April 4th, 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 (council files 23-0039, 22-0255 and 21-0352). During our initial investigation into this proposal, we have reviewed 2 presentations by LADWP dated September 22, 2022 and February 3, 2023 where LADWP indicated that an estimated $800 million would be required for this conversion.

Council file No. 23-0039 motion refers to this proposed project and addresses issues regarding the safety, emissions, along with restrictions on potable water uses. However, the use of energy to support any hydrogen generation is not mentioned. If the plan is to convert the methane (CH4) into hydrogen (H2) and carbon (C), or decompose water (H2O) to H2 and oxygen (O), 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”? Furthermore, the LADWP study indicates NOx emissions would still result from hydrogen combustion, so again, is this really a “green solution”?

Energy storage is also considered as an option to gather energy from remote, renewably fueled turbine sources and utilize this power at a later time. In theory this appears to be a practical solution, however LADWP indicates a “seasonal mismatch of supply and demand”, “risks to transmission lines from fires/earthquakes” along with the “limitation of the city’s local transmission network”, severely limits this battery storage option. We must learn the lesson from the Texas extreme winter storms of February 2021 where the power grid was crippled for some time. We feel that there is a better use of space at the Scattergood Generating Station then large-scale batteries.

The LADWP reports also indicated fuel cell evaluation was performed, however the type and producer of the fuel cells are not mentioned. LADWP mention that fuel cells are “significantly more expensive”, “require more space”, “technology less mature” and “utility scale fuel cells have never been demonstrated”. Bloom Energy, Hyaxiom/Doosan and Bosch are companies that have developed stationary solid oxide fuel cells with high efficiencies and very low emissions that may be a practical solution to supplement clean power generation. We would request LADWP to review their technologies along with any other company that provides advanced fuel cells.

 The Scattergood Generating Station is currently a local, reliable source of power that the community relies on with 2 critically important infrastructures nearby (LAX airport and the Hyperion Sewage Treatment plant). We should not suddenly and drastically alter this reliable power generating technology for the yet to be proven dreams of 100% clean energy on a schedule determined by a politician. We feel that the goal to make energy generation in Los Angeles 100% renewable by 2035 is not practical and appears to be motivated by “political attention” rather than improving power generation/distribution and/or air quality. We feel a better approach would be to eliminate a fixed date of 2035 for 100% renewable energy and instead perform a continuous and manageable shift to renewable energy sources that do not put an undue economic burden on the City of Los Angeles.

Regards,

Paula Gerez

President, Neighborhood Council Westchester/Playa