



Statement on Extension of Gas & Electricity Franchise Agreements

Clean and affordable energy, worker protections, ending environmental racism, and climate equity should be the pillars of our City's Gas and Electricity Franchise Agreements. Last week, my council colleagues and I made clear much more time is needed to create an agreement that will achieve those goals. Unfortunately, SDG&E has decided to exploit the City's dire financial situation that has arisen out of a global pandemic to compel the San Diego City Council to vote for a limited extension, rather than a one-year extension. Today, I joined my San Diego City Council colleagues in a unanimous vote to extend our existing gas and electric franchises for just over 4 months and express deep skepticism that this limited timeline will allow us to fully achieve our shared goals.

SDG&E is clearly acting in the interest of their board members and shareholders, and not the people of San Diego. It is critical that the City fight even more fiercely for the people. That is why we are adamant that this process includes good faith discussions of all options, including public power, so we get the best deal possible for the people of San Diego.

I remain steadfast in ensuring that public input is a key element in the development of our next Invitation to Bid. As Chair of the Environment Committee, I will provide multiple opportunities for the public to engage directly with the City and invite them to be a partner in this effort, rather than have these agreements be drafted behind closed doors. It is crucial that we break down the walls of City Hall and amplify the voices of the people in this process. I look forward to working with Mayor Gloria, my Council colleagues, and the communities of San Diego in the coming months to approve quality agreements that the people of this City deserve.

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