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GREATER GRIFFITH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
"Your Neighborhood. Your Voice. Your Council"



CERTIFIED COUNCIL #36

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August 24, 2010

Honorable Eric Garcetti and Los Angeles City Council Members
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Room 475
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Council President Garcetti and Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council supports eliminating coal from the electricity supply of Los Angeles by 2020 as well as providing 40% of our power from clean, renewable energy. We ask that you, our city's leaders, embrace these goals by ensuring the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power adopt and execute these critical goals.

Coal is one of the dirtiest forms of energy and a major contributor to global climate change. In 2008, over 36% of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions came from the combustion of this dirty fuel. The City of Los Angeles owns significant shares in two of the dirtiest coal plants in the nation: the Navajo Generating Station and the Intermountain Power Project. Our dependence on coal is responsible for significant pollution and human health impacts at every phase of its life cycle. In 2008, the Navajo Generating Station and the Intermountain Power Project released a combined total of 32,468,461 tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere. Additionally, each year the Navajo Generating Station uses nearly 8 billion gallons of water from Lake Powell for cooling – a shocking number in water-starved Los Angeles.

Los Angeles has a responsibility to leave a legacy of leadership to our children and grandchildren. We must rebuild Los Angeles in a way that will protect us from the true cost of coal: polluted rivers and fish, increased asthma rates, strokes, cancer, and other health related issues, waste of billions of gallons of fresh water to cool coal plants, and the destruction of eco-systems through strip-mining, coal-slurries, and mountain-top removal.

Furthermore, legal and regulatory uncertainty surrounding the coal industry is creating an increasingly uncertain future for coal. This uncertainty is leading to increasing costs and price volatility for the LADWP. A well-planned transition away from coal-fired power will protect DWP bill payers. Smart energy efficiency programs can help keep LADWP bills down, while creating jobs and providing upstream and downstream economic benefits.

We can address these ethical and moral concerns by doing our part and we want to help the timely and at-scale transition of Los Angeles to increased energy efficiency, demand response, and clean, renewable energy. In accomplishing this transition, Los Angeles will simultaneously create thousands of new family-wage jobs, while renewing our city's infrastructure and rebuilding our city for the 21st century.

The need for action to address global climate change, pollution, water resource protection and sustainability has never been more urgent. There is no better opportunity for Los Angeles to demonstrate its leadership in the area of sustainability than to take action now:

- Mandate the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power devise and execute a plan to end the city's use of coal-fired power.
- Displace Los Angeles' coal-fired power through aggressive energy efficiency programs and a 40% renewable portfolio standard.

Los Angeles should be a leader in meeting the challenges of today. Support is growing quickly for Los Angeles to seize the opportunity to build a clean and renewable energy future that will stabilize our electricity rates over the long haul because once the system is paid for, the sun and winds are free. By making progress now, the City of Los Angeles will make investments in our long-term economic future. The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council looks forward to working with the city to achieve these goals together. We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Ostrow".

Ron Ostrow
President, Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council

By: Leslie VanKeuren Campbell, District D Representative

Cc: Jessica Kornberg, Secretary
GGPNC Board Members