



Joe Britton
Senior Public Affairs Manager
8330 Century Park Court, CP31D
San Diego, CA 92123
jbritton@sdge.com

May 17, 2021

Dear La Mesa Environmental Sustainability Commission,

SDG&E shares the City's ambitions for achieving meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and we remain committed to helping you achieve the long-term goals outlined in the Climate Action Plan. We've built our business model on enabling climate reducing technologies – and this body of work is demonstrated in SDG&E's first-ever company-wide sustainability strategy, *Building A Better Future: SDG&E's Commitment to Sustainability*.

Through this sustainability plan, we have developed a series of actionable and long-term goals aligned with California's and La Mesa's ambitious climate agenda. The plan calls for regional collaboration and partnerships and will likely evolve over time to reflect stakeholder feedback, regulatory changes and technological breakthroughs. We have tried to build on our strengths, focusing on the areas of environmental stewardship, clean transportation, grid modernization, community engagement, and company operations to help support economy-wide carbon neutrality. The full report is available at sdge.com/sustainability.

SDG&E also recently announced a commitment to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2045. Our climate pledge to achieve net zero emissions covers all emissions, not only our own direct emissions, but also those generated by customers, not something typically contemplated in pledges like this. To begin to accomplish the lofty goal of a 100% clean energy future, SDG&E has already advanced a number of hydrogen, energy storage and electric vehicle charging infrastructure projects.

We appreciate that the Commission is exploring new measures focused on building electrification. As part of that discussion, SDG&E believes that a fuel-neutral approach should be considered to help maintain affordability and because all fuels must be on the table to meet the important and aggressive climate change goals that the state has set. This includes repurposing the existing natural gas system to accommodate Renewable Natural Gas (RNG)¹ and zero-emissions hydrogen.

We also encourage you to consider the impacts this would have on working families, communities of concern and your business community. As such, we ask for you to consider the following:

1. We encourage the Environmental Sustainability Commission to consider more community outreach to gauge the energy needs related to lifestyles and/or business operations in La Mesa. Through that outreach, we request the City talk to community members, the public, industry, your local utility provider, organized labor and our employees as there are significant cost implications that must be considered when it comes to losing natural gas as a reliable and cost-effective energy source available for their use. The cost implications for exploring future policies in this space

¹ SoCalGas Renewable Gas Info: <https://www.socalgas.com/clean-energy/renewable-gas>

may adversely affect communities of concern, and those impacts deserve a thoughtful conversation.

2. We encourage the Environmental Sustainability Commission to consider looking at all energy pathways and possibilities including renewable natural gas when evaluating updates to the City's Climate Action Plan. Solutions like hydrogen, renewable natural gas and methane capture technologies are essential for meeting California's goal of carbon neutrality by 2045² and may provide more, cost-effective choices for our customers.
3. We encourage you to consider the implications to the future of working families and union jobs and include the labor community in future natural gas policy exploration discussions. These highly trained and innovative experts are the backbone of your economy.

As you know, the transportation sector continues to be largest contributor of GHGs in our region, accounting for 58% of emissions in La Mesa³, which is why the SDG&E team continues to create innovative clean transportation programs (passenger, municipal fleet and mass transit) to encourage and enable the transition to driving electric. We are also excited and energized about the Governor's recent executive order requiring sales of all new passenger vehicles to be zero-emission by 2035, that will further accelerate the transition to driving electric. While we are proud of our work to date to reduce our carbon footprint through delivering some of the cleanest energy in the nation, enabling rooftop solar and expanding clean transportation options; we look forward to continuing our partnership with the City in its ongoing work to achieve our collective climate goals.

In closing, we recognize the urgency to address climate change and its impacts, and we support California's clean energy goals. We encourage the City to partner with SDG&E in the implementation of the sustainability strategy in the areas of environmental stewardship, clean transportation, grid modernization, community engagement and company operations. Collectively, we can work together on solutions that result in meaningful GHG reductions.

Best Regards,



Joe Britton
Senior Public Affairs Manager
San Diego Gas & Electric

CC:

Mayor Mark Arapostathis
Councilmember Bill Baber
Councilmember Colin Parent
Councilmember Jack Shu
City Manager Greg Humora

² See, Baker et al, "Getting to Neutral, Options for Negative Carbon Emissions in California" (January 2020) available at https://www-gs.llnl.gov/content/assets/docs/energy/Getting_to_Neutral.pdf

³ FY19-FY21 CAP Implementation Plan: https://www.cityoflamesa.us/DocumentCenter/View/11855/FY19-21-La-Mesa-CAP-Implementation-Plan_Final?bidId=