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PROTEST

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FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION
USER CHARGES AND AGENCY CONTRACTS
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December 6, 2011

Councilman Bill Rosendahl
7166 W. Manchester
Los Angeles, CA 90045

RECEIVED
CITY CLERKS OFFICE
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Re: ~~Bureau of Sanitation Increases in the Sewer Service Charge (SSC)~~

Councilman Rosehdahl:

The Bureau of Sanitation recently mailed out a "Notice of proposed increases in the sewer service charge (SSC) for the City of Los Angeles" (11/11). This notice includes a pie chart which indicates that 56% of Bureau revenue will be going to "expansion of construction program."

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Given that our society is currently in the declining half of our planetary oil supply, are all of these expansion projects designed to operate in a world with far less energy supply? Will each of these capital projects help us to adapt?

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to local resilience

If Bureau of Sanitation projects aren't designed to help Los Angeles cope with far less energy supply, then the Bureau is taking funds from taxpayers and pouring them into a monstrous physical system which we will be completely unable to operate or maintain.

The EIA -- Energy Information Agency, which supplies information to the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. military -- indicates that 10 years from now (the timeline of the Bureau of Sanitation capital projects), we will have a mere 70% of the current supply of petroleum and liquid fuels.¹

Additionally, global warming means we will have far less water supply to get the job done. Are all the facilities being built in Bureau of Sanitation capital expansion projects designed to operate with 70% to 90% less water supply?^{2?}

And when the President is making parallels between the current economy and the Great Depression of the 1930s, it is hardly a good time for our city to take on more debt -- particularly for projects which will be useless in the future.³

A future with less energy supply will mean less ability to run pumps and massive-scale facilities. Less petrochemicals. Less fuel for trucks and backhoes. Overall, limited ability to move stuff around the planet. Adapting to a future with less energy supply demands localization.

To shift to more localized sewage capabilities we will have to dramatically accelerate citizen education about greywater safety. Greywater-permitting building codes should be significantly expanded, with emphasis on permitting gravity-fed, energy-free, low-tech, on-site systems for residential sinks, showers, commercial sites and more. Stormwater infiltration and storage will become absolutely essential.



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Best practices for composting toilets should be investigated and explored because these are likely the more realistic option for a lower-energy future. Other campaigns should be aimed at limiting the toxic chemicals allowed to be used in the greater L.A. basin (to decrease disposal issues). Also, campaigns to encourage a shift to reusable rather than “disposable” or “flushable” products.

Rather than expansion of physical plant, please encourage the Bureau of Sanitation to instead pour those dollars into serious and widespread citizen education and transition. Please take action and assure that the Bureau of Sanitation is preparing Los Angeles for our much more localized future.

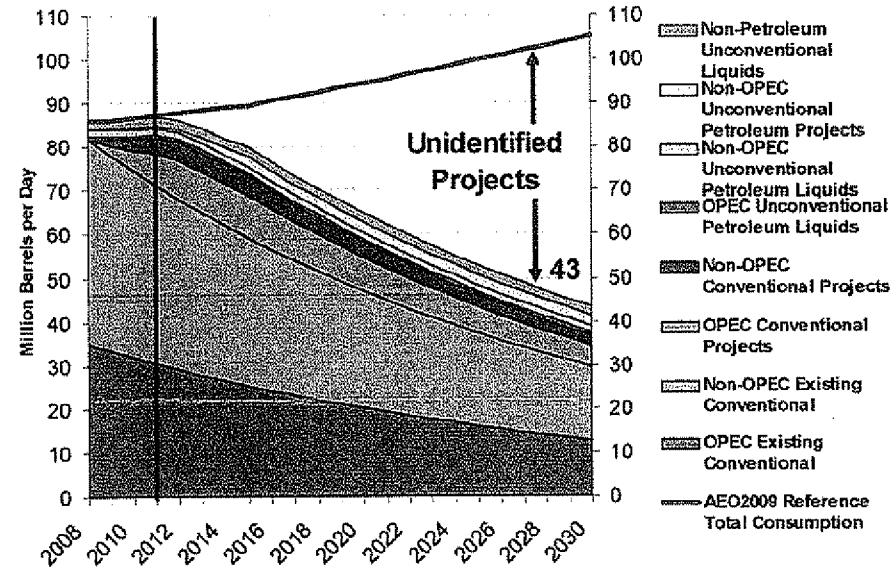
Sincerely,

Jeanne Poyourow
Environmental Change-Makers (Westchester)
Transition Los Angeles (area-wide)

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World's Liquid Fuels Supply



Source: EIA, AEO2009



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¹ EIA "World Liquid Fuels Supply," 2009.

² Union of Concerned Scientists, "Our Changing Climate: Assessing the Risks to California," 2006. Global emissions are now higher than the worst case projections from the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

³ CNN, "Obama compares current economy to Great Depression" Dec 6, 2011.

http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2011/12/06/obama-compares-current-economy-to-great-depression/?hpt=hp_t3

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