

Testimony for Gas Commission Town Hall
Russell Hicks
May 11, 2021

- Thank you for the opportunity to testify
- I am Russell Hicks, Co-Chair of POWER's Climate Justice and Jobs team.
- To start, I would like to state my support for PGW pursuing a pilot program on network geothermal, which POWER believes has great promise and could provide good local jobs in support of a just transition
- Although a network geothermal pilot will involve up-front costs, we believe it will have a robust return on investment as part of a sustainable future for PGW
- I would also like to state my support for an ongoing public process of review for PGW's future.
- The Business Diversification Study relies on a "snapshot" of cost projections that reflects the current situation. A year from now, let alone several years from now, these factors may be different. This Study is just a beginning.
- In order for PGW to make equitable and responsible use of ratepayer funds, it must be informed by up-to-date data and modelling.
- As a result, there needs to be an ongoing process of study, with transparency and public participation to ensure that planning for PGW's future is updated with current data
- Such a study process must include a strong role for environmental justice organizations to help shape a just transition for PGW. Our Team is seeing enormous interest in our city's energy future.
- POWER will be offering additional written comments later this month.