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September 24, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Terry Morlan

SUBJECT: Early Comments on the Sixth Power Plan

We have already received many comments on the draft Power Plan. Some have come at hearings, some from discussions about preliminary comments, and some from comments submitted to the Council web site.

Comments from the general public at hearings and on the website generally fall into two camps. There are many comments from the public that follow the lines of the NWECC comments we received at the Astoria hearing. These include three themes: appreciation for the large role of conservation, noting that the draft plan does not reduce carbon and urging the Council to take a stronger stand on carbon emission reduction, and advocating reduced use of coal. The second camp could be generally described as favoring other technologies, most often nuclear. However, some also urge alternative renewable technologies.

Staff and some Council members have met with utility organizations and received some preview of potential comments from that sector. There are many compliments about the plan and the fact that staff has been working with utilities and others to develop the plan. But there are also suggestions for improving the plan. The utilities would like to see a statement of energy and capacity needs up front in the plan and believe the plan should show how it meets those needs and provides a reliable power system. There is some concern about the Council's models and better explaining how the models work and how the plan is informed by the models. Utilities would like to see a better display of future power costs and how they are affected by resource and carbon policy choices. The plan should consider that some wind development in the region is committed to California. Utilities would like to see conservation uncertainty addressed in the plan. PNUCC suggested that the plan include a scenario that meets a particular carbon goal at lowest cost.

The utility comments are not official yet, although some of the above have been stated at hearings. We will likely have additional comments before the Council meeting.