

Public Comment

March 28, 2024
RCEA Board of Directors
Regular Meeting

**Agenda Item 7.1: Humboldt Sawmill Company Biomass Emissions
Biomass Technical Advisory Group and Community Advisory Committee Report**

Lori Taketa

From: Ben Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 5:02 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Agenda Item 7.1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear RCEA Board Members:

I recommend a NO vote on the biomass matter. It is an environmentally unsound source of energy.

Sincerely,

Ben R Martin, Ph D

Lori Taketa

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 11:11 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Board Meeting Agenda Item 7.1

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40% of RCEA's renewable portfolio comes from a power plant that emits more carbon per megawatt hour than coal and as much greenhouse gas as 88% of Humboldt's cars. I urge RCEA to keep its promises to Humboldt County:

- RCEA's promise not to do business with environmental lawbreakers provides you with the means to end the biomass contract in 2025 instead of 2031 and shift millions of dollars to clean energy.
- RCEA promised no long-term biomass contracts, but extended the Scotia biomass contract for ten more years to 2031.
- RCEA promised to end the biomass contract if the biomass plant violated environmental regulations, but is now making excuses after hundreds of violations.
- RCEA promised lower greenhouse gas emissions than PGE, but RCEA's biomass-heavy power mix emits four times more carbon per kilowatt hour than PGE. It's just not counted.

It's clear to anyone who knows the facts that RCEA should end its biomass contract. Why is RCEA ignoring the facts and its promises?

Suzanne Cook
[REDACTED]
McKinleyville, CA 95519

Lori Taketa

From: Siddharth Mehrotra [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 12:55 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Agenda Item 7.1

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To Whom It May Concern,

We, the undersigned, remind the RCEA Board of the following promises, and the exceptions now made to them:

PROMISE 1) "100% clean and renewable electricity" (exact words) by 2025 BUT now saying 100% renewable by 2030. No mention of clean.

PROMISE 2) No long term biomass contracts-- BUT extended biomass contract for ten more years to 2031

PROMISE 3) End contract if biomass plant violated environmental regulations-- BUT now making excuses after hundreds of violations.

PROMISE 4) Lower greenhouse gas emissions than PGE-- BUT RCEA's biomass-heavy power mix emits 4x more carbon per kilowatt hour than PGE.

Be it known by these statements, we call upon the Board to keep those promises as originally made, and make no further exceptions or compromises.

Yours,

Siddharth Mehrotra

Lori Taketa

From: Patty Harvey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 2:05 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Agenda item 7.1

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Dear RCEA--I have been disappointed in your lack of appropriate response to the wishes of the people of Humboldt Co. and to the promises you have failed to keep:

PROMISE 1) "100% clean and renewable electricity" (exact words) by 2025 BUT now saying 100% renewable by 2030. No mention of clean.

PROMISE 2) No long term biomass contracts-- BUT extended biomass contract for ten more years to 2031

PROMISE 3) End contract if biomass plant violated environmental regulations-- BUT now making excuses after hundreds of violations.

PROMISE 4) Lower greenhouse gas emissions than PGE-- BUT RCEA's biomass-heavy power mix emits 4x more carbon per kilowatt hour than PGE. It's just not counted.

It's time to start thinking about the health and safety of citizens.

Patty Harvey

HCA/PNHP-Humboldt

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Make a Small Loan, Make a Big Difference - Check out [Kiva.org](https://www.kiva.org) to Learn How!

Lori Taketa

From: garth rogers [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 11:44 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: CLEAN Energy!

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Please end the contract with Humboldt Sawmill and stick to the original plan that calls for 100% CLEAN and renewable electricity.

Burning wood is not clean. It is worse than burning methane. Carbon from wood stays in the atmosphere significantly longer than methane and is significantly dirtier -- and is really bad for people to breathe.

Sincerely,
garth rogers
Arcata.

Lori Taketa

From: Emily Siegel LCSW [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 2:04 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Agenda Item 7.1 Biomass

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RCEA promised “100% clean and renewable energy” by 2025. A biomass plant, particularly one as polluting as the one in Scotia, does not live up to this promise. The Scotia biomass plant emits more carbon and pollution than even the average biomass plant in California. It even produces more pollution than the PG&E gas powered plant and only a third as much electricity as that plant this is shocking. I have learned that the board is now claiming the board resolution did not say “100% clean and renewable energy” but instead said “renewable carbon freeze” energy, which still includes biomass. Furthermore, RCEA promised “no long-term biomass contracts” but instead extended the biomass contract to 2031. There was even a promise to end the contract if the biomass plant violated environmental regulations, but now all we hear is excuses for why that can’t happen even though there are many violations and more are probably coming. There is no safe level or trivial health harms from biomass emissions, and the current contract can and should be ended because of environmental regulations.

I do not want my repair dollars going to biomass in anyway because it is not clean energy. Live up to your promises. Protect the health of Humboldt County residence, including their children. RCEA’s reputation will only be further damaged if you do not end biomass now. --
Emily Siegel LCSW [REDACTED]

Lori Taketa

From: Caephren McKenna [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 2:24 PM
To: Public Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Redwood Coast Energy Authority,

Please keep the following promises that were made to the people of Humboldt:

1. "100% clean and renewable electricity" (exact words) by 2025.
2. No long term biomass contracts.
3. End contract if biomass plant violates environmental regulations.
4. Lower greenhouse gas emissions than those of PG&E.

Please consider the long term impacts of your actions and decisions on both the people and the environment of Humboldt.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

Caephren McKenna