

For Immediate Release

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Photo Attached: [Lori Mitchell](#)

Lori Mitchell Named as Director of San José's new Community Energy Department

SAN JOSE, Calif. – Lori Mitchell has been appointed as Director of the Community Energy Department, by City Manager Dave Sykes. The San José City Council ratified her appointment today.

With more than 20 years of experience in the renewable energy and utility industry, Mitchell comes to San José from her most recent employment at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). Her career at SFPUC reflects a succession of progressively responsible positions, including Manager of Renewable Energy, Power Supply Manager, and, most recently, Acting Director of Energy Infrastructure. SFPUC operates a 150 MW municipal utility and a Community Choice Energy (CCE) program.

“This new Community Energy Department is responsible for San José’s venture into offering a CCE program to its residents and businesses, and as such, we were extremely pleased to find someone of Lori’s caliber,” said Sykes. “Her strong leadership and management skills; her wealth of experience in negotiating energy contracts; and her experience in taking a start-up energy program from launch to success is exactly what we hoped to find in a leader for this department.”

Mitchell is a licensed Mechanical Engineer in California with an educational background in environmental resources engineering. The earlier part of her career included working on all aspects of a renewable energy start-up called PowerLight, which eventually was acquired by SunPower Corporation in San José. At SFPUC, her work included not only the initial energy contract negotiations for their CCE program and managing related operations, but also managing operating and capital budgets as well as hiring and building operational teams.

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“We are eager to launch our new CCE program, providing cost-competitive electricity rates for our residents and businesses, and lowering our collective greenhouse gas emissions,” said Mayor Sam Liccardo. “Lori will play a critical role in this important, new endeavor, and I’m pleased we found someone with such a proven track record for leading this department.”

The San José City Council unanimously approved the new CCE program in May 2017. The plan is for the program to launch next spring; it will stand among other such programs in the state that offer residents an alternative to traditional utilities like Pacific Gas & Electric.

“I’m honored and quite excited to have this opportunity,” said Mitchell. “San José is clearly a great place to work with dedicated, creative, and forward-thinking employees, and it’s inspiring to see the city’s leadership unanimously embrace providing the CCE program for their constituents. I also very much look forward to engaging the San José community on energy programs and policies that support clean energy jobs and access to affordable clean energy.”

Mitchell earned a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Resource Engineering from Humboldt State University. In addition to being a licensed Mechanical Engineer, she is a LEED certified professional and has authored and presented multiple technical papers at renewable energy industry conferences. She has also held positions at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the California Energy Commission, and the California Air Resources Board.

About the City of San José - Known as the Capital of Silicon Valley, San José is the nation’s tenth largest city and the largest city in Northern California with an ethnically diverse population of more than one million people. San José was founded in 1777, once served as the state capital of California, and now encompasses 180 square miles. The City’s website is www.sanjoseca.gov. Facts about San José can be found here: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/780>.

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