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 MOTION

The City of Los Angeles and the Department of Water and Power (DWP) are preparing to offer Los Angeles city residents an opportunity to play an important role in bringing cleaner energy resources to our city and the nation. Across the country, much of the electricity generated comes from coal—the dirtiest of fossil fuels. By launching the *Green Power for a Green LA* program, DWP customers will now have the option to directly purchase energy produced from renewable resources, like the sun, wind and water. Through this Program we will be able to reduce air pollution and the risk of Global Warming, for this and future generations of Angelenos.

Establishing clean renewable-energy generation is one of the greatest global challenges. By giving people a choice, we have created an opportunity to directly involve the citizenry in moving California closer to a greener, sustainable future.

At present, about 11 percent of California's electricity is generated from renewable resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, and small hydroelectric plants. The rest is produced from large hydroelectric projects and fossil or nuclear fuels. In the United States, electric power generation accounts for one-third of the country's emissions of carbon dioxide (which causes global climate change), two-thirds of the sulfur dioxide (which causes smog), and over half of our nuclear waste.

It is estimated that in the U.S. approximately 64,000 people die annually from particulate air pollution from various sources including electricity-generating plants. Renewable energy resources are less polluting because they do not rely on burning fossil fuels and are regularly replenished using the earth's own natural resources. The purchase of green electricity therefore represents one of the most significant single actions that residents and businesses can take to improve, protect and preserve the environment.

It is important that the City Council lead the citizens of Los Angeles by example. We can accomplish this by agreeing that the City should become a DWP Green Power customer. The City, after all, consumes a great amount of energy every day. As a major energy consumer, our decision to buy green power will have a tremendous positive impact on the environment for all of our communities. By agreeing to buy Green Power, the City Council will be adopting a policy that is consistent with several other environmental policy goals adopted in the past.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the CLA and CAO present a plan within 45 days to the City Council on how to implement the purchase of green power for the City of Los Angeles.

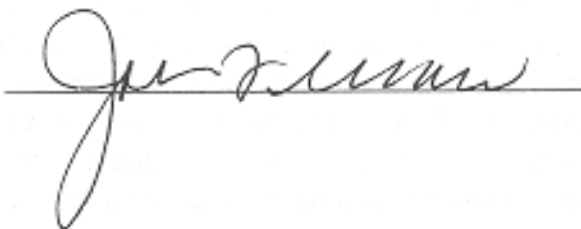
I FURTHER MOVE that DWP evaluate City facilities for energy efficiencies in order to offset any increases in electrical cost the City may incur by purchasing green power.

I FURTHER MOVE THAT the Council recommend that the Harbor Department and the Department of Airports work with DWP to implement green power purchasing program and report back to the Council within 60 days.

PRESENTED BY:


RUTH GALANTER
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY:



May 7, 1999

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Los Angeles City Council