

September 8, 2015

Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, Council Representative Lena Gonzalez and City Council,

Dear Elected Officials:

I am writing on behalf of my husband Hollis Stewart and myself to follow-up the August 22, 2015 CA Legislature Town Hall: 2015 Long Beach Power Outages.

We are loft owners in the Walker Building, 115 West 4th Street, Unit 401, at Pine and 4th Street. Our family and the residents of our 47 unit building were impacted by both outages. We are retired, walk and shop almost exclusively in downtown Long Beach, utilize many city services for seniors as well as dog parks and the library. I am active in the North Pine Neighborhood Alliance.

We will not repeat the many stories heard at the Town Hall about the horrendous emotional, physical, economic and related impacts suffered by both residents and businesses because of **SCE's significant failures to provide safe, reliable and reasonably priced electrical power**. Nor will we repeat the many stories heard from residents, businesses, Long Beach elected officials and emergency staff about SCE's lack of communication and operational staffing during the power outages. Hopefully comments and questions from the Hearing will be addressed, investigated and implemented. Hopefully the Hearing **ACTIVATES you to lead us all into real solutions – short and long term -- that require SCE to timely either alter the way it functions as a private utility or to assist Long Beach in finding a utility that can meet our community standards.**

We do wish to offer the additional comments, based on our experiences during the two power outages. We also wish to offer specific questions and suggestions that we hope can be included in your on-going work on this issue.

Comments

1. Never once did SCE recognize the resource and importance of **IBEW Local 47** who represents the frontline workers of SCE (who filled our downtown streets working around the clock) in both identifying what occurred, how to timely resolve the power outage and/or prevent future such outages. We urge you to access the leaders and members of IBEW Local 47. Just in informal discussions with them at the Aug. 22 Town Hall, we heard a **very different assessment of a) what actually caused the outages and b) what "routine inspections and timely maintenance" actually mean in practice and c) the contribution of SCE's practices (actually lack thereof) to creating the outages**. As our elected officials, we want you to know that we do NOT have confidence in what SCE is telling any of us.
2. As we expand development with higher business and residential density and as we move forward learning from these outages, we **do not hear anyone asking if the design and capacity of the current "downtown" electrical infrastructure fits our current and growing needs?** If SCE can't even figure out in a timely manner what went wrong and design a "fix", if SCE cannot provide the level of safe staffing to conduct not just inspections but timely maintenance and repairs, then it is time for us as Long Beach to find a utility that can meet our needs.