September 5, 2019

Mayor Eric Garcetti & the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CIS in Support of Council File 16-0243

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council (HHPNC) represents over 60,000 Los Angeles Stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in the neighborhood of Highland Park. We strongly favor discussion and vote in support of filing a CIS to Los Angeles City Council File 16-0243 and to the LADWP Board of Commissioners, calling on LADWP to adopt a 100% real, clean energy by 2030 scenario as part of its ongoing 100% Renewable Study, one which excludes dirty and dangerous fuels such as methane, biomass, biogas, nuclear energy, or unbundled renewable energy credits. In addition, we encourage the LADWP to invest in and research new technologies that would expand the lifespan of solar panels as well as develop environmental and safe methods of disposing of said technology.

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has found that rapid warming caused by climate change will cause increased droughts, wildfires, food shortages, and other ecological and humanitarian disasters far earlier than previously expected.

The same study found that a global reduction of carbon emissions of 40 to 60 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 is necessary in order to limit a rise in global temperatures above 1.5 degrees Celsius, and avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

Los Angeles' leading contribution to carbon emissions is the electricity sector representing 73% of total carbon dioxide emissions in 2017 among the waste and transportation sectors.

In February 2019, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) would not repower three coastal natural-gas power plants, and would instead invest in the development of renewable energy alternatives for the city.

In 2017, the City of Los Angeles initiated a 100% Renewable Energy Study with the aim of determining a viable pathway for the city to achieve complete renewable energy integration. However, the city's 100% Renewable Energy Study does not currently include any proposals for achieving 100% clean renewable energy by 2030 and allows for the continued combustion of biomass and biogas, as well as the continued operation of L.A.'s four gas power plants.

The pollution created by biomass and biogas burning facilities would perpetuate the release of greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere, while prolonging LADWP's dependency on fossil fuel infrastructure.

The presence of such facilities threatens the health and safety of their surrounding communities, through the release of particulate matter, airborne chemicals, and other volatile organic compounds; along with the risk of toxic chemical spills, methane leaks, and water contamination.

A 2018 study by Synapse Energy Economics has shown that viable pathways exist for LADWP to transition to a fully decarbonized electric sector by 2030 through investment in energy efficiency, increased storage, and smart management of the energy grid, without the need for biogas, biofuels, nuclear generation, or unbundled renewable energy credits.

The Synapse Energy study has shown that such a transition to 100% clean, renewable energy by 2030 could be achieved while maintaining power reliability, while costing LADWP less than if they continue to rely on pollution-emitting and dangerous fuels like biogas, biomass, methane and nuclear energy.

A transition to 100% clean, renewable energy by 2030 will create good, green jobs in Los Angeles, as Los Angeles already leads the country in total clean energy jobs. Any transition towards a renewable energy system should be a fair and just transition for workers including retraining, retaining pensions, wages and safety standards.

As the country's largest public utility, LADWP's leadership in transitioning Los Angeles to 100% clean renewable energy would set a powerful example for cities around the world.

Therefore, any proposals created through the city's 100% Renewable Energy Study should include robust participation and dialogue with the public, so that community input can help guide the city's transition to a decarbonized future.

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council resolves to call on Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, the Los Angeles City Council, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to study a 100% real, clean energy by 2030 scenario that excludes methane, biomass, biogas, nuclear energy, and unbundled renewable energy credits.

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council resolves to submit a community impact statement to Council File 16-0243 and to communicate support to our City Council member expressing support for this position.

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council resolves to submit a community impact statement to LADWP to communicate support for this position.

Sincerely,
Olga Vasqyez, Director-At-Large
Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council