March 7th, 2023

Councilwoman Traci Park

Los Angeles City Council District 11

200 N Spring St #475

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilwoman Park,

The Westchester/Playa Neighborhood Council would like to provide you the following feedback regarding the proposed Scattergood Generating Station Green Hydrogen project (refer to council files 23-0039, 22-0255 and 21-0352).

First and foremost the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant is a critical piece of infrastructure that must be operation 24/7 to treat wastewater and sewage from all over Los Angeles County. The plant has had operational issues over the last couple years and is in need of upgrades to effectively process wastewater and prevent sewage from polluting ocean waters. Therefore we are opposed to green lighting any construction initiatives for hydrogen production at the moment until the plant has had improvements made to its overall reliability. However, there is no harm in reviewing proposals for a hydrogen generating system that could be integrated into the plant in the future.

Reviewing Council File No. 23-0039 motion that covers this proposed project, it appears that issues regarding safety, emissions and restrictions on potable water use are addressed. However, the use of energy to support this hydrogen generation is not mentioned.

It is our understanding that the plant currently utilizes “digesters” to breakdown solid waste with bacteria. The bacterial breakdown generates methane gas (CH4) and the methane gas is then used as a combustion fuel source to generate power that is needed for plant operations. It was also our understanding that about 90% of the power needed to operate to the plant was supplied by this methane combustion process.

If the plan is to convert the methane (CH4) generated into hydrogen (H2), energy will be required for this process. It then seems that more power will have to be taken from the grid in order to sustain this new process. Would this really be a “green” solution? Perhaps a better solution to this problem may be with the use of advance fuel cell technology that utilizes methane gas as a fuel source and has much higher efficiency than the current combustion process. Bloom Energy and Bosch are two companies that have developed high efficiency, high temperature, modular, stationary systems that may result in a net surplus of energy generation from the plant.

Regards,

Paula Gerez

President, Neighborhood Council Westchester/Playa