

## BACKGROUND ON RENEWABLE ENERGY AND LADWP FROM FOOD & WATER WATCH

- A. What do we mean by 100% renewable for LADWP? This means for LADWP to generate 100% of its electricity from renewable sources such as wind, solar and geothermal, without adding any new fossil fuels to the grid to get there.
- The climate science is against us, and rapid decarbonization is needed to prevent the worst of climate change. It's been determined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that we have five years left at our current pace before the point of no return. We need to decrease emissions by 17% each year until we reach zero, which will take 19 years—hence the goal of 100% by 2035 ([Food & Water Watch analysis](#)).
  - We are also seeing more and more oil- and gas- related disasters in our backyard, such as Aliso Canyon and the Torrance refinery explosion. Fossil fuels are causing a public health crisis—with external costs in the hundreds of billions of dollars. We are paying with our health and our climate, while we continue to subsidize fossil fuels.
  - As we subsidize fossil fuels with our tax dollars, we are also in the grips of an economic crisis. A green energy transition will create hundreds of thousands of jobs.
- B. Governor Brown's climate bill SB 350—SB 350 mandates that 50% of energy be generated by renewables by 2030, but this is not ambitious enough.
- LADWP currently generates about 20% of the city's electricity from renewables, and renewables are the first to get bumped from the grid when we have an overproduction of energy, since fossil-fuel-generated power is considered "uninterruptible."
  - LADWP is eyeing 100% by 2050—this is too late.
  - They want to meet current renewable goals by adding more natural gas to the grid.
    - Aliso Canyon has dramatically shown just how dangerous natural gas infrastructure is—it is aging rapidly, and we can no longer put public money into this infrastructure while we face a climate crisis. Ratepayers could be on the hook for a \$200 million turbine replacement project at Aliso Canyon—even if it doesn't reopen. Capital and carbon intensive investments lock us into more fossil fuel infrastructure, taking away money for the transition.
    - Methane, which makes up natural gas, is a more potent, short-term-warming greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, and is leaking at an incredible rate from natural gas infrastructure at every stage—extraction, distribution, and storage. This is often **not taken into consideration** when determining emission reduction targets and tactics.
- C. Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)—The IRP is LADWP's roadmap for how it will source electricity and meet goals for efficiency and renewables for the next 20 years, and it is periodically re-evaluated. ([2015 IRP summary for reference](#)).
- LADWP is undergoing another IRP review THIS YEAR. This is a public process, with public hearings coming up in October, and the final scenario to be decided in December. David Wright, Marcie Edwards's likely successor as LADWP General Manager, will sign off on the final plan.
  - LADWP has never modeled a 100% renewable scenario, and our goal is to make sure they do this year.
  - Food & Water Watch is commissioning its own 100% feasibility study for LA, which will be delivered late 2016. We have been campaigning to build grassroots support and lobbying City Council to introduce a motion adopting a goal of 100% renewables by 2035 for LA. Sierra Club is also working on 100% renewable energy, and has introduced a motion to City Council (passed September 16), although it lacks time-specific language.
- D. San Diego, San Jose, and San Francisco have all made the commitment to go 100% renewable by 2035 or sooner. LA has the opportunity to make a decision this year if we can build enough momentum in favor of 100%. If we do not push LADWP on more ambitious renewable scenarios, they will take the easiest road—and we can't afford to wait.