

From: Joshua Torres [<mailto:jptorres13@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 4:32 PM

To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>

Subject: Public Comment for Environmental Committee & Sustainability Commission

-EXTERNAL-

I am a resident of district 4. While I work for Southern California Edison, my views and opinions are my own as a resident and voter of Long Beach. I am writing to urge caution for the recommendation to join Clean Power Alliance. Defaulting everyone in the city to 100 percent green power would be costly and burdensome to most people. There is a good chunk of our city that is not affluent, but also not low-income enough to qualify for bill assistance programs. This default would be burdensome to them. Additionally, the city's own CCA feasibility study that was released back in December 2019 recommended waiting and conducting public outreach prior to launching any program. It is incredibly unfair to default 500,00 Long Beach residents with such little outreach.

The electric sector represents 15 percent of GHG emissions in the state. Transportation represents almost 50 percent of GHG emissions. I've reviewed the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. I see the city has a goal to develop an EV-readiness plan but has not made much progress. I live near Traffic Circle, which is an EV charger dead zone. Most of the public chargers in our city are concentrated downtown. I'd much rather see the city focus on building out charging infrastructure and helping residents tackle the largest source of emissions in our city.

Additionally, focusing on transportation would help to improve local air quality, whereas going CCA has no local air quality benefit, given that electricity generation no longer is a significant contributor to our air quality issues in Southern California. Electrifying our transportation sector has immediate climate and air quality benefits and those benefits grow over time. According to a 2016 study by the Air Resources Board, electric vehicles today have 70 percent fewer GHG emissions and 85 percent fewer ozone-forming air pollutants. Cleaner air is something Long Beach deserves and shouldn't wait for.

I strongly urge the Sustainability Commission to take caution with CCA and to prioritize electrifying transportation.

Sincerely,

Joshua Torres
