

PASADENA 100 COALITION

April 15, 2022

Jeffrey Kightlinger
Interim General Manager
Pasadena Water and Power
By email

Dear Mr. Kightlinger:

We are the members of Pasadena 100, a coalition of community organizations and individuals working and residing in the Pasadena area. We have come together out of deep concern that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions threaten our quality of life and the health and safety of our children and grandchildren. Below we summarize five requests for urgent action by PWP and stand ready to assist in their fulfillment.

First, we ask that PWP acknowledge that a climate emergency exists, that GHG emissions have caused the emergency, that fossil fuels are the cause of the vast majority of GHG emissions, and that severe climate related risks to public health and safety confront Pasadena and the world.

Second, we ask that Pasadena Water and Power recommend to the City Manager and the City Council that Pasadena commit to the goal of 100% carbon free power sourcing by 2030. The Pasadena area benefits from world class scientific institutions, an exceptionally beautiful and healthful natural environment, and an engaged citizenry committed to maintaining that environment. PWP can call upon these extraordinary resources and together we can help Pasadena join the growing number of American cities that have achieved or committed to that goal. For a list of more than 200 of these cities, see “Progress Towards 100% Clean Energy in Cities and States Across the U.S.” from the Luskin Center at UCLA:
<https://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/100-Clean-Energy-Progress-Report-UCLA-2.pdf>

We ask for accelerated transition to 100% carbon free energy *by 2030* because changing PWP’s power sourcing is the most effective action that our city can take to reduce dangerous GHG emissions. It is also economically prudent. By proactive planning and speedy implementation of this transition, at the earliest possible date, PWP customers will be spared the expense of cancelled commitments as the imperative to halt fossil fuel dependence becomes more urgent and deadlines for state law compliance approach.

Third, we ask that PWP provide our elected city leaders and the public with more than a single scenario and timeline for the transition to renewable energy. As you model alternative portfolios, we urge you to count not only the direct financial costs of each, but also to fully include the social cost of carbon used to generate any of PWP’s electricity. We pay these fuels’ indirect costs--in the form of excessive heat, fires, extreme storms, drought, water and food scarcity and air pollution from particulate matter. We pay by premature deaths, respiratory

PASADENA 100 COALITION

diseases, lost work hours, the costs of adaptation measures, economic distress and crime. Any scenario that fails to fully count the social cost of carbon skews the result in favor of fossil fuels.

Fourth, we ask that you engage citizens and community organizations in overcoming the challenges we face in making this transition through the Stakeholder Advisory Group (STAG) and through broader communications with the public. As the City begins its new Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) process, we ask that PWP balance the STAG by equal representation of large ratepayers and business organizations with concerned residents and environmental organizations. In the pre-climate emergency past, power sourcing decisions were driven by rates and technical questions concerning adequacy and reliability. We share these concerns. However, the climate emergency now adds significant issues of broad public concern. We ask that the STAG be engaged in the IRP process early enough to advise on the criteria for consultant selection, the instructions for models that the consultants are tasked to develop and the options they prepare for City Council consideration.

Fifth, we ask that Pasadena's energy strategy include distributed generation, storage, demand response, microgrids, community solar, virtual public networks and new energy technologies that will ease the transition to renewable energy. The growth in demand for electricity for transportation and building electrification will require our city to generate and source more electricity than ever before, so both centralized and distributed generation will be needed. Cost and budget constraints are real and city leaders and the public can work with PWP to advocate for new programs to ease these constraints. Working together, we can overcome every obstacle to transition to 100% carbon free energy.

We thank you for your work as a non-profit public organization and for your outstanding record of excellence and reliability. We look forward to working together to secure a safe and bright future for our city and doing our part for global climate change mitigation.

For further communication, please contact the Pasadena 100 Coalition Chairperson, Cynthia Cannady, at cccannady@gmail.com, telephone: 626 460 8607 or 323 708 7774.

Yours truly,

Active San Gabriel Valley
Wes Reutimann

Ban SUP (Single Use Plastics)
Cheryl Auger, President

Citizens Climate Lobby, Pasadena Foothills Chapter
Sanford Krasner, Group Lead

EDEN, Environmental Ministry of All Saints Church, Pasadena
Tom Brady, Chair

PASADENA 100 COALITION

Indivisible Alta Pasadena

John Jackson

League of Women Voters Pasadena Area

Martha Y. Zavala, President

John Odell, Cynthia Cannady, Kathy Berlin, Christle Balvin, members

Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church, 7th Principle Committee

Peter Eisenhardt, leader, church's environmental committee

Progressive Asian Network for Action (PANA)

Taiji Miyagawa, Co-Founder

Una Lee Jost, Member

Sam Berndt

Sierra Club Pasadena Group

George Vine, Vice-Chair, Treasurer

Social Justice Committee of the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center

Carl Selkin, Co-Chair

Throop Unitarian Universalist Church-- a progressive faith community loving the world from the heart of Pasadena.

Rev. Tera Landers, Pastor

Transition Pasadena

Robert Haw

Cc: Mayor Victor Gordo
Members of the Pasadena City Council
Cynthia Kurtz, Acting City Manager
Kelly Nguyen, Assistant General Manager, Pasadena Water & Power
Environmental Advisory Commission