

NUUC Green Council Recommendations on
PWP's Proposed IRP December 2018

Monday, December 10, 2018

Honorable Mayor Tornek, City Council Members, and Pasadena Manager Mermell, and City of Pasadena administrators and staff members:

In 2017 Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church (NUUC) voted unanimously to become a greenhouse gas net zero congregation. The Green Council of NUUC is thankful for the opportunity to participate in the process of determining Pasadena Water and Powers energy plans for the future. A representative of the Green Council, Mr. Cary Belling, was selected for an environmental advocacy position for the community advisory group formed by PWP, known as the Stakeholders Technical Advisory Group or STAG. That group, through a series of six meetings, was empowered to provide input as PWP develops its future energy plan, the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).

The Neighborhood Church Green Council is supportive of many features of the PWP's recommendations for the IRP. These include: 1) that all future long term contracts for energy are to be from renewable and zero carbon sources, 2) the elimination of fossil fuels from the Utah coal plant (Intermountain Power Project) when the contract expires in 2027 and the termination of that contract, 3) greenhouse gas reduction to 75% of 1990 levels by 2030, and 4) compliance with the State of California's recently passed energy bill - SB100.

The Green Council has noted that the recommended energy plan includes the Intermountain coal plant in Utah through 2027 - even though it is by far the largest contributor to air pollution and greenhouse gases. The STAG energy report shows that in the near future PWP could eliminate the use of the Utah Coal Plant and reduce greenhouse gases by more than four times compared to the current proposal at a relatively low 3.2 percent cost increase. With the recent reports on the great importance of combating climate change from both United Nations and United States governmental agencies, we believe Pasadena bears responsibility to take aggressive action to protect the well being of our community, our country, and the planet for ourselves and future generations. Unfortunately PWP is currently hamstrung from extricating itself from the Utah plant contract by state and federal energy regulations. The Green Council urges Pasadena Water and Power to petition state and national regulators to find a rapid way out of the current coal plant contract or drastically reduce its usage.

The NUUC Green Council congratulates PWP on its IRP proposal. We endorse its recommended plan (The Social Cost of Carbon plus SB 100 compliant scenario) as the best option for reducing pollution and greenhouse gases and providing reliable and affordable electrical energy for the citizens of Pasadena. We urge the City of Pasadena to adopt the proposed IRP. However with the with immediate crisis of global warming urgently at hand, we also ask the Pasadena City Council to include a side letter to the current IRP recommending PWP petition the appropriate regulatory agencies (the California Energy Commission, California Resources Board, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) to change rules or make exceptions so as to remove penalties that might be incurred with lowering or stopping energy draw from the Intermountain coal plant.

We personally thank all members of PWP who so ably facilitated the Stakeholders Technical Advisory Group, including, Gurchuran Bawa, Mandip Samra, Erk Klinkner, Anthony D'Aquila, Mauricio Mejia, Anita Cerna, and consultant Lon Peters. We also thank city council representative Market McAustin, City Commissioner Felicia Williams, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce President Paul Little, and Environmental Advisory Commission member Morey Wolfson, and all community STAG members for their guidance, contributions, and insight!

Submitted by Cary Belling, member of the Green Council of Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church, Pasadena, CA

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