

MOTION

Climate change is the most significant issue facing the global environment today.

There is a broad, overwhelming consensus among scientists that the climate is changing as a direct result of human activity that produces greenhouse gases. The city has already acted decisively and deliberately to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases and thereby reduce its contribution to the changing climate. Among these steps are investing in LED street lights, developing electrical hookups for ships at the Port of Los Angeles, expanding the use of electric vehicles at the city and major investments in energy efficiency among all types of electrical customers.

The most significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions that the city will achieve will be the elimination of coal-fired power plants from the Department of Water and Power's electricity portfolio by 2025. In the period between 2005 and 2025, the utility will have reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by over 9 million metric tons each year. However, even after those investments in eliminating coal, the utility will still produce over 7 million metric tons of greenhouse gases, the equivalent of nearly 1.5 million cars on the road in Los Angeles each year. The remaining energy portfolio of the LADWP will be extremely reliant on natural gas, another source of greenhouse gases, and that portfolio will be susceptible to price and supply constraints of the gas market.

Clean energy and renewable technologies have developed significantly since the state began implementing renewable energy mandates in 2002 with the original Renewable Portfolio Standard legislation. Renewable projects, once viewed as a significant risk and potentially destabilizing for the electricity sector, are now readily available and adapted to the needs of utilities throughout the world. With advances in energy storage technology and distribution grid resilience, adopting greater quantities of renewables has become ever more possible and, in some cases, significantly more desirable than new fossil fuel generating stations.

On March 30, 1916, the Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light constructed the first power poles to bring electricity from Pasadena and distribute it to customers in Los Angeles. Nearly a year later, its first hydroelectric generating station came on line to provide fossil-free electricity to even more customers. Today, with the LADWP on the verge of making significant investments in its infrastructure, and with that 100-year-old power system in need of significant upgrades, the city has an opportunity to re-create its utility in a way that recognizes the potential for a fossil-free future, demonstrates global leadership in its commitment to clean energy, and protects ratepayers from the increasing costs of carbon-based fuels.



I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council REQUEST that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power report with a program to develop and implement a research partnership, utilizing relationships with the region's universities, members of the Southern California Public Power Authority, the California Independent System Operator, neighboring utilities and other stakeholders, with the objective of determining what investments should be made to achieve a 100% renewable energy portfolio for the LADWP.

I FURTHER MOVE that the aforementioned research partnership should utilize the resources and develop in partnership with the efforts of the U.S. Department of Energy and its support of Mission Innovation and the Breakthrough Energy Coalition.

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