



August 15, 2022

Mayor and City Council Members
City of Glendale

Re: **August 16 City Council Meeting Agenda Item 8b, Resolution Establishing Goals for Solar and Energy Storage Installations and Clean Energy Targets**

Dear Mayor Kassakhian and Councilmembers Asatryan, Brotman, Devine, and Najarian,

We write to share our thoughts about the resolution on the agenda for this week's City Council meeting, as Agenda Item 8b.

We would like to thank Mayor Kassakhian and Councilmember Brotman for introducing and seconding this resolution for City Council consideration. This is an opportunity for Glendale to extend its leadership in clean energy and to move decisively in the direction needed to build a more sustainable, resilient, and reliable energy system that can serve the community's needs as we transition out of the fossil fuel era.

We offer these recommendations and notes of concern about the resolution.

- **The resolution should not include language that mirrors California Senate Bill 100 (2018).** The original language of Sections 2 and 3 referred to "clean, renewable, non-carbon-emitting resources." In the version presented for City Council consideration, Section 2 refers to "eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources." SB 100 establishes a goal that "100 percent of total retail sales of electricity in California...come from eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources" by 2045. "Total retail sales" excludes customer-sited behind-the-meter solar and energy storage resources, and "eligible renewable energy resources" include carbon-emitting biogas and biowaste energy. Glendale should embrace customer-sited solar and storage and reject polluting biogas projects. The current language of Section 2 may constrain the City's ability to do so. **The original language, "clean, renewable, non-carbon-emitting resources" better fits with the policy direction that Glendale should pursue.**

- **Council should set aggressive deadlines** for completing the work set out in Sections 5 through 7 of the resolution. We are at a crossroads in Glendale's energy planning, and need to move quickly to develop more local clean energy resources to the greatest extent possible. An aggressive timeline will provide the necessary spur to action.
- Moving forward quickly with a consultant offers an additional advantage. Even **preliminary consultant recommendations and analysis could be useful to City Council in making a decision about the Grayson Repowering**, as they could show that Glendale can meet or reduce peak demand and energy needs to an extent that materially changes the need for fossil-fuel resources at Grayson.
- **Glendale should engage a consultant that is a recognized expert in clean energy policy and program development**, to ensure the greatest level of success in achieving the goals in the resolution. Consultants that specialize in clean energy are much more likely to have the expertise and experience to move quickly and surely in the direction we need.
- The resolution sets goals for accelerating the number of GWP customers that adopt solar and energy storage systems, and for developing additional measures to manage energy demand, by 2027. **The 5-year time frame of this goal will help Glendale increase local energy resources in the period between now and 2027, when additional transmission on the Southwest line becomes available.** Because distributed solar and storage can be installed quickly, this is a smart choice for Glendale that can fill in quickly at a time when the old generating units at Grayson will be retired.
- The resolution calls for **a subcommittee of City Council members** to participate alongside staff in selecting consultants, determining the scope of consultant work, and reviewing consultant work product. This approach ensures that representative members of City Council are fully engaged and informed throughout the process. **This is an important streamlining measure** because it can avoid situations in which staff and consultants complete substantial work only to have City Council tell staff it wants to proceed in a different direction. The experience this past February with the Sunrun virtual power plant is instructive in this regard.

We strongly urge City Council to pass the resolution, with modifications as recommended above.

Once the resolution has been passed, we believe that **broad-based community engagement will be key to developing a successful plan.** We will offer additional thoughts at that time, but for now we recommend that City Council and staff begin planning to establish a robust engagement plan, including but not limited to forming a citizen's advisory committee that centers voices of our multifamily and rental community, and

others who will speak to equity concerns. Like all Glendale efforts, bringing the community into the planning process in a meaningful way and making equity a centerpiece of the process will create a better outcome for our entire community.

Clean-energy investments are a smart choice for Glendale, as these will be durable investments that will offer great benefits to our community, improve the well-being of our residents, and make Glendale a more attractive place to live, do business, and visit.

Sincerely,

Glendale Environmental Coalition Members

Alek Bartrosouf	Cole Bazemore	Paul Berolzheimer	Monica Campagna
David Dowell	David Eisenberg	Jackie Gish	Elise Kalfayan
Jane Potelle	Joanna Pringle	Paul Rabinov	Xochitl Ruiz
Kourtney Smith	Kate Unger	Jack Walworth	Nat Yonce