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December 14, 2021

Environmental Advisory Commission
Pasadena Water & Power
150 S. Los Robles Ave. – Ste. 200
Pasadena, CA 91101

**PASADENA WATER AND POWER (PWP)
AGENDA ITEM CONCERNING THE INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN (IRP)**

Dear Members of the Environmental Advisory Committee:

Given the urgency of the climate crisis and the critical importance of energy sourcing for Pasadena's greenhouse gas emissions, the Pasadena community and ratepayers need more time and opportunity for review of the IRP revision.

The proposed IRP's policy choices need careful consideration, however, the timeline for review does not allow for deliberation and research to evaluate the planned actions that will have lasting repercussions. The timeline for adoption of the IRP calls for approval by the Municipal Services Committee on January 11 and by the full City Council on January 24.

The IRP's plans, based on our quick review (documents were only provided with the agenda last Thursday afternoon), raise the following concerns:

- PWP is only doing the minimum of what is required to comply with state law--60% renewable by 2030 and even that commitment is unclear.
- PWP says it will enter into no "no new long-term commitments for fossil-fueled power resources", but leaves open questions about existing and short-term fossil fuel supply.
- PWP will be increasingly reliant on "spot" purchases of energy which will probably include fossil fuels.
- PWP will maintain gas (fossil fuel) energy from the Glenarm plant to "meet peak demands and ensure reliability".
- Community solar and rooftop solar are not prioritized or built into the IRP.
- Pasadena ratepayers will have to pay increased rates for their electricity.
- There is no user-friendly Power Content Label disclosure for the years 2022-2030 to help energy ratepayers see in a transparent manner whether Pasadena will be contributing to GHGs and if so, how much.

Moreover, the documents are highly technical, using vocabulary that most laypersons would not understand. While we recognize that energy sourcing is a technical field and we appreciate the expertise required, we point out that energy choices are vital in a democracy especially when Pasadenans will be so directly affected by rising costs of energy and by the threat of greenhouse gasses that endanger our health, our children, and our property.

Lastly, we are concerned that there is a lack of overarching policy transparency and guidance in our city's response to the crisis of climate change. Pasadena residents who will pay for energy have a right to transparent and clear information about how our city owned utility will transition to a fossil fuel free future. These choices should not be imposed on residents in a rushed manner as a fait accompli.

In closing we encourage the EAC to formally request a longer time for evaluation of the IRP and a more focused presentation that addresses the policy choices facing Pasadena. We urge the EAC and PWP to recognize that a climate crisis exists. Pasadena must act aggressively to reduce its GHG emissions – mere compliance will not get us there.

With my best regards,



Martha Y. Zavala
President, League of Women Voters Pasadena Area

Cc: Municipal Services Committee