

## MOTION

The climate emergency continues to intensify nearly beyond comprehension. Cal Fire announced that, compared to last year's record-breaking wildfire season, California has already seen over 2,650 more fires and a nearly 2000% increase in the acres burned year-to-date across all jurisdictions. Additionally, a severe heat wave over the weekend broke numerous records across California including the highest temperature ever recorded in LA County at 121 degrees Fahrenheit.

All efforts must be accelerated to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of City operations.

Yet the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) did not reveal the existence of a methane leak at the Valley Generating Station until it was exposed by a Jet Propulsion Laboratory emission leakage study. Methane is a greenhouse gas that is 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term. LADWP announced it will be unable to fix this leak, which is a climate hazard, until at least November.

Power utilities also deals with other enormously-dangerous greenhouse gases, including SF<sub>6</sub> (sulfur hexafluoride), which is used as an insulating material for medium and high-voltage electrical installations. It is also a climate pollutant that is 23,500 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Relatively tiny atmospheric concentrations of SF<sub>6</sub> can have disproportionately large effects on global temperatures. LADWP announced in 2014 it would pursue membership in the SF<sub>6</sub> Emission Reduction Partnership for Electric Power Systems in an ongoing effort to share best practices to reduce SF<sub>6</sub> emissions. LADWP has been required to report to the California Air Resources Board about its SF<sub>6</sub> emissions, with a goal of 1 percent by 2020 from a baseline of 10 percent in 2011.

LADWP operates or sources its power from a large number of plants, stations and dams throughout the Western U.S., and operates and maintains thousands of electrical substations and hundreds of field switches, and maintains thousands of miles of distribution and transmission lines. Leaks may occur anywhere throughout the power system.

As it continues to address climate disruption, the Council must know what other leaks may exist throughout LADWP's operations. Because LADWP did not immediately report the existence of the Valley Generating Station methane leak, it is essential that the Department report to the Council and public on the existence of any leaks at any of its power plants or throughout its operations, its institutional understanding of the health impacts and climate disruption impacts of all its greenhouse gas and toxic emissions, including CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and SF<sub>6</sub>.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the LADWP to report back on the existence of any leaks at any of its power plants or throughout its operations of any greenhouse gas and/or toxic emissions.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to report back in 30 days on the Department's institutional understanding of the health impacts and dangers to the global climate of leaking emissions related to departmental operations and of existing emissions reductions goals, including but not limited to: methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>).

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the LADWP to report back on any plans to provide education to its employees and contractors and create deep institutional knowledge and a strong sense of urgency about the impacts to climate disruption and to health of any related leaks from power plants or other utility operations.

PRESENTED BY:

  
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