



December 7, 2018

David Wright, General Manager  
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
111 North Hope Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Wright,

The undersigned organizations urge the Department of Water and Power (“DWP”) to cancel plans to build new fossil fuel power plants at the Scattergood, Haynes, and Harbor Generating Station sites. Investing in new fossil fuel projects now poses an unacceptable threat to our health, our climate, and our energy bills. We call on you to follow through with your commitment to ensuring clean, reliable energy for the City of Los Angeles.

Much is at stake. Our dependence on fossil fuels is harming our health and threatening our future. This summer, Southern California experienced consecutive days of air pollution above the health-based standards--nearly three straight months--than it has in more than a decade. Health studies have shown that every year thousands of people die in the South Coast Air Basin due to our filthy air. This must stop.

Further, the science is clear that burning fossil fuels is the direct cause of the massive climate disruption we all are experiencing. The signs of our warming planet are on display in Los Angeles including excessive air pollution and heat. Burning fossil fuels disproportionately impacts low income communities and communities of color because many in these communities lack access to necessary health care, live in housing ill-equipped to protect them from the heat, and cannot afford to miss work days when pollution or heat causes illness in their families.

The state has mandated 100 percent clean energy by 2045. DWP should not waste billions of customer dollars rebuilding gas plants. Rather, this money must be spent on non-polluting energy strategies that position the utility to achieve the mandate. The last two years have provided a steady stream of utilities finding alternatives to building new gas plants, from transmission upgrades to cross utility collaborations, to clean energy alternatives. Replacement power should be competed for cleanest energy alternative at the lowest cost. We insist that DWP follow the path that other utilities have embraced to think beyond the status quo of yesterday and, instead, invest wisely in an energy system that will be resilient, reliable, and clean.

We know matters of sustainability and equity are core values for you. It is evident in your actions over time, whether it be developing equity metrics to expanding access to energy efficiency programs, accelerating clean energy commitments, or developing a 100 percent clean energy working group. This is an important moment to fulfill the promise of these core values. There’s no way that DWP can build power plants that will release tons of air pollution and climate disrupting emissions into the City’s air while remaining true to its core values.



It is from a place of shared values that we call on you to abandon further spending on fossil fuel energy projects like Scattergood, Haynes, and Harbor generating stations. Mr. Wright, your decision is the fork in the road moment for Los Angeles; it will have implications far beyond the city limits, shaping our energy future for decades to come. We urge you to invest DWP's precious customer funding only into projects that support good health, and build equity in our communities by spending exclusively 100 percent clean energy solutions.

Sincerely,

Veronica Padilla  
Pacoima Beautiful  
LACEC

Luis Amezcua  
Sierra Club  
LACEC

Mary Leslie  
Los Angeles Business Council  
LACEC

Angela Johnson Meszaros  
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Michael Kadish  
Grid Alternatives of Greater Los Angeles Los Angeles  
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Bahram Fazeli  
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Andrea Otenso  
Global Green  
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Dan Jacobson  
Environment California  
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Michelle Knab Hasson  
National Resource Defense Council

Gloria Walton  
Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy  
Education

Joe Donlin  
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy

Mark Lopez  
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Rabeya Sen  
Esperanza Communiton Housing Corporation

Richard Parks  
Redeemer Community Partnership

Martha Arguello  
Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles

Jose G. Torres  
California Environmental Justice Alliance

Sherry Lear  
350 South Bay Los Angeles

Allis Druffel  
Interfaith Power and Light

Jasmin Vargas  
Food and Water Watch



Jane Williams  
California Communities Against Toxics

Allen Hernandez  
Center for Community Action and Environmental  
Justice

Bill Magavern  
Coalition for Clean Air

Craig Lewis  
Clean Coalition

RL Miller  
Climate Hawks Vote

Cc: Mel Levine, LADWP Board President; Cynthia McClain-Hill, LADWP Board Vice President; Aura Vasquez, LADWP Board member; Jill Banks Barad, LADWP Board member; Christina Noonan, LADWP Board member