

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: The Los Angeles City Council must reject the flawed Scattergood Environmental Impact report (EIR) and accept the Sierra Club's appeal. The Scattergood EIR overlooks hydrogen transport and storage, which should be a red flag to anyone who knows that hydrogen is prone to leakage and is combustible and explosive, and the L.A. Basin is one of the most densely populated places in the U.S. The EIR also ignores the health impacts of burning hydrogen, methane, or a blend in an urban area. Hydrogen combustion produces NOx, which impacts the respiratory system and is an ozone precursor. Ozone also harms the respiratory system and is a greenhouse gas. Methane combustion emits CO2 (the leading greenhouse gas), unburned methane (the second leading greenhouse gas), particulate matter, which is extremely harmful to the lungs, and numerous other pollutants including benzene and formaldehyde. The health of Los Angeles residents is at stake, and the Los Angeles City Council has a duty to protect. Planetary climate is also at stake. California understands this, and has made real progress in a clean energy transition mandated by SB 100. The plan for Scattergood to burn a 30 percent hydrogen 70 percent methane blend would be a step backward. Hydrogen will certainly have uses in a clean energy transition, such as steel or cement manufacturing, but combustion to generate electricity is not a clean or a necessary use. The L.A. City Council must ignore the pleading of the gas company which is desperate to find a way to stay in business and instead invest in the long-term health and well-being of L.A. residents and California's potential for achieving a fossil-free clean energy future. Today we have solar and wind power, virtual power plants, enhancements that make transmission and distribution more effective, and battery storage. We can anticipate more developments that will ensure future energy reliability and, at the same time, spare us from climate change-induced disasters that stress our grid. In your decision on Scattergood, please look toward a safe, sustainable future instead of a short-term false non-solution, which hydrogen combustion would truly be.