



PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE EMERITUS KEVIN DE LEÓN

September 30, 2020

Erik Krause, Deputy Director of Community Development
City of Glendale
633 East Broadway, Room 103
Glendale, California 91026

RE: Biogas Renewable Generation Project Draft EIR

Dear Mr. Krause,

As the Councilmember-elect for Los Angeles City Council District 14 (CD 14), I am deeply concerned about the City of Glendale's proposed Biogas Renewable Generation Project at the Scholl Canyon Landfill.

As our rapidly changing climate breathes new ferocity into California's record-breaking wildfires, filling the air with hazardous and life-threatening particulates and toxins on top of the poisonous fumes already generated by traffic on the four major freeways that surround the Eagle Rock community (I-5, SR 110, SR 2, and SR 134) – we have a responsibility to the residents of our neighboring cities to *reduce* the criteria pollutants found in the air we all breathe, not increase them.

That's why it is concerning that the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the project glosses over any analysis or assessment of how Glendale Water & Power's (GWP) plans for increased solid waste capacity at the landfill, and the sheer volume of high-polluting vehicle trips into and out of the area, will only amplify the existing noise and air pollution that plague our community. GWP's plan to flare off methane from the new biogas facility is short-sighted, and their failure to explore more responsible mitigation efforts reveals an inappropriate focus on revenue and a disregard for the residents of Glendale and Eagle Rock.

While I have many concerns about the thoroughness and accuracy of the DEIR, I am fundamentally disappointed that GWP put forth a plan that not only runs counter to the concerns expressed by Eagle Rock and Glendale residents for decades, as clearly outlined in the letter sent by Los Angeles' Chief Legislative Analyst, but also looks to expand, under the guise of mitigation, the operations of a landfill that should have been closed four decades ago.

As the author of SB 100, the most aggressive clean energy mandate in the nation that put our state on the path to 100% clean energy by the year 2045, I am keenly aware of how important it is to advance the construction of renewable energy sources with a sense of urgency and intentionality. However, this project violates the intent of that law, potentially wasting an opportunity for thoughtful collaboration between Los Angeles and Glendale on clean energy projects that respect the spirit of SB 100 and benefit our local communities.

Beginning with the release of a Draft EIR to expand the Scholl Canyon Landfill back in 2014, it has become abundantly clear that GWP is more concerned about the dwindling life expectancy of the landfill, working to protect the consistent revenue it provides, than it is about the health and safety of adjacent residents or our local and regional commitments to environmental justice.

At the current rate, the landfill is expected to reach its capacity in 2030 - just nine short years away. Instead of cutting corners to expand a landfill in such precariously close proximity to families in Eagle Rock and Glendale - a project that I doubt would pass muster in the current era - GWP would do well to focus on new methods of waste management that don't jeopardize the communities of CD 14.

We need to pursue mitigation efforts in the next nine years leading up to Scholl Canyon's estimated closure. However, I unequivocally oppose any approach that would prolong the life of the landfill, exacerbate residents' health risks, or increase regional greenhouse gas emissions.

I have nothing but respect for the Mayor of Glendale and Glendale City Council and feel strongly that the Scholl Canyon Landfill is an opportunity for collaboration between our two cities. Together we can honor our commitments to environmental justice and do right by the residents of Glendale and Eagle Rock who have been forced to cede beautiful recreational space to waste for about four decades too long.

As it currently stands, I am strongly object to the proposal outlined in the draft EIR; and I urge GWP and the City of Glendale to partner with the City of Los Angeles in a joint effort to develop a mitigation plan that honors our shared climate goals and the wellbeing and wishes of Eagle Rock and Glendale residents alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin de León". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KEVIN DE LEÓN

Councilmember-elect, 14th Council District of the City of Los Angeles