



## **It's Time for L.A. to Pass on Gas There's No Room for Dirty Gas in a Clean Energy Future for Angelenos**

Why is L.A. thinking of spending more than \$2 billion on dirty gas when most utilities in California are moving beyond it? Gas pollutes the air we breathe, threatens the safety of our community, and can't compete against clean energy. With clean energy as a better and cheaper alternative, thousands of Angelenos are committed to putting a stop to further overburdening communities that are most impacted by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's ("DWP") bad decisions by not letting them spend one more cent of ratepayer money on new gas.

### **1. New gas is a dangerous and costly mistake for ratepayers.**

With a reputation for the worst air quality in the nation, L.A. currently has the worst smog we've had in years. In Southern California, more than 5,000 people die prematurely from air pollution every year — more than from traffic accidents and crime combined — and the rising heat every year is not making our smog problem easier to address. New gas will not make air better to breathe for Angelenos and their families, and it will only worsen our climate and air pollution problems.

Yet instead of embracing and investing in our future, the bureaucrats at the DWP want to keep us anchored to the past by spending ratepayer money on rebuilding three gas plants from the ground up! Rather than wasting our money on outdated gas plants, we urge the DWP to scrap this business-as-usual plan and instead focus on clean energy investments that create healthy jobs, clean up our air, and provide reliable power for Angelenos.

The good news is that Angelenos are not alone in this effort — many residents and businesses throughout California want a healthier and safer community to live. A recent law has committed California to 100% clean energy by 2045, and all cities, including L.A., must move beyond gas by then. Rather than investing in resources to prepare us for this future, the DWP wants to stick to the status quo and force Angelenos to remain dependent on dirty gas for decades to come.

There is no other utility in California that is spending ratepayer money on building new gas, and many are showing the way for a future that is powered by clean, reliable, and cost-effective electricity. The DWP should follow this example by investing our money in creating a healthier future for us.

### **2. Gas will not solve L.A.'s critical energy need.**

L.A.'s critical energy need is repairing and upgrading our old infrastructure — most of which was built before the 1960s — not buying more electricity. Despite having enough energy to meet all of L.A.'s demand, Angelenos still suffer from frequent power outages, making it clear that it is

our wires and infrastructure that are struggling to deliver power to homes and businesses. Extreme weather, such as heat waves, and strong winds, have tested and pushed the endurance of our infrastructure. These extreme weather events seem to be getting worse and more frequent every year, making it absolutely crucial for us to start repairing and upgrading our aging infrastructure now.

Far from ensuring Angelenos have reliable power, gas will not reduce power outages and make sure the lights stay on in extremely hot or windy days. As our public utility, the DWP should put the billions of dollars it would waste on unnecessary gas toward investing in a resilient transmission and distribution system that can confidently deliver power to our residents and businesses, and those improvements in turn will create hundreds of quality jobs and other economic opportunities for Angelenos.

### **3. There is a better way forward.**

The DWP doesn't have to waste ratepayer money and build new gas plants from the ground up, and there are better ways we can spend ratepayer money that will keep our lights on and lower our energy bills.

For example, our neighbors at Southern California Edison decided to stop wasting money in new gas by putting together energy efficiency, storage, and rooftop solar to create a clean energy solution that eliminated their need for new gas. These clean energy solutions have been cheaper than new gas, and their cost will only go down as the price of energy storage and solar decline.

The DWP must embrace these new solutions, and stop keeping us in the past with solutions from the status quo. Angelenos know there is a better way forward, and we deserve the better way forward. It's time for the DWP to abandon the idea of new gas at Scattergood, Harbor, and Haynes, and invest in creative and innovative solutions that rely on clean energy and fix our power delivery system. It is only then when the DWP will be able to provide clean and reliable power to Angelenos in a way that is cost-effective, healthy, and safe for our communities.