serve as a forum for the consideration, study, and recommendation of energy services for the CCA Program;

1.5.2 To make and enter into any and all contracts to effectuate the purpose of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, those relating to the purchase or sale of electrical energy or attributes thereof, and related service agreements;

1.5.3 To employ agents and employees, including, but not limited to, engineers, attorneys, planners, financial consultants, and separate and apart therefrom to employ such other persons, as it deems necessary;

1.5.4 To acquire, contract, manage, maintain, and operate any buildings, works, or improvements, including, but not limited to, electric generating facilities;

1.5.5 To acquire property by eminent domain, or otherwise, except as limited by section 6508 of the Act, and to hold or dispose of property;

1.5.6 To lease any property;

1.5.7 To use and be sued in its own name;

1.5.8 To incur debts, liabilities, and obligations, including, but not limited to, loans from private lending sources pursuant to its temporary borrowing powers, such as California Government Code § 53850 *et seq.* and authority under the Act;

1.5.9 To form subsidiary or independent corporations or entities, if appropriate, to carry out energy supply and energy conservation programs, or to take advantage of legislative or regulatory changes;

1.5.10 To issue revenue bonds and other forms of indebtedness;

1.5.11 To apply for, accept, and receive all licenses, permits, grants, loans, or other assistance from any federal, state, or local agency;

1.5.12 To submit documentation and notices, register, and comply with orders, tariffs, and agreements for the establishment and implementation of the CCA Program and other energy and climate change programs;

1.5.13 To adopt rules, regulations, policies, bylaws, and procedures governing the operation of the Authority; and

1.5.14 To receive gifts, contributions, and donations of property, funds, services, and other forms of financial assistance from persons, firms, corporations, and any governmental entity.

1.6 Manner of Exercising Powers. The powers of the Authority are subject to the restrictions upon the manner of exercising power possessed by a general law city.

## **SECTION 2: GOVERNANCE**

2.1 Board of Directors. The governing body of the Authority shall be a Board of Directors consisting of one director for each Member Agency appointed in accordance with Section 2.2.

2.2 Appointment of Directors. The governing body of each Member Agency shall appoint and designate in writing one regular Director who shall be authorized to act for and on behalf of the Member Agency on matters within the powers of the Authority. The governing body of each Member Agency shall also appoint and designate in writing one alternate Director who may vote in matters when the regular Director is absent from a Board meeting. The persons appointed and designated as the regular Director and the alternate Director shall be a member of the governing body of the Member Agency.

2.3 Terms of Office. Each regular and alternate Director shall serve at the pleasure of the governing body of the Member Agency that the Director represents and may be removed as Director by the governing body of the Member Agency at any time. If at any time a vacancy occurs on the Board, a replacement shall be appointed by the governing body to fill the position of the previous Director within ninety (90) days of the date that such position becomes vacant.

2.4 Quorum. A majority of the Directors of the entire Board shall constitute a quorum, except that less than a quorum may adjourn a meeting from time to time in accordance with law.

2.5 Powers of the Board of Directors. The Board may exercise all the powers enumerated in this Agreement and shall conduct all business and activities of the Authority consistent with this Agreement and any bylaws, operating procedures, and applicable law.

2.6 Executive Committee. The Board may establish an executive committee consisting of a smaller number of Directors. The Board may delegate to the executive committee such authority as the Board might otherwise exercise.

2.7 Committees. The Board may establish advisory committees as the Board deems appropriate to assist the Board in carrying out its functions and implementing the purposes of this Agreement.

2.8 Director Compensation. The Board may adopt policies establishing a stipend to compensate work performed by a Director on behalf of the Authority as well as policies for the reimbursement of expenses incurred by a Director.

2.9 Voting by the Board of Directors.

2.9.1 Vote Count. Each member of the Board or participating alternate shall be entitled to one vote. Action of the Board on all matters shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of all Directors present and qualified to vote constituting a quorum.

2.9.2 Weighted Vote. Notwithstanding Section 2.9.1, above, the Board of the Authority may establish in its Bylaws a procedure to require a weighted vote for all or certain matters before the Board. Any procedure for a weighted vote shall allocate votes based on energy usage of Member Agencies and shall be approved or amended by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of all Directors present and qualified to vote and constituting a quorum.

2.10 Officers.

2.10.1 Chair and Vice Chair. On an annual basis, the Directors shall select from among themselves, a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The Chair shall be the presiding officer of all Board meetings. The Vice-Chair shall serve in the absence of the Chair. The term of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall continue for one year. There shall be no limit on the number of terms held by either the Chair or Vice-Chair. The office of either the Chair or Vice-Chair shall be declared vacant and a new selection shall be made if: (a) the person serving dies, resigns, or the Member Agency that the person represents removes the person as its representative on the Board, or (b) the Member Agency that he or she represents withdraws from the Authority pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement.

2.10.2 Secretary. The Board shall appoint a Secretary who need not be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of all meetings of the Board and all other official records of the Authority.

2.10.3 Treasurer/Auditor. The Board shall appoint a qualified person to act as the Treasurer and a qualified person to act as the Auditor, neither of whom need be members of the Board. If the Board so designates, and in accordance with the provisions of applicable law, a qualified person may be appointed as the Treasurer and Auditor. Such person or persons shall possess the powers of and shall perform those functions required of them by California Government Code §§ 6505, 6505.5, and 6505.6, and by all other applicable laws and regulations and amendments thereto.

2.11 Meetings. The Board shall provide for its regular meetings, the date, hour, and place of which shall be fixed by resolution of the Board. Regular, adjourned, and special meetings shall be called and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code § 54950 *et seq.*

2.12 Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be the chief administrative officer of the Western Riverside Council of Governments, or whomever is appointed by the Board thereafter. Compensation shall be fixed by the Board. The powers and duties of the Executive Director shall be subject to the authority of the Board.

2.13 Initial Administration of Authority. The Authority will be initially administered by the Western Riverside Council of Governments (“**WRCOG**”), which shall provide Executive Director, staff, and consultant services to the Authority. WRCOG shall provide administrative services for three years from the Effective Date of this Agreement pursuant to a services agreement. The term and conditions of the administrative services agreement may be extended by mutual agreement of WRCOG and the Authority without further amendment of this Agreement, as set forth in the administrative services agreement.

2.14 Additional Officers and Employees. The Board shall have the power to authorize such additional officers and assistants as may be appropriate, including retaining one or more administrative service providers for planning, implementing, and administering the CCA Program. Such officers and employees may also be, but are not required to be, officers and employees of the individual Member Agencies.

2.15 Bonding Requirement. The officers or persons who have charge of, handle, or have access to any property of the Authority shall be the members of the Board, the Treasurer, the Executive Director, and any such officers or persons to be designated or empowered by the Board. Each such officer or person shall be required to file an official bond with the Authority in an amount which shall be established by the Board. Should the existing bond or bonds of any such officer be extended to cover the obligations provided herein, said bond shall be the official bond required herein. The premiums on any such bond attributable to the coverage required herein shall be the appropriate expenses of the Authority.

2.16 Audit. The records and accounts of the Authority shall be audited annually by an independent certified public accountant and copies of such audit report shall be filed with the State Controller, and each Member Agency to the Authority no later than fifteen (15) days after receipt of said audit by the Board.

### **SECTION 3: PARTICIPATION IN AUTHORITY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CCA PROGRAM**

3.1 Participation in Authority. An interested incorporated municipality or county may become a Member Agency of the Authority and a party to this Agreement upon satisfaction of the following:

3.1.1 Adoption of a resolution by the governing body of an incorporated municipality or county requesting participation and an intent to join the Authority;

3.1.2 Adoption of an ordinance required by California Public Utilities Code § 366.2(c)(12) and execution of all necessary CCA Program documents by an incorporated municipality or county;

3.1.3 Adoption by an affirmative vote of the Board of a resolution authorizing participation of the additional incorporated municipality or county;

3.1.4 Payment of a membership payment, if any; and

3.1.5 Satisfaction of any conditions established by the Board.

3.2 Continuing Participation. The Member Agencies acknowledge that participation in the CCA Program may change by the addition or withdrawal or termination of a Member Agency. The Member Agencies agree to participate with additional Member Agencies as may later be added. The Member Agencies also agree that the withdrawal or termination of a Member Agency shall not affect this Agreement or the remaining Member Agencies' continuing obligations under this Agreement.

3.3 Implementation of CCA Program.

3.3.1 Enabling Ordinance. Each Member Agency shall adopt an ordinance in accordance with California Public Utilities Code § 366.2(c)(12) specifying that the Member Agency intends to implement a community choice aggregation program by and through its participation in this Authority.

3.3.2 Implementation Plan. The Authority shall cause to be prepared an implementation plan meeting the requirements of California Public Utilities Code § 366.2 and any applicable regulations of the California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC"). The Board shall approve the implementation plan prior to it being filed with the CPUC.

3.4 Authority Documents. The Member Agencies acknowledge and agree that the operations of the Authority will be implemented through various program documents and regulatory filings duly adopted by the Board, including, but not limited to, operating rules, an annual budget, and plans and policies related to the provision of the CCA Program. The Member

Agencies agree to abide by and comply with the terms and conditions of all such Authority documents that may be approved or adopted by the Board.

3.5 Termination of CCA Program. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to limit the discretion of the Authority to terminate the implementation or operation of the CCA Program at any time in accordance with any applicable requirements of state law.

## **SECTION 4: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

4.1 Fiscal Year. The Authority's fiscal year shall be twelve (12) months commencing July 1 of each year and ending June 30 of the succeeding year.

4.2 Treasurer. The Treasury of the member agency whose Treasurer is the Treasurer for the Authority shall be the depository for the Authority. The Treasurer of the Authority shall have custody of all funds and shall provide for strict accountability thereof in accordance with California Government Code § 6505.5 and other applicable laws. The Treasurer shall perform all of the duties required in California Government Code § 6505 *et seq.* and all other such duties as may be prescribed by the Board.

4.3 Depository & Accounting. All funds of the Authority shall be held in separate accounts in the name of the Authority and not commingled with the funds of any Member Agency or any other person or entity. Disbursement of such funds during the term of this Agreement shall be accounted for in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applicable to governmental entities and pursuant to California Government Code § 6505 *et seq.* and other applicable laws. There shall be a strict accountability of all funds. All revenues and expenditures shall be reported to the Board. The books and records of the Authority shall be open to inspection by the Member Agencies at all reasonable times.

4.4 Budget. The Board shall establish the budget for the Authority and may from time to time amend the budget to incorporate additional income and disbursements that might become available to the Authority for its purposes during a fiscal year.

4.5 Initial Funding of Authority. WRCOG has funded certain activities necessary to implement the CCA Program. If the program becomes operational, these initial costs shall be included in the customer charges for electric services to the extent permitted by law, and WRCOG shall be reimbursed from the payment of such charges by customers of the Authority pursuant to a reimbursement agreement between Authority and WRCOG. Prior to such reimbursement, WRCOG shall provide such documentation of costs paid as the Board may request. The Authority may establish a reasonable time period over which such costs are recovered. In the event the program does not become operational, WRCOG shall not be entitled to any reimbursement of the initial costs.

4.6 No Liability to the Member Agencies. The debts, liabilities, or obligations of the Authority shall not be the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the individual Member Agencies unless the governing board of a Member Agency agrees in writing to assume any of the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the Authority. Notwithstanding Government Code section 895.2, if

the Authority is found to be liable for injury caused by a negligent or wrongful act or omission occurring in the performance of an agreement, no Member Agency is jointly or severally liable for such injury.

## **SECTION 5: WITHDRAWAL AND TERMINATION**

5.1 Right to Withdraw. A Member Agency may withdraw its membership in the Authority, effective as of the beginning of the Authority's fiscal year, by giving no less than 180 days advance written notice of its election to do so, which notice shall be given to the Authority and each Member Agency. Withdrawal of a Member Agency shall require an affirmative vote of the Member Agency's governing board. A Member Agency that withdraws its participation in the Authority pursuant to this subsection may be subject to certain continuing liabilities as described in Section 5.4. The withdrawing Member Agency and the Authority shall execute and deliver all further instruments and documents and take any further action that may be reasonably necessary, as determined by the Board, to effectuate the orderly withdrawal of such Member Agency.

5.2 Right to Withdraw Prior to Program Launch. After receiving bids from power suppliers, the Authority must provide to the Member Agencies the report from the electrical utility consultant retained by the Authority that compares the total estimated electrical rates that the Authority will be charging to customers as well as the estimated greenhouse gas emissions rate and the amount of estimated renewable energy used with that of the incumbent utility. If the report provides that the Authority is unable to provide total electrical rates, as part of its baseline offering, to the customers that are equal to or lower than the incumbent utility or to provide power in a manner that has a lower greenhouse gas emissions rate or uses more renewable energy than the incumbent utility, a Member Agency may immediately withdraw its membership in the Authority without any financial obligation, as long as the Member Agency provides written notice of its intent to withdraw to the Authority Board no more than thirty (30) days after receiving the report.

5.3 Involuntary Termination. Membership in the Authority may be terminated for material non-compliance with the provisions of this Agreement or any other agreement or Board operating procedure relating to the Member Agency's participation in the CCA Program upon a vote of the Board.

5.4 Continuing Liability. Except as provided by Section 5.2, upon the withdrawal or involuntary termination of a Member Agency, the Member Agency shall remain responsible for any claims, demands, damages, or liabilities arising from the Member Agency's membership or participation in the Authority through the date of its withdrawal or termination. Claims, demands, damages, or liabilities for which a withdrawing or terminated Member Agency may remain liable, include, but are not limited to, losses from the resale of power contracted for by the Authority to serve the Member Agency's load and the administrative costs associated thereto. The Authority may withhold funds otherwise owed to the Member Agency or require the Member Agency to deposit sufficient funds with the Authority, as reasonably determined by the Authority to cover the Member Agency's costs described above. Upon notice by a Member Agency that desire to withdraw from the Authority, the Authority shall notify the Member



Agency of the minimum waiting period under which the Member Agency would have no costs for withdrawal if the Member Agency agrees to stay in for such period. The waiting period will be set to the minimum duration such that there are no costs transferred to remaining ratepayers. If the Member Agency elects to withdraw from the Authority before the end of the minimum waiting period, the charge for exiting shall be set at a dollar amount that would offset the actual costs to the remaining ratepayers served by the Authority and may not include punitive damages that exceed actual costs.

5.5 Mutual Termination. This Agreement may be terminated by mutual agreement of all the Member Agencies; provided, however, that this subsection shall not be construed as limiting the rights of a Member Agency to withdraw in accordance with Section 5.1.

5.6 Disposition of Authority Assets Upon Termination of Agreement. Upon termination of this Agreement, any surplus money or assets in possession of the Authority for use under this Agreement, after payment of all liabilities, costs, expenses, and charges incurred by the Authority, shall be returned to the then-existing Member Agencies in proportion to the contributions made by each.

## **SECTION 6: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

6.1 Dispute Resolution. The Member Agencies and Authority shall make efforts to settle all disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement. Before exercising any remedy provided by law, a Member Agency or Member Agencies and the Authority shall engage in nonbinding mediation in the manner agreed to by the Member Agency or Member Agencies and the Authority. In the event that nonbinding mediation does not resolve a dispute within 120 days after the demand for mediation is made, any Member Agency or the Authority may pursue any all remedies provided by law.

6.2 Liability of Directors, Officers, and Employees. The Directors, officers, and employees of the Authority shall use ordinary care and reasonable diligence in the exercise of their powers and in the performance of their duties pursuant to this Agreement. No current or former Director, officer, or employee will be responsible for any act or omission by another Director, officer, or employee. The Authority shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the individual current and former Directors, officers, and employees for any acts or omissions in the scope of their employment or duties in the manner provided by California Government Code § 995 *et seq.* Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the defenses available under the law to the Member Agencies, the Authority, or its Directors, officers, or employees.

6.3 Indemnification. The Authority shall acquire such insurance coverage as the Board deems necessary to protect the interests of the Authority, the Member Agencies, and the Authority's ratepayers. The Authority shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Member Agencies and each of their respective members board or council members, officers, agents, and employees, from any and all claims, losses, damages, costs, injuries, and liabilities of every kind arising directly or indirectly from the conduct, activities, operations, acts, and omissions of the Authority under this Agreement.

6.4 Amendment of Agreement. This Agreement may be amended in writing with the approval of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of a vote of the Member Agencies.

6.5 Assignment. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, the rights and duties of the Member Agencies may not be assigned or delegated without the advance written consent of all other Member Agencies. Any attempt to assign or delegate such rights or duties without express written consent shall be null and void. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of, and shall be binding upon, the successors and assigns of the Member Agencies. This section does not prohibit a Member Agency from entering into an independent agreement with another entity regarding the financing of that Member Agency's contributions to the Authority, or the disposition of proceeds which that Member Agency receives under this Agreement, so long as such independent agreement does not affect, or purport to affect, the rights and duties of the Authority or the Member Agencies under this Agreement.

6.6 Severability. If any part of this Agreement is held, determined, or adjudicated to be illegal, void, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Agreement shall be given effect to the fullest extent reasonably possible.

6.7 Further Assurances. Each Member Agency agrees to execute and deliver all further instruments and documents and take any further action that may be reasonably necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Agreement.

6.8 Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

6.9 Notices. Any notice authorized or required to be given pursuant to this Agreement shall be validly given if served in writing either personally, by deposit in the United States mail, first class postage prepaid with return receipt requested, or by a recognized courier service. Notices given (a) personally or by courier service shall be conclusively deemed received at the time of delivery and receipt and (b) by mail shall be conclusively deemed given 48 hours after the deposit thereof (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) if the sender receives the return receipt. All notices shall be addressed to the office of the clerk or secretary of the Authority or Member Agency, as the case may be, or such other person designated in writing by the Authority or Member Agency. Notices given to one Member Agency shall be copied to all other Member Agencies. Notices given to the Authority shall be copied to all Member Agencies.

[Signatures on next page]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed on the date first written above.

“CITY”  
CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE, a municipal  
corporation

“MEMBER AGENCIES”  
[Western Community Energy]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grant Yates, City Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

## **EXHIBIT A**

### **List of Member Agencies**