

LADWP Natural Gas Power Plant Proposal

Recommendation:

The Venice Community Resiliency Committee (VCRC) recommends:

The Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) send a letter to LADWP and the Mayor endorsing the utilizing of Green Alternatives to the use of Natural Gas in the refurbishing of the existing electrical generating plant in Playa Del Rey with the proviso that such alternatives do not adversely affect the disaster resilience of the plant. Further, that the VNC cooperate with other Neighborhood Councils and groups, as appropriate, to provide input to the LADWP planning process in support of Green Alternatives to Natural Gas as long as the alternatives do not compromise the disaster resilience of the plant.

Analysis:

The provision of electrical power is vital to the health and safety of the Venice Community particularly to Persons with Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs who are dependent upon medical equipment and or medical support services. Likewise the effects of Climate Change already threatened parts of Venice with flooding and eventually permanent inundation from rising ocean waters.

It is critical to balance these two needs with the understanding that the need for a resilient power supply is an immediate need and the impacts of Climate Change poses a more long term threat, Initial studies indicate that Green Alternatives can be instituted to reduce and ultimately replace the use of Natural Gas in generating electrical power at required levels. These Green Alternatives appear to be resilient to disaster impacts although detailed studies as they apply to Los Angeles have not been conducted.

In view of these factors the use of Green Alternatives by LADWP is the most desirable course of action. However, this must be coupled with specific analyses and planning to ensure the disaster resilience of these alternatives.

Background;

The LADWP operates Natural Gas Electrical Power Plants on or near the coast. The Playa Del Rey Plant affects Venice. /these plants had to reduce operations due to the negative impact of using sea water to cool the plant. LADWP intends to replace generating capacity and studied alternatives including use of Natural Gas and Green Alternatives. LADWP is supporting the use of natural gas. State legislation supports moving to Green Power by 2030. Environmental advocacy groups such as Food and Water Watch have been encouraging Neighborhood

Councils to support Green Alternatives as a safer and Climate Change responsive approach as opposed to natural gas.

VNC President Koslow was approached for an endorsement of Green alternatives for these plants. President Koslow referred the issue to the VCRC for review and recommendations from the viewpoint of disaster resilience. At the January 24 meeting of the VCRC Dr. Diane Fletcher-Hoppe representing Protect Playa NOW and Food and Water Watch made a presentation and presented materials. Given time constraints the VCRC has not been able to reach out to LADWP for a presentation. However, there appears to be sufficient information to make reasonable recommendation