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February 28, 2018

The Honorable Nury Martinez, Chairwoman
Energy, Climate Change & Environmental Justice Committee
City Hall, Room 470
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: CF#18-0133 – approval of Southern California Public Power Authority renewable power contract with ARP-Loyalton Cogen LLC

Dear Councilmember Martinez:

I am writing on behalf of The Nature Conservancy to express our support for the LADWP power purchase agreement with the Southern California Public Power Authority for biomass power to be supplied by ARP-Loyalton Cogen LLC commencing this spring.

The Nature Conservancy is one of the world's largest conservation organizations, working in all 50 states and over 30 countries around the world.

Forests in the northern Sierra Nevada are overly dense with shrubs and small trees that contribute to a serious risk of high-severity wildfire. These megafires have significant adverse effects both for nature and people, including degrading air and water quality and releasing enormous amounts of carbon. One of the key barriers to better managing the forests is the lack of biomass energy facilities to make economic use of this material. The Loyalton biomass facility can help address this problem by creating power from woody biomass, thereby facilitating better forest management that can reduce the risk of megafires and resulting degradation of air and water quality.

SCPPA's contract to purchase renewable biomass electricity from Loyalton could have significant environmental and economic benefits, not only for the northern Sierra, but for all Californians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Edelson
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