

Testimony for Gas Commission Town Hall
Rabbi Julie Greenberg
May 11, 2021

Hello Commissioners, I am the Director of POWER's Climate Justice and Jobs Team.

We are counting on **you** as democratically elected representatives to guide PGW into a Just Transition away from fossil fuel and towards a sustainable business model. Climate Crisis and Extreme Inequality are the greatest moral issues of the day. We cannot defer to Business as Usual to solve these problems. That's why we are contesting in the public forum of democracy for new innovative solutions.

From our research we have learned that electrification is essential to a sustainable future for our city and our planet. From the Business Diversification Plan we see that networked geothermal energy may be the best way to meet our goals of affordability, renewability, fair labor and health and safety.

We also think networked geothermal sponsored by PGW is the best way to protect the institution of PGW, protecting the work force by focusing on energy infrastructure, housing efficiency and heat as a service rather than collapsing in a death spiral as people who can afford to switch to electrification do so, while those who are energy burdened remain in the sinking ship of PGW.

We would like to see the pilot project done on networked geothermal energy. We recommend the standard best practice of having third party expert evaluation of the design, implementation and evaluation of the pilot. With a well-designed pilot, all parties will learn together how we can find mutually acceptable solutions.

In the meantime we ask that you, our elected leaders, direct PGW to stop paying trade association fees to groups that lobby against electrification. This undermines democracy and needs to end.

We will be offering further written comments and look forward to seeing responses in the final report. Thank you.