

Public Comment

January 25, 2024

RCEA Board

of Directors

Regular Meeting

From: [Martha Walden](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: 4 oral communications
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:52:18 PM

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According to the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District, the biomass plant in Scotia has been operating without a permit for two years. Humboldt Sawmill Company most likely realizes it cannot comply with current air quality regulations as their history of violations shows. Because burning wood to make electricity is an inherently dirty process, the state has set a low bar for the industry on the grounds that wood is renewable. The many critics of biomass electricity have been arguing for years that the environmental costs outstrip any benefits.

Now we realize that HSC cannot meet even that low bar. The costs—both in terms of carbon emissions per kw of electricity and of air pollution—are even higher than we thought. The main benefit goes to HSC.

In 2019 RCEA signed a pledge, sponsored by 350 Humboldt, to supply Humboldt county with clean, renewable energy by 2025. Biomass electricity in general does not qualify. Biomass electricity from Scotia fails even more miserably to qualify. RCEA extending its contract with HSC to 2031 confounds all of us who support RCEA's stated mission.

As the emergency of climate change intensifies, we must throw our support to real solutions. That includes solutions for how to dispose of woody waste. HSC apparently has no incentive to move towards alternatives other than incineration as long as RCEA buys its product. Please keep your pledge and honor your commitment to help Humboldt county clean up its energy supply. You have ample grounds for ending your contract with Humboldt Sawmill Company.

Martha Walden

member of 350 Humboldt

From: [Louis Rodriguez](#)
To: [Lori Taketa](#)
Subject: FW: Comment for 1/24 board meeting
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 9:56:24 AM

Wanted to make sure you have this one also. I didn't say from Public Comment.

Louis Rodriguez

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Pronouns: he/him

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From: Lynda McDevitt [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 9:25 AM
To: Redwood Coast Energy Authority <info@redwoodenergy.org>
Subject: Comment for 1/24 board meeting

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To RCEA Board,

I was shocked to hear that the Scotia Biomass Plant has been operating for 2 years without a permit from the NC Air Quality Management Board. This has allowed the Biomass plant to commit numerous violations which should null and void the contract it has with RCEA.

Cancel the contract immediately.

Sincerely,

Lynda McDevitt