



April 27, 2022

Mayor and City Council
San Diego City Hall
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101
Via Email

Subject: Climate Action Campaign Response to SDG&E Greenwashing Report

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of Climate Action Campaign, we would like to express our concern over SDG&E's recent report outlining their recommendations to achieve a "net-zero" future.

As a community-based organization that has worked with nearly every city in the region to develop robust Climate Action Plans, advance Community Choice Energy programs, and partner with communities to develop, pass and implement climate-friendly policies, we are alarmed that SDG&E continues to propagate false solutions and dead-end pathways to prolong the dangerous burning of fossil fuels to maintain their shareholder profits, while harming San Diego families and our climate.

In their report, SDG&E is recommending "flexible approaches to technology and policy" that will extend the life of their fossil fuel products and infrastructure. To be clear, technologies and policies that center on "clean fuels," "renewable natural gas," "clean hydrogen" and carbon capture and storage will not be in service to the City CAP, environmental justice, or equitable CAP implementation. They are merely attempts to keep our communities hooked on SDG&E fossil fuel products and infrastructure.

SDG&E's report is timely considering the recent United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report that highlighted the dire situation we find ourselves in on climate policy. However, while the IPCC report makes clear that we need to stop burning all fossil fuels as quickly as possible by mid-century and have the existing technologies to do so, SDG&E's approach heads in the opposite direction, doubling down on fossil fuel through 2045, while relying on costly, unproven, and unscalable technologies.

With the information and technology we have today, fossil fuel corporations and a lack of political will are the only things preventing us from stopping the climate emergency, and advancing a fossil fuel-free economy centered in equity and built with good union jobs that

leaves no community or worker behind. As the City finalizes the CAP Update—which must include an implementation and funding plan with associated costs—we hope there will be no support for SDG&E’s greenwashing attempts to divert what limited time and resources we have away from proven and existing solutions. The City must protect and advance community interests, not SDG&E’s shareholders.

We look forward to continuing working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Vasilakis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Vasilakis
Co-Director of Policy
Climate Action Campaign