

Dear Mayor Garcetti, Los Angeles City Council, and LADWP:

We write to request that the City of Los Angeles's Department of Water & Power (LADWP) develop a plan and concrete timeline to transition its portfolio to 100% renewable energy no later than 2030. We support a rapid timetable and ask that Los Angeles **complete the transition to 100% clean, renewable energy by 2030 or sooner based on new technologies that become available. In addition, we ask that Los Angeles commit to making no new fossil fuel infrastructure investments during this transition period.** We also request that LADWP **include strategies to ensure that the economic and environmental benefits and opportunities linked to this energy transition are shared by all residents of Los Angeles.**

We are running out of time. Staying below 1.5°C of global warming, and well below a catastrophic 2°C of warming, will require aggressive action to undo our dependence on fossil fuels and achieve 100% clean energy.

To this end, we further oppose any new fossil fuel investments planned by the city. LADWP's 2015 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) calls for the city to increase its use of natural gas to power our grid, with the city spending a total of \$2.2 billion to repower our coastal gas-generating stations to comply with cooling regulations, plus a further \$500 million to replace the coal-fired Intermountain Power Plant with gas generation. These expenditures will soon become stranded investments as we move toward renewable energy—i.e., they will be sunk costs with no way to get a return on the investment. Let's use these funds to transition to clean energy rather than waste them on infrastructure that will soon become obsolete.

Fossil fuels degrade our air quality and require significant amounts of much-needed fresh water. Additionally, the continued use of natural gas comes at great risk to Los Angeles residents and the environment. The Porter Ranch gas leak lasted 112 days and displaced over 15,000 residents from their homes, disrupting lives and businesses for months. Residents, their children, and their pets suffered from health problems such as rashes, bloody noses, headaches, and nausea, and residents continue to report health problems from ongoing leaks.

In addition to health and safety concerns, the methane that makes up natural gas is an extremely potent greenhouse gas. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change now states that, pound for pound, methane from the oil and gas industry traps 34 times more heat than a pulse of carbon dioxide over a 100-year time frame, and traps 86 times more heat over a 20-year time frame. Research shows that methane escapes into the air at an alarming rate at all stages of production, distribution, storage and end-use.

Transitioning to a 100% renewable grid will not only protect our climate and our communities, it will also increase the City's potential to create more local jobs. Investments in clean, renewable energy create more jobs than the same investments in coal, oil and gas.

We know that oil and gas infrastructure is inherently dangerous. Recent disasters like Porter Ranch and the ExxonMobil refinery explosion, as well as ongoing health problems associated with neighborhood drilling like at the Murphy Well Site on West Adams (among many others, particularly in South Los Angeles) have shown us that we cannot continue our dependence on fossil fuels. We urge you to support the process of transitioning Los Angeles to 100% renewables by 2030, so that we can join San Diego, San Francisco, and San Jose in becoming national leaders on clean energy.

Sincerely,

September 18, 2016

*The NCSA is a project of Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE)*