Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: My name is Barak Kamelgard, Senior Attorney for Los Angeles Waterkeeper. We appreciate DWP's hard work and dedication to ensuring a quick and unprecedented transition to 100% clean energy by 2035. The opportunities for Angelenos to directly benefit from clean energy, jobs, and better public health are incredible and exciting. However, we are still concerned about the uncertain future of our gas plants in the LA Basin, starting with Scattergood. Specifically, we don't know how the green hydrogen will be made and where the large amounts of water required to make it will come from. Given the drought California is in, and the water scarcity issues we face, this is a critical issue to understand. Additionally, hydrogen combustion still poses health risks for frontline communities because burning hydrogen can create dangerous amounts of asthma- inducing NOx pollution. This health risk is compounded by the fact that there is significant potential for leaks in the massive pipeline infrastructure, which would pose further health risks and undermine our carbon reduction goals. Hydrogen combustion is also inefficient because it uses a massive amount of energy to make more electricity, instead of directly using that power for the electric grid. Finally, hydrogen combustion is incredibly expensive and unproven. Creating and burning Green hydrogen will cost us billions of dollars despite having no guarantee that the technology will work and no certainty as the risks posed to human health and the environment. LADWP should, therefore, continue to look at cleaner and safer alternatives. I am concerned that our clean energy future is investing so much time, money, and effort into another potentially dangerous fuel. I strongly encourage the Council to ask LADWP to continue looking for safer emerging technologies and solutions like multi-day demand response, distributed energy, long duration batteries, and advanced transmission technologies that can finally bring Los Angeles to a future without burning unsafe gas.