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CPS ENERGY

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

13

BY TELECONFERENCE

14

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

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6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

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1 CHAIRMAN STEEN: Good evening, ladies and
2 gentlemen. This public meeting of the CPS Energy
3 Board of Trustees is hereby called to order.

4 Ms. Carolyn Shellman, who is our General
5 Counsel, would you please call the roll?

6 MS. SHELLMAN: Yes, sir. Dr. Mackey?

7 DR. MACKEY: Present.

8 MS. SHELLMAN: Mr. Kelley?

9 MR. KELLEY: Present.

10 MS. SHELLMAN: Ms. Gonzalez?

11 MS. GONZALEZ: Present.

12 MS. SHELLMAN: Mayor Nirenberg.

13 MR. NIRENBERG: (No response).

14 MS. SHELLMAN: Chair Steen?

15 CHAIRMAN STEEN: Present.

16 MS. SHELLMAN: We do have a quorum, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN STEEN: And we should tell
18 everyone that the Mayor is doing his COVID briefing and
19 hope -- hopefully will join us later.

20 But first we have a -- first we will have
21 a brief safety message from Mr. Fred Bonewell. He's
22 Security, Safety & Gas Solutions Officer for CPS ENERGY.

23 MR. BONEWELL: Thank you, Chairman Steen,
24 our Board of Trustees, and Paula Gold-Williams, our
25 President and CEO.

1 We are one week from the Thanksgiving
2 holidays. We are working hard and safe as we continue
3 to maintain operations 24/7 through the COVID-19
4 pandemic. We are thankful to -- to serve our customers,
5 and we deeply respect the vigilance of our 3,100
6 employees to work safe, to continue to respect our
7 COVID-19 protocols.

8 As Paula stated earlier today, we had 136
9 of our employees who have become infected with COVID-19
10 since the onset of the pandemic. This equates to
11 (indiscernible) of 4.4 percent related to our overall
12 total employee population. Even for Thanksgiving we
13 adhere to the requirements to maintain gathering to less
14 than ten people. As we plan to share valuable time with
15 our loved ones, we can still be together but have to be
16 aware of our surroundings. So cautions to consider
17 would include but not limited to bring your own food and
18 utensils, maintain separation in (indiscernible), stay
19 masked up, remit -- remain distant from each other and
20 eat outside, if possible. Be aware. The virus is still
21 here around us.

22 We continue to share ideas in working safe
23 with local, state, and regional utility partners, and
24 our owner. As a member of our senior chief team, we are
25 working hard to do everything in respect to our Pillars

1 of security, safety, environmental responsibility,
2 resiliency, reliability, and customer affordability all
3 through our financial lens. Thank you for the
4 opportunity to share this safety message and remember
5 zero harm.

6 CHAIRMAN STEEN: Thank you for that safety
7 message, Mr. Bonewell.

8 And now I -- I will ask our moderator,
9 Ivan, to provide instructions for public input.

10 IVAN: Thank you very much, Chair Steen.

11 Good evening. My name is Ivan. The CPS
12 Energy Board of Trustees, thank you, thanks you for
13 joining us November 16th, Board Public Input Session by
14 teleconference. The Board is always interested in
15 hearing public input. Each person interested in
16 speaking must have preregistered today before 11:00 a.m.
17 If you preregistered to speak, please press zero on your
18 keypad now to be put in the queue. Again, please press
19 zero on your keypad now if you preregistered to speak.
20 A member of our staff will take your name. Mr. Jesse
21 Hernandez will now provide a quick message about
22 translation services.

23 (Mr. Hernandez speaks in Spanish about
24 translation services)

25 IVAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Hernandez.

1 An American sign language interpreter can
2 be viewed online for this input session at
3 cpsenergy.com/listenlive. I will now turn the call back
4 over to Chair Steen.

5 CHAIRMAN STEEN: Again, this is John
6 Steen, and I have the privilege of serving as the Chair
7 for the CPS Energy Board of Trustees. On behalf of the
8 Board, I'd like to welcome you to this public input
9 session. We appreciate your participation in this
10 process. To ensure everyone can participate, we're
11 providing several ways to interact with us this evening.
12 We're providing a toll-free number, a dial-in number for
13 people to participate in both English and Spanish as
14 well as livestreaming on our website with a sign
15 language interpreter.

16 Before we start, I'd like to introduce
17 members of our Board who have joined us today. First
18 Dr. Willis Mackey represents the southeast quadrant, and
19 currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Board and the
20 Chair of the Operations Oversight Committee. He is a
21 retired public school administrator and current
22 consultant to school districts across the state.

23 Dr. Mackey, would you like to say
24 anything?

25 DR. MACKEY: Yes. My name is Willis

1 Mackey, and I welcome feedback and suggestions from my
2 own community. A personal commitment as a trustee,
3 therefore, is to ensure that we hear -- hear the
4 (indiscernible) voices, that our leadership team remains
5 accountable to all our customers and that the management
6 stays focused on making balanced decisions that
7 thoughtfully move us to an increasingly clean energy
8 future. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN STEEN: Thank you, Dr. Mackey.

10 Next we have Ed Kelley who represents the
11 northwest quadrant and is our most tenured trustee.
12 Mr. Kelley serves as the Chair of both the Personnel and
13 Nominations Committees. He served as President and CEO
14 of USAA Real Estate before retiring in 2005 after 17
15 years of service.

16 Trustee Kelley, would you like to say
17 anything?

18 MR. KELLEY: Thank you, Chairman Steen. I
19 appreciate the -- the opportunity to have this
20 opportunity to listen to the folks that support our
21 products. So I'm looking forward to a productive
22 evening. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN STEEN: Thank you. Thank you,
24 Mr. Kelley.

25 And then we have Janie Gonzalez who

1 represents the southwest quadrant and is the newest
2 member of our Board. Trustee Gonzalez serves as the
3 Chair of the Technology and Innovation Committee. She
4 is the President and CEO of Webhead, a company that
5 specializes in providing cyber security solutions to
6 clients across the nation.

7 Trustee Gonzalez, would you like to say
8 anything?

9 MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you for the
10 introduction. Everyone who is off -- online on the
11 phones, this is an opportunity to empower you and to
12 integrate people from different backgrounds, and I'm
13 looking forward to hearing from all of you. Thank you,
14 again, all of you, participating tonight.

15 CHAIRMAN STEEN: Thank you, Ms. Gonzalez.

16 Mayor Nirenberg won't -- won't -- is not
17 present at this point in the meeting. I mentioned this
18 earlier, and that's because he's leading his daily
19 COVID-19 call at this time; but he's an ex-official
20 member of the Board and is currently recording -- well,
21 I already said that. He's a...

22 I would also like to introduce our CPS
23 energy senior chiefs who joined us today. That would --
24 we will begin with Paula Gold-Williams, our President
25 and CEO; Dr. Cris Eugster, our Chief Operating Officer;

1 Mr. Rudy Garza, our Interim Chief Customer Engagement
2 Officer; Mr. Fred Bonewell, our Chief Security, Safety &
3 Gas Solutions Officer; Ms. Carolyn Shellman, our Chief
4 Legal Officer and General -- General Counsel; Ms. Vivian
5 Boue -- Bouet who is our Chief Information Officer; and
6 Mr. Gary Gold who's our Interim Chief Financial Officer
7 and Treasurer.

8 I'd also like to thank the members of our
9 Citizens Advisory Committee for the valuable work they
10 do. We call them the CAC. So our 15-member CAC is
11 comprised of individuals throughout the Greater San
12 Antonio area. They meet monthly to consider major CPS
13 Energy initiatives and provide a channel for two-way
14 communication between the community and the utility.
15 City of San Antonio councilmembers nominate ten of the
16 15 members, one representing each district. The other
17 five are At Large candidates interviewed and nominated
18 by the CAC. The CPS Energy Board of Trustees appoints
19 all members to the CAC. Members can serve up to three
20 2-year terms, and I want people to know that City
21 Council appointees for District 1 and 2 are currently
22 vacant and contact the CAC for more information on how
23 to apply.

24 So let me mention the CAC members who --
25 many of whom are joining us this evening. Mr. David

1 Walter is currently the Chair of the committee and is a
2 Member At Large. Other members of this very important
3 committee include Ms. Luisa Casso, Chair Elect and
4 Member At Large; Mr. Bill Day, Vice Chair and Member At
5 Large; Mr. Diana -- Ms. Diana Aguirre Martinez,
6 District 3 Representative; Mr. Frank Gonzalez, Dis --
7 District 4 Representative; Mr. Andy Castillo, District 5
8 Representative; Ms. Raquel Zapata, District 6
9 Representative; Dr. Adelita Cantu, District 7
10 Representative; Mr. John Kelly, District 8
11 Representative; Mr. Joe Yakubik, District 9
12 Representative; Ms. Allie Watters, District 10
13 Representative; Mayor May -- Mary Dennis, Member At
14 Large; and Ms. MaryEllen Veliz, Member At Large.

15 This evening's public input session is
16 another opportunity for you to share your thoughts with
17 us; but first Ms. Paula Gold-Williams, our President and
18 CEO, will provide an overview of important topics facing
19 our community and the utility industry. We'll then move
20 to the public input portion of our meeting.

21 So, Ms. Gold-Williams, please proceed with
22 your presentation.

23 MS. GOLD-WILLIAMS: Thank you, Chair
24 Steen, and thank you very much to the CPS Energy Board
25 Members. I do know that the Mayor is giving his update;

1 but we did hear from him this afternoon, and foremost I
2 want to thank all of the participants on the phone call,
3 all of the members of our community for making time to
4 give our board and management (indiscernible) tonight.
5 It's a really critical entity we have. We've had public
6 input for years. We think it really works, and we're at
7 a time when we have a tremendous amount of things, that
8 we want to make sure the community knows our initiatives
9 and we also want to hear back from you. So I thank you
10 all for being here tonight and I thank all of the CPS
11 Energy employees.

12 The one thing I do want to always say is
13 that there are 3100 dedicated employees, frontline --
14 every -- every one from frontline workers, our -- our
15 IBEW union, our NAPE (phonetic) union. Our frontline
16 employees have answered the phone. Our energy advisers
17 are just wonderful experts. They all have a heart for
18 this -- for this community. We get to live and serve
19 here. It is our honor and our pleasure to do it every
20 single day, and then you have many many members from
21 nurses to -- to people who work in the warehouse, to
22 maintenance, members that do the fleet. There is just a
23 tremendous amount of employees here who care so much
24 about this community, and it is my pleasure to serve
25 them and it's my pleasure to serve you.

1 So I'm -- I do have some comments. As I
2 explained earlier, this is my second presentation today.
3 I pretty much go up to the wire on my presentations. So
4 it's very conversational. I'm going to hit topics, and
5 then tomorrow we'll post the slides out there with the
6 audio and that way anybody could see that, and we will
7 also be able to mail the presentation to anyone that --
8 that wants it. We have all different (indiscernible)
9 that people can actually get this information, but
10 tonight I'm going to hit it topically. The Board just
11 shortly before this meeting -- they got the -- the
12 slides -- the preliminary slides. They won't be
13 (indiscernible). I will talk about PDF slide numbers,
14 but really interestingly I'm going to make this about a
15 conversation tonight.

16 The presentation this evening is similar
17 but not exact to what I talked about this afternoon. I
18 think that we need to -- to have some additional
19 conversations about what we're doing for the community
20 and for our customers. So that'll be the overall gist;
21 but there are topics that are similar. Again, both
22 presentations will be available to the public.

23 So I am going to talk about COVID-19. It
24 has had such a -- a tremendous unprecedented effect on
25 everyone around the globe and -- and very much our

1 neighbors, families, and friends here in San Antonio,
2 and it's -- and it's affected our employees, as well.
3 So I will talk about that in how we've been managing
4 through it -- through it.

5 I will cover the value Pillars. They are
6 still important to how we try our best to make balanced
7 decisions, to make sure that we're thinking about many
8 considerations, important considerations, and how we
9 focus on those. I will share how we're doing relative
10 to our standard rates that we provide, our everyday
11 rates. They're nonpromotional rates because we give
12 everyone the benefit of the cost savings, and I'll talk
13 about that in comparison to the competitive markets.

14 I -- I will talk about our sustainability
15 successes, you know, that -- I don't think we can talk
16 enough about that. We did put out a report where that's
17 also documented on our website, and we can mail that to
18 anyone.

19 And we think it's really important to talk
20 about so many things that San Antonio has done, so many
21 things that CPS Energy has committed to, and all the
22 great progress we've made as well as our commitment. As
23 Vice Chair Dr. Mackey said, this focus on making sure
24 that we're moving every day to -- to cleaner energy
25 sources and as all of our Trustees expect us to do in

1 the most thoughtful way that we can, making progress day
2 after day, year after year.

3 I will talk a bit about the complexities
4 of a utility actually has to focus on, and then I will
5 also talk about the velocity of how -- how we're moving
6 and the challenges that we're going to keep managing so
7 we could make more progress.

8 For the Board Members, I am moving on to
9 PDF Slide No. 4. So I -- I -- I circle back to the
10 focus on COVID-19, the pandemic, the unprecedented
11 pandemic, and the -- the acknowledgment that we know
12 that just about everybody has been affected in some way
13 by this -- by this. We have always been focused on
14 serving this community. When I -- when I became CEO, I
15 thought so much about how much we have. We have
16 billions of dollars in assets, but the real focal point
17 is that we always have to look at things through the
18 prism of putting people first. We have a business
19 trinity, and that trinity says always focus on your
20 customers, always think about the things that they want
21 and need, realize that we're a business that serves the
22 community and that our employees -- our 3100 employees
23 are dedicated to that. They are in learning mode. They
24 are in contribution mode. They are in service mode all
25 the time. So it's customers, community, employees, and

1 we keep this in front of us. We're always focused on
2 doing the right thing for people.

3 Early on I think we were monitoring
4 COVID-19 from across the globe, and we -- we do have a
5 pandemic preparedness program that we -- that we've had
6 for years, and we've watched multiple pandemics progress
7 across the globe, but -- but I don't think that anyone
8 saw the likes of COVID-19. And so early on in the year
9 we started -- we moved from being one of the first that
10 were social distancing and we had disinfectant and --
11 and hand sanitizer everywhere. We were doing elbow
12 bumps, but by far that wasn't enough in terms of this
13 particular episode that we're (indiscernible) this era.
14 Right away I think there was a -- just an initial
15 conversation, but CPS Energy was one of the first
16 utilities to say this is big. We've got to take care of
17 our employees. We're going to take care of our customers and
18 the public, but we also realized that this was affecting
19 how people worked, how people lived, and we didn't see
20 everything coming.

21 But we decided to go ahead and suspend
22 disconnects. So we haven't done disconnects since the
23 middle of March, and we will not start disconnects in
24 2020. Disconnects is a part of the service process,
25 but, again, we understand that we need to work with our

1 customers and we understand that we want San Antonio to
2 come back stronger and figure out a way through this.
3 So 2020 we will stand without reinstating disconnects.

4 We also got the approval of the Board and
5 the Council to waive late fees for those individuals who
6 were able to contact, work with, and put on payment
7 plans, figure out how to be as flexible as possible. So
8 as we work with individuals, members of our community,
9 we -- we are going to try all we can to make sure that
10 we -- we understand that it's difficult, and our point
11 is to be here to be helpful.

12 PDF No. 5. We did certain things that
13 needed to occur normally. So it still got hot in
14 San Antonio. There was still demands for a lot of
15 energy over the summer, and we kept the programs going
16 where we were doing alerts to -- to anyone who's on our
17 program, and we have hundreds of thousands of people on
18 our alert programs so we could talk about still the
19 importance of saving energy. It is still really
20 important for everyone in our community to think about
21 saving energy. The more we can save the less we consume
22 the lower the bills are. The bills are still being
23 produced. We are just not doing disconnects. If we
24 overconsume energy, that will make us overinvest and
25 spend more money. So conservation was always important

1 before pandemic and it's still important today.

2 PDF No. 6. There has been some -- some
3 discussions about disconnects, why -- why do we do them.
4 We've had -- we've seen some increases in prior years.
5 Why is that? We will also put this information out on
6 our website. You know, the -- the one thing that a
7 utility or any business can do is to continue to improve
8 its processes, continue to incorporate innovation, and
9 technology. Something we did early on in the -- and --
10 and hit a great stride in the 2013 time frame is we
11 automated our meters who went from analog meters to
12 digital meters. Digital meters are more accurate. You
13 can be more efficient. You don't have to send people to
14 homes to do any processes. You can do -- you can
15 actually disconnect remotely and you can reconnect
16 remotely.

17 So what we saw from the time frames from
18 2015 to 2018 was an increase because the process got
19 much more efficient and it was automated. There were --
20 there was no policy change. There was no focus on
21 trying to cut people off more. It was just the accuracy
22 of having new technology, and we had over that time
23 period -- from 2013 to 2019, we saw the population grow
24 about 10 percent. So all of that kind of accumulated
25 into more disconnects. I will say we hit about a peak

1 of a -- we went from 42,000 disconnects in 2013 to in
2 2018 we had almost a hundred thousand. So there was an
3 increase, but if you look at 2019, it almost got cut in
4 half. So it went down to 53,000 disconnects, again,
5 because we were thinking more about, well, what can we
6 do and how can we be helpful. I will say that in 2020
7 we obviously won't get very high at all, again, because
8 we cut the -- the disconnects process in March. So
9 that -- those are factual bits of information that we
10 want to make sure that everyone has.

11 On Slide 7 -- PDF Slide No. 7. But we
12 also realized that our number -- anyone can call us at
13 210-353-2222. (Ms. Gold-Williams translate phone number
14 in Spanish). We -- you know, we are not like most
15 entities. We tell our energy advisers don't try to get
16 people off the phone, try to help, and we actually go
17 for longer calls than shorter calls because, again,
18 we're from this community. I was born and raised in
19 San Antonio. So my mother made those same phone calls
20 to the energy company, to the water company, to -- to
21 all of the companies around San Antonio. So I
22 understand that, and for us it's important that we serve
23 and we connect.

24 But something we started in 20 -- 2020
25 realizing that -- that many people were affected in

1 terms of jobs and livelihood and -- and, you know,
2 businesses -- what we decided to do is start our first
3 outbound call process. So we started calling customers
4 ourselves and asking -- we're asking multiple things:
5 How are you doing, do you know about the programs that
6 we have, do you know about the programs that United Way
7 has, do you know about the programs and assistance
8 that's coming from the City. We can't actually qualify
9 for CARES funds, but we can connect customers with our
10 owner-connect customers with Bexar County. Those areas
11 have had a good infusion of resources. So we spent our
12 time making outbound calls, and that was one of the most
13 rewarding processes that we ever had. We had multiple
14 energy advisers who love making those phone calls to be
15 helpful. Those were -- those were things that we do and
16 we continue to do. We haven't stopped.

17 If you look at PDF No. 8, we have made
18 37,000 calls, you know, considering that we only made --
19 we didn't make any outbound calls last year. We've
20 added 37 outbound calls to customers, and from those we
21 were able to actually contact and talk to about
22 56 percent or 21,000 customers we've talked to, and of
23 those we've been able to -- to -- to work with about
24 49 percent of the -- the total customers and -- and get
25 them on some type of program late fee waiver. Others

1 had some community assistance, and we're just going to
2 keep this up because, again, it's not over. We all know
3 that we're facing COVID issues today. We know that
4 there's a bit of an uptick across the nation. We're not
5 out of this, and we're just going to have to work
6 together, and CPS is -- is -- is here for you. CPS
7 Energy is here to be helpful so that we can all get
8 through this time frame.

9 PDF No. 9 I -- I did want to share with
10 you. I mean, we've done fairly well, as Fred Bonewell
11 mentioned at the beginning during the safety message.
12 We have been affected. Our ratio is below 5 percent in
13 terms of total infection rates. About a hundred and 30,
14 almost -- not quite a hundred and 40 employees have had
15 the infection. We do have quite of few people in
16 quarantine, about a hundred and 13. We have four in the
17 hospital we are currently praying for. And -- and so,
18 again, we see these same effects with our team members,
19 and, accordingly, we try -- we've reengineered our
20 processes. We try our best to always make sure that we
21 keep our distance when we're in the field. We redid
22 everything. Fred Bonewell and I actually did a video
23 for our employees, to talk about how -- how to be very
24 very careful, keep your distance, only go in the home
25 when you need to, make sure that your -- you wear your

1 mask at all times and your other PPE. We reengineered
2 those processes again to keep you, our customers, as
3 safe as possible. So -- so that's kind of the view from
4 the pandemic perspective.

5 When we go to PDF No. 10, I want to -- I
6 want to tell you about our value Pillars. CPS Energy
7 has Pillars that we're always thinking about, how do we
8 make sure that we're doing the right thing for the
9 community in keeping everything in -- in balance, and I
10 think Trustee Kelley talked about that a bit earlier,
11 like make sure that we're thinking about the balance of
12 the -- the activities that we do. And -- and so the --
13 we had six primary Pillars: Reliability, customer
14 affordability, security, safety, environmental
15 responsibility, and resiliency. Resiliency is how fast
16 can we restore power, like if there was a -- someone hit
17 the pole and took the line down or technology that we
18 put in; but all of those things are important.

19 I will tell you that we have surveyed many
20 of your peers in the community, and over and over again
21 of all of those which are sitting on top of making sure
22 that we keep the company stable, of all this, over and
23 over again the two that rates the highest on -- you
24 know, consistently are reliability and affordability.
25 Now, it doesn't mean that people don't think safety is

1 extremely important or environmental responsibility. I
2 think what we understand is customers tell us think
3 about improving the environment, think about keeping
4 everything safe, secure, and resilient but do it while
5 you make sure of a -- my service is reliable and that my
6 bills don't get shocking to me, that there -- that they
7 don't just shoot up and then we can't control it. So --
8 so that said, every single major initiative and strategy
9 we put through these six Pillars.

10 Now, I'm going to go on to PDF No. 11.
11 Again, relative to reliability and customer
12 affordability, the reason why those are important is
13 because if a utility does not pay attention to that, you
14 can actually end up with the opposite results. In other
15 words, if you can't keep your systems reliable, there
16 can be blackouts, blackouts in San Antonio, blackouts of
17 power across Texas. It's all one big grid. We're not
18 disconnected from anywhere else on the -- on the market,
19 on the Texas ERCOT market. We're all connected. So
20 every operator has to do their part to keep power
21 flowing. So we -- we do all we can to prevent blackouts
22 on the reliability side and we do all we can to keep
23 bills from escalating too fast, and -- and what can
24 happen -- if you're not careful and you're -- you're not
25 watching your cost and you're not watching the timing of

1 your -- your initiatives and you're not being really
2 careful, you can cause extreme bill shock, not the shock
3 you normally see when -- when your bills go up because
4 the summer is hot, just shock because there's too much
5 going on at the utility and too many things happening at
6 the exact same time, and it could make San Antonio one
7 of the most expensive markets in the nation -- the state
8 or the nation. So, again, the two big things we think
9 about as -- as table stakes is the minimum price. To --
10 to make sure that we get the honor to serve you is
11 reliability, to prevent blackouts, and customer
12 affordability to prevent bill shock.

13 PDF No. 12. Along those lines, we thought
14 about, well, how best to do that. In addition to the
15 Pillars in 2017, I thought about what do we need to do.
16 We can't solve problems the way we always did. We
17 can't -- there will be no construction of additional
18 coal plants. We're not looking at any large nuclear
19 investments. None of those are the right things for the
20 community. What we need to do is we need to be
21 flexible. So I worked with the staff quite a bit, and
22 ultimately the concept was clear to me. We need to stay
23 flexible and be on a Flexible Path to get to new and
24 better and cleaner solutions. We need to be open. We
25 can't just do the same thing we did before. Every major

1 decision needs to be thinking about what's our options,
2 what's the best thing we can do in terms of driving
3 cleaner air, cleaner environment. So we focus on that,
4 and that's the reliability's aspect.

5 And then on the customer affordability
6 aspect I just want to highlight we have not -- we -- we
7 haven't had a rate increase in six years. We've only
8 done one in the last ten years, and we were -- we've
9 been very thoughtful. So the point is we understand
10 customer affordability matters to you. So we haven't
11 done any base rate increases except for one, and that
12 was six years ago. And because we know that we need to
13 be frugal, we need to make sure that we put in those new
14 digital meters because it makes us more efficient, but
15 it helps us keep the cost down, and keeping the cost
16 down keeps your bills down. And then we also make sure
17 that the -- the generation that we have -- we have lots
18 of different types of generation, but the generation we
19 have is enough to cover everything San Antonio needs,
20 and then we contribute to the needs of the state. And
21 when we sell out to what we call the competitive
22 markets, any dollar we get from another customer outside
23 of San Antonio is a dollar that doesn't have to be spent
24 by anyone in San Antonio. So we keep it all balanced,
25 and we also make sure that we don't do all one type of

1 energy over another. We keep it very diversified, and
2 we make sure that we have more than enough for
3 San Antonio, and those have been things that have served
4 our community well.

5 PDF No. 13 I will -- we will put this
6 specifically out on the website. We just want to make
7 sure that everyone knows if you look at our bills on
8 average, trailing 12 months, our stats show that we've
9 been about a hundred and \$41 on average a month on the
10 utility bill, all -- doing the average every single
11 month (indiscernible). But there are markets in
12 San Antonio, particularly in the competitive market. So
13 in comparison to our a hundred and \$41 bill, there are
14 some that are a hundred and \$51 a month, a hundred and
15 \$56 a month, a hundred and \$60 a month, and a hundred
16 and \$63 a month. And so we pay attention to what's
17 happening all around the nation and all around the state
18 because, again, we know that affordability matters to
19 San Antonio, but I would say that we also drive value.
20 If you compare us, San Antonio, to the other major
21 markets in Texas, we're -- because we've gotten feedback
22 from -- from -- from the public, from you, that it's
23 important to you that we put more effort on energy,
24 efficiency, and conservation programs. So inside your
25 bill there's about a \$4 spend on energy efficiency and

1 conservation. We call it the STEP program. In some
2 other markets, you can't even -- it doesn't register.
3 Additionally, we spend almost \$10 on renewables today.
4 We have a thousand megawatts of wind. We've been in
5 wind for -- for 20 years. Twenty years. We've been
6 involved in the wind industry for 20 years, and we made
7 a sizable investment, over 600 megawatts of solar back
8 in the 2012 time frame. So when you look at all of
9 the -- the -- the renewables that we put on there, we
10 actually are meeting the standards faster than most
11 major markets, most major markets in the nation, most
12 ma -- major markets in Texas. So if you look at our
13 bill, right now it's lower because we're managing and
14 controlling cost, but we're putting a whole lot back
15 into the programs that we've heard from customers that
16 we need to provide to San Antonio.

17 Something that's popped up a couple of
18 times. People have said: Well, what about the
19 different components of the bill? Why is it one thing
20 for businesses and another thing for individuals, and
21 why is the per unit number a bit -- is lower than
22 residents? The per unit number is lowered just
23 because -- efficiency. So, for example, if you go to
24 the grocery store and you buy a big box of Tide, usually
25 the price of -- of a cup of dish -- of -- of a detergent

1 is cheaper than if you bought a small box of detergent.
2 That's all that's happening here. And the component --
3 even though we move them around and we look forward to
4 making some additional changes, it's a zero sum game,
5 the total cost of the total cost, and then we allocate
6 it. What is true, which is absolutely true today,
7 residential customers only pay about 95 percent of their
8 cost of us to serve them, and businesses pay a hundred
9 and 7 percent. The point is they are already paying a
10 premium because they want to reward residents. They
11 want to reward their employees. They want to reward
12 you. So businesses are already paying a premium of
13 about 7 percent while all the other residents and
14 customers are getting a discount, about 5 percent.

15 PDF No. 15. And (indiscernible). But
16 still that premium thing bothers me. What does that
17 mean? Well, like I talked about earlier, if the average
18 bill over a 12-month period is about a hundred and 41
19 bucks, for businesses on average, all businesses --
20 they're paying about ten times more of that a month, all
21 businesses. So if a customer is 141, a business is
22 \$1,508. So in comparison to a hundred and \$40 to
23 \$1,500, they are paying more dollars. There's much
24 fewer of them because we don't have a lot of business
25 accounts. There's fewer of them; but they're paying the

1 premium again to help residents already.

2 So -- so that said, I just want to make
3 sure that we do talk about we are committed to a cleaner
4 environment. We are committed to making changes.
5 Oftentimes people will say, well, CPS Energy didn't do
6 this and didn't do that. I'm going to tell you a lot of
7 things that we did do that is an absolute part of our
8 history, and it's factual. Again, we've been in wind
9 since 2000. We've been into solar since 2012. That's a
10 thousand megawatts of wind and about 600 megawatts of
11 solar and growing. We put our Flexible Path out there
12 that's been absolutely applauded by many in the industry
13 because it's creative, because it's open, because it's
14 flexible. It's collaborative and it invites people in
15 to come with us so we could make this journey together.
16 We closed two older coal units in 2018. We refocused on
17 the Flexible Path and highlighted that the Flexible Path
18 will get us to 80 percent reduction in our emissions
19 profiled by 2040. And then our Board -- they -- they
20 went ahead and en -- endorsed the cap which says we will
21 be tied to the Paris Accord which really talks about
22 decarbonization and net neutrality by 2050. That's a
23 global standard. Can we do better? We will always be
24 working with the City in this community to see what we
25 can do better, but these are good achievements so far,

1 and we have one of the most successful energy efficiency
2 and conservation programs in the nation, award-winning.
3 We won a national award. We're working with our
4 customers, working with you, making sure that we're
5 being very effective, and we've saved about the size of
6 a power plant. We would have built another power plant
7 except for we all did our part and participated in one
8 way or another in the STEP program. Some customers --
9 everybody pays in and then others go and look at
10 weatherization. They get rebates for solar. They
11 put -- they get SolarHost. Different types of programs
12 are available to anyone who wants to -- and we all -- we
13 all put in money together.

14 Ultimately I want to -- I want to just
15 focus. The Flexible Path is extremely important, and
16 it's, again, a part of the way that we're -- we did
17 great so far through 2020 and that we're going to look
18 to making improvements in 20 -- 2020 and beyond, much
19 further beyond.

20 So I'm actually going to move onto
21 Slide 18. The point is we already have all of these
22 plans in process. You know, some of the comments is
23 just close and walk away. These power plants do belong
24 to you. They belong to the community through the City
25 of San Antonio. That is true. But that would be like

1 you saying I don't want my home anymore. I'm just going
2 to walk out and leave it there. I still got a loan. I
3 still got credit. I still got (indiscernible). I
4 need -- I need to have a place to take care of my
5 family, but I'm just going to walk away. Or I've got a
6 car. I don't -- I don't want it -- want it anymore.
7 I'm going to leave it on the side of the road. And what
8 happens is they fine you. There are penalties and all
9 these things. There's still cost associated with these.
10 And, again, these have to be maintained and taken care
11 of. Can we move from these into other solutions?

12 Absolutely. And we're ready to do that.

13 PDF No. 19. What I want to highlight
14 again -- when you look at the report -- you have the
15 ability to look at it. We've been on this decline,
16 this -- putting in more renewables, putting in more wind
17 and solar. We ultimately closed a lot of coal, like
18 half our production in coal. Nuclear is non-emitting.
19 We still have that. We have an increasingly cleaner and
20 cleaner profile; but we're not done yet and we're --
21 we're committed to partnering with the community to make
22 sure we get better.

23 PDF No. 20. But I've got to highlight we
24 are already number one in solar in San Antonio. I'm
25 going to say that again. People act like that's not a

1 thing. It's a real thing. San Antonio, excuse me, is
2 number one in Texas, number one in solar in Texas,
3 number five in the nation. We also are a part of Texas.
4 Texas is number one state in wind, and, again, we have
5 an award-winning program associated with energy
6 efficiency and conservation.

7 The focus on CPS Energy and -- and -- and
8 San Antonio is interesting. It's as if we're doing
9 nothing when, in fact, we're leading. There are many,
10 again, around the nation and -- and the globe that are
11 very interested in what San Antonio has done already and
12 very interested in helping us move forward. The
13 positivity that we actually get from many many outsiders
14 (indiscernible) coming out is tremendous because we do
15 have proven results, and we are really making progress
16 already.

17 PDF No. 21. We have -- we also -- as part
18 of our Flexible Path, we -- we started this year this --
19 this initiative. We actually want to add another 900
20 megawatts of solar. We want to add about 50 megawatts
21 of storage, and that's because right now it's
22 fast-responding, but it doesn't last a long time, and
23 then we want 500 megawatts of firming capacity. We were
24 concerned, but we put out a request for information we
25 put out in ten languages, and we're focused on

1 innovation, what's out there, what can really really be
2 done. And so we had a very exciting response.

3 I'm going to move to PDF 22. We went out
4 (indiscernible) ten languages and we got responses to --
5 to ten different -- from ten different countries around
6 the globe. A lot of it came from the United States, a
7 good portion that came from Texas. That's great, but we
8 also saw, you know, other countries from around the
9 globe that are telling us what really can be done, where
10 are we in innovation, what really is available to us.
11 There's a lot of stuff in development. Not everything
12 is proven. And so -- and I will say renewables is
13 pretty cheap, particularly solar. You can get it
14 cheaply and you can add it, but you need to make sure --
15 we need to make sure for you that we -- we -- we are
16 very careful with it because when the sun doesn't shine,
17 you're not getting solar power.

18 PDF No. 23. And that's the point in
19 reliability, to have solar energy, not to have the sun
20 but to have solar energy. You don't get it if the sun
21 doesn't shine. To have wind energy, you need -- you
22 need it to blow strongly. So those are the things that
23 inherently are limitations in wind and solar. Even
24 though they're clean, they're not always able to produce
25 all the time. And then you have to, again, think about

1 everything we do. If it's more -- more STEP, more
2 energy efficiency, more conservation, close coal units,
3 close gas units, close -- whatever you do it still costs
4 money to replace, to add. You don't -- you don't get a
5 chance to stop paying your bondholders. Just like you
6 just have -- still have a mortgage on your house or a
7 note on your car. Those things still need to be taken
8 care of as you look for those solutions. So it is about
9 how we make choices together and how we can -- we can
10 collaborate instead of having conflicts, what can we do
11 working together to make it all better for San Antonio
12 and San Antonio's future.

13 PDF No. 26. That said, we -- just like
14 you get a credit rating from Experian or some other
15 credit rating agency, and that helps you keep your cost
16 down. That keeps you from having high interest rates.
17 We have credit rating companies, and they make sure that
18 we get the cheapest cost of money and that when we need
19 to go buy certain types of new energy, for example,
20 that -- and we invest in it, we -- we pay low rates.
21 Well, the credit rating agencies are paying attention,
22 and I'll tell you a couple of things that they've --
23 they've said. They -- they believe that we have a great
24 model. They believe in -- that Flexible Path is a great
25 way for the community, for us all to work together; but

1 they have concerns. Part of it is because we haven't
2 done a rate increase in a long time, and now we have
3 COVID and now we have to think about how -- how everyone
4 is going to manage through it and what will happen if
5 the company is challenged and needs a rate increase.
6 We're losing money this year, and it looks like we're
7 going to lose money next year. We're not going to do a
8 rate increase this year. So, once again, we're going
9 to -- we're going to come through, but eventually a rate
10 case will be needed, and as soon as we know that,
11 whenever that is, we will come forward with our business
12 case; but they have a concern about that. But they did
13 cite -- specifically they did not cite that they were
14 concerned about the Flexible Path and not moving faster.
15 That was not what they cited, but they cited that the
16 recent way that San Antonio is -- is in its mode -- and
17 I'm quoting here. The recent petition that was opposing
18 our governance and the management structure -- I'm
19 paraphrasing, excuse me -- and utility, that is all
20 focused on credit negatives, things that are very hard
21 to manage. It was more like this was a tipping point
22 overall. Now, at CPS Energy we take no political
23 positions. We don't take anything for or against. I'm
24 just stating how others outside the community have
25 looked at what we've needed to do, what -- what we're

1 having to face and manage through.

2 Again, I think for us, when we talk to the
3 rating agencies, there -- there is concern. Again, we
4 have made progress. We have been award-winning. We are
5 number one. We've got a great strategy. We're willing
6 to talk to everyone. We're working through all the
7 issues, and for San Antonio to not be able to figure
8 this out is not a present positive. It's a credit
9 negative. We still say we're ready to talk to everyone.
10 Sometimes people won't sit down and talk to us or they
11 refuse. They might have talked to us in the past and
12 now they don't want to talk to us; but we still stand
13 ready to talk to anybody. We want to make sure that our
14 customers are taken care of. We want to make sure that
15 we keep our cost down. We want to make sure we're
16 finding the right solutions. We want to listen to
17 everyone and then we put together and try to do the best
18 we can to keep all those Pillars in balance.

19 So (indiscernible) I'm going to slide
20 through this a little bit more so we can get to the
21 public comment.

22 So the point, though, is you can't do it
23 all and you can't do it all at once. And just like you
24 buy your home over decades we have to think about
25 investments that we make over decades and how can we

1 blend our tried and true solutions with new ones but be
2 very very careful because if we don't get the timing
3 right, again, we could end up with much higher bills
4 because we want to move faster, but it's going to affect
5 everyone's affordability. So we have to be careful.

6 And then when -- you'll see this in PDF
7 Slide No. 28. What will happen is the low bills that we
8 have today in comparison to the competitive markets will
9 start to eke [sic] up. If you want to triple the size
10 of energy efficiency and conservation, we did a
11 back-of-the-napkin estimate. That's \$7 more a month
12 just automatically. So you will start moving up. And
13 then if you want to do that and close the coal plants,
14 you're talking seven plus 12 -- about another \$12 a
15 month, and that's \$20 once a month more, a hundred and
16 \$40 more a year, and these are rough estimates. We
17 haven't gotten into them because, again, we're trying to
18 keep everything going for COVID, trying to make sure
19 that we're talking about what's really happening with
20 some old plants and other things that we have. We're
21 doing the best we can, but the fact of the matter is
22 everything costs money. And so the matter is when the
23 community wants to figure out what to do we got to do
24 this together, and we want to do this with you.

25 We are so excited again -- I'm on PDF

1 No. 29, almost done here -- that you are out tonight and
2 you've giving us the opportunity to continue to share
3 information and mostly to hear from you. Please also
4 know that we do surveys. You can write us letters. We
5 have board meetings with public input. Our Citizen
6 Advisory Committee -- they are -- they are connected to
7 our community, both -- every district with the City of
8 San Antonio but also with the suburban cities and the --
9 the different counties. And so we have represents --
10 representation from all over. The names were provided
11 to you by our Chair. Everyone at CPS Energy, everyone
12 who is in an official capacity of being on a committee,
13 being in management, we want to hear from you. We even
14 have a discussion about a Rate Advisory Committee. The
15 one thing I'll say about that is CPS Energy does not
16 print money. CPS Energy does not get an infusion of
17 money from the federal government. We can't participate
18 in tax credits. There is no pot of money where this
19 comes from. The -- the money is when you pay us we
20 reinvest it back in the community. We make sure that we
21 keep the cost down. We make sure we're managing what's
22 happening. So any money that comes out or any money
23 that -- that people want us to spend it's a zero sum
24 game. It's like a balloon. You squeeze one in the
25 other side has got to get bigger. You squeeze the other

1 end the other side has to get bigger. The Rate Advisory
2 Committee, though, if that actually gets approved, can
3 help us look at it, is there any improvement that we can
4 make, are there any new things we can look at and get
5 input from many many people. So -- so the -- the Board
6 is contemplating it. I think there's going to be a vote
7 on that coming up very shortly, but the real point is
8 that we're just excited to get input from any means
9 necessary and continue to be open to it. I thank you
10 all for being CPS Energy customers. I thank you for
11 being here tonight and thank you for the time to talk.

12 I can't hear anything, sir. Are you
13 there, Chair Steen?

14 CHAIRMAN STEEN: Can -- can you hear me?

15 MS. GOLD-WILLIAMS: Yes, I can hear you
16 now, sir. I'm -- I am done with my comments.

17 CHAIRMAN STEEN: Thank you,
18 Ms. Gold-Williams.

19 This is John Steen again. Now I'll
20 explain the guidelines we'll use for this evening's
21 public input session. As a reminder, each person
22 interested in speaking must be preregistered today
23 between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. We have 44 attendees signed
24 up to speak, and the maximum time limit -- first speaker
25 will be two minutes. When you hear Ivan say your name,

1 your line will open and you'll have two minutes to
2 speak. You will hear a chime sound to indicate you have
3 ten seconds remaining to speak. After the allotted time
4 has expired, the speaker will have five seconds to wrap
5 up your comments. Then your line will close so you can
6 con -- can continue to listen to the meeting. Ivan will
7 call the speaker's name two times. If there's no
8 response, that person will forfeit their opportunity to
9 speak and the next speaker will be called. After Ivan
10 calls the current speaker's name, they'll also call the
11 name of the next registered speaker. All speakers are
12 asked to introduce themselves to the Board, state their
13 organization, if applicable, and the city and state in
14 which they reside. Please note that this meeting is
15 scheduled to end at 8:30 p.m. If for any reason you
16 don't get the opportunity to convey all of your input or
17 prefer not to speak, you may put your thoughts in
18 writing and send to CPS Energy, Attention Public Input,
19 500 McCullough, San Antonio, Texas, 78215 or email us at
20 feedback@cpsenergy.com. Now, Ivan will -- will invite
21 the registered speakers so we may hear your comments.

22 Ivan, please proceed.

23 IVAN: Thank you very much, Chair Steen.

24 The first speaker is Jesus Garcia followed
25 by Dr. Terry Burns. Jesus will speak in Spanish and

1 then his comments will be translated in English after
2 he's done.

3 Jesus, go ahead. You are our first
4 caller.

5 MR. JESUS GARCIA: Thank you. My name is
6 Jesus B. Garcia. I am a CPS Energy and -- ratepayer,
7 and I reside in the Great Northwest neighborhood in
8 San Antonio area, City Council District 6. I signed a
9 CPS Energy recall petition because I care about the
10 environment and I also care about CPS Energy rates. The
11 Spruce Coal Power Plant to have already been shut down,
12 it is wasting money and it's polluting our air quality.
13 We could be producing cleaner energy if CPS Energy would
14 listen more to the residents. We want clean energy, and
15 we are willing to invest in it.

16 Secondly, the CPS Energy rates should be
17 fair. CPS Energy considering a rate increase in the
18 next year -- however, homeowners are currently paying
19 more for our energy than commercial energy users. This
20 is not fair, and CPS Energy needs to do something about
21 it before considering raising rates. These are the
22 reasons I signed the CPS Energy recall petition, and I
23 hope we will be successful. Thank you.

24 IVAN: Thank you.

25 Our next caller is Dr. Terry Burns

1 followed by Tom Long.

2 Terry Burns, go ahead.

3 MR. BURNS: Hi, this is Dr. Terry Burns,
4 San Antonio, Chair of the Sierra Club locally. Your
5 self-appointing board dates back to the segregation and
6 redlining and was used for decades to deny service to
7 poor parts of our city. You protect the rich and
8 powerful and your CEO recently chaired their chamber.
9 Richard Perez is your vocal defender because the
10 chambers greatly benefit from this unjust status quo.
11 These are the groups that denied our workers paid sick
12 leave. Even before COVID, you were turning power off to
13 tens of thousands of our poorest. You are required to
14 know nothing about the energy business. Just in the
15 last decade you lost \$400 million in misguided nuclear
16 investments and wasted 1 billion enforcing Spruce 2 and
17 a resistant community. Your Pillars are stuck in the
18 past and are a threat to our survival. CEO update today
19 totally misrepresents the situation we live in and
20 promotes the status quo. You should look at the plans
21 Austin has for the next few years. They have public
22 input in generation planning and rate structures and no
23 boards. They are light years ahead of you. It's time
24 for you and your CEO to go. You have failed to act as
25 our fiduciary. Los Angeles pays one third as much for

1 management of both its utilities. Chris Tomlinson in
2 the Express News says CEO pay correlate to inversely
3 with performance, and, quote, "No one on those boards is
4 looking out for the average worker or ratepayer." You
5 obstruct progress and need to resign. Thank you.

6 IVAN: The next speaker is Tom Long
7 followed by Michael Romeo.

8 Tom, go ahead.

9 MR. LONG: Good evening, everyone. Again,
10 my name is Tom Long. I am a CPS Energy customer. I am
11 also the Chief Development Officer for the San Antonio
12 Economic Development Foundation. It's a pleasure to be
13 with you.

14 EDF represents a hundred and 65
15 organizations committed to economic development in
16 San Antonio as well as partners throughout the region
17 and throughout the CPS Energy's service territory. CPS
18 Energy is an inte -- integral part of our region's
19 economic development value proposition. Reliability,
20 affordability, and customer service can be a game
21 changer when large corporations are looking to relocate
22 here or to making a decision to stay and expand in
23 San Antonio. CPS Energy has always been willing to
24 cooperate, and we've enjoyed our partnership with them
25 since our inception.

1 Companies, as Paula said, need reliability
2 24 hours a day, seven days a week 300 and 65 days a
3 year. CPS Energy has that reputation with our prospects
4 and companies, of providing reliable electric service
5 and providing programs that help companies manage their
6 energy -- energy usage, in other words, helping them
7 become more efficient users of electricity.

8 CPS Energy has also been a partner in our
9 S.A. works -- workforce development programs, preparing
10 our youth for jobs of the future and mentoring hundreds
11 of San Antonio students each year.

12 We applaud CPS Energy for its Flexible
13 Path that will bring cleaner energy and new energy
14 solutions for our growing community while remaining
15 affordable and reliable. We look forward to seeing the
16 results of the upcoming FlexPOWER Bundle that will
17 signal to the world that San Antonio is open for
18 business.

19 On behalf of our 165 members, San Antonio
20 Economic Development thanks CPS Energy for their
21 dedicated work and to improve the quality of life and
22 quality --

23 IVAN: Thank you for your participation.
24 Your time is up.

25 The next speaker is Michael Romeo followed

1 by Steve Graham.

2 Michael, go ahead.

3 MR. ROMEO: Good evening. Thank you to
4 the Board, the CPS executive team, and most of all thank
5 you to the community for showing up and being engaged.
6 There's a -- an informed community here, and it's great
7 to see the participation.

8 As stated, my name is Michael Romeo. I am
9 one of the vice presidents of CLEARresult's based here in
10 Texas. It's CLEARresult's mission to change how people
11 use energy, and we do that by providing strategic design
12 and implementation assistance where utility -- as they
13 transition to the utility of the future.

14 CLEARresult currently works with close to
15 300 electrical and gas utilities and blending somewhere
16 around 900 energy efficiency and demand response
17 programs across North America. We've been incredibly
18 honored to be partnered with CPS Energy in their
19 efficiency and demand-side efforts.

20 In all our years of learning, we have
21 learned that the lowest cost kilowatt is the one that
22 does not need to be generated. From these na --
23 nationwide experiences, we know that CPS Energy is a
24 standout among other utilities across the United States
25 but more specifically here in Texas in its support of

1 customers and their conservation and energy efficiency
2 efforts and both comprehensiveness of programs being
3 offered as well as the level of incentives being
4 offered.

5 Even with the challenges that 2020 has
6 presented us as a nation, as a state, and local
7 community, CPS Energy has worked hard to be able to
8 continue to delivery and offer efficiency and savings
9 programs. CPS Energy continues to demonstrate its
10 commitment to materially moving the needle on the lower
11 cost resource in its feet first. It's been a
12 prilivert -- privilege for CLEAResult for the last four
13 or five years to be partnered with -- directly with CPS
14 and be -- in bringing market transformation energy
15 efficiency programs and demand response program.

16 IVAN: Thank you for your participation.
17 Your time is up.

18 The next speaker will be Stephen Graham
19 followed by Alice Canestaro-Garcia.

20 Steve.

21 MR. GRAHAM: Hello, my name is Steve
22 Graham. I'm the Interim General Manager at the
23 San Antonio River Authority. Thank you for inviting me
24 to speak.

25 I want to talk about the climate action

1 and adaptation plan. Our board in February of 2019
2 passed a letter of support of the cap plan as did CPS
3 Energy. We like CPS Energy, really want to focus on
4 sustainability. We're fortunate that we have a
5 community with utilities like SAWS and CPS Energy that
6 have that focus.

7 The plan has about a hundred and 25
8 objectives. Many of the objectives are complex and
9 costly, but probably 30 percent of them are much more
10 pragmatic and not as controversial. There's many like
11 sustainable land planning, carbon sequestration,
12 implementing S.A. Tomorrow, setting up a regional
13 climate council, creating a resilient building code,
14 heat island effects, climate resiliency education, are
15 all things that can be done pretty readily with our
16 expertise in our community.

17 Two general statements. As the CAAP
18 objectives are looked at, obviously cost is an issue.
19 The pillar benefit. We -- we believe that economic,
20 social, and environmental benefits and cost should be
21 all looked at. It really speaks to the CPS Energy's six
22 Pillars. They speak to triple bottom line which is what
23 I'm talking about here.

24 The other general comment would be
25 prototyping as -- and testing effectiveness of different

1 ideas is worth doing. Benchmarking is a great example
2 of this, try small and grow it larger, but, in general,
3 the San Antonio River Authority stands ready to partner
4 with other governmental entities to prototype, test, use
5 different mitigation and adaptation strategies. Thank
6 you.

7 IVAN: The next speaker is Alice
8 Canestaro-Garcia followed by Aaron Parenica.

9 MS. CANESTARO-GARCIA: Good evening. My
10 name is Alice Canestaro-Garcia from District 1. Since
11 2010, I've been meeting quarterly as an environmental
12 stakeholder with CPS Energy leadership. My handout is
13 the petition for energy democracy.

14 This morning the Mayor called for
15 teamwork. That's exactly what the recall CPS petition
16 is all about. I played a small role as we developed the
17 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan over the years. Our
18 goal was to be a team with CPS to see our plans put into
19 effect throughout CPS.

20 So it was shocking this morning when I
21 heard Paula Gold-Williams say that there were people who
22 would not walk through the door to work with her. I
23 wondered who is Paula talking about. Clearly there's
24 been a misunderstanding. Let's clear this up.

25 The community has five best practices.

1 Make environmental protection a top priority. There
2 won't be -- there is not that much that needs to be done
3 to do this. Decide what kind of power generation is
4 used in San Antonio. Certainly the City people put --
5 need to put, excuse me, input into that, and I would
6 recommend geothermal as un -- considered an excellent
7 source of energy for us. The wealthy people here have
8 it. It's time for it to be throughout the City for
9 everybody. I believe that this is already in the works,
10 forming an advisory committee that will give input on
11 rate structure for bill payers. I believe that's the
12 RAC. Let's see it -- let's see it in action --
13 whoops -- create a plan to close the CPS coal power
14 plant by 2030 and make the Mayor and City Council
15 directly accountable for CPS Energy.

16 IVAN: Thank you for your participation.
17 Your time is up.

18 The next speaker is Aaron Parenica
19 followed by Leo Gomez.

20 MR. PARENICA: Good evening. My name is
21 Aaron Parenica. I'm a consultant civil engin --
22 engineer with Kimley-Horn, and I currently serve as the
23 chair person for the CPS Energy Development Process Task
24 Force on behalf of The Real Estate Council of
25 San Antonio. I live in San Antonio, and I am a CPS

1 customer myself.

2 They sent a recent market anal -- analysis
3 to local real estate industry and employs over 133,000
4 people in the San Antonio area and has a payroll of
5 \$6.7 billion each year. Most of our industry as a whole
6 is in the middle of reevaluating so many aspects of our
7 businesses given the current pandemic situation. During
8 this time, it will be even more critical to our industry
9 for us to maintain an open line of communication with
10 CPS. Gas and electric service is a significant cost and
11 time factor in almost all real estate development
12 projects as well as long-term operating cost, and that
13 applies to the entire spectrum of real estate assets
14 from a very sophisticated development of a large
15 manufacturing facility, for example, all the way to
16 individual single family homes.

17 A clearer line of communication and
18 collaboration between CPS and the professionals of the
19 real estate industry allows those professionals to
20 develop and redevelop new projects in a more streamlined
21 and efficient manner. That increases the activity
22 within this industry, that provides so many local jobs
23 and that also directly increases the ability for our
24 industry to deliver more affordable housing for
25 San Antonio area residents.

1 Lastly, I would like to recommend to my
2 fellow San Antonio area residents to look up the book
3 Powering a City. This is a great resource that lays out
4 the history of CPS Energy and does a great job of
5 explaining the how and the why things are the way they
6 are, with how CPS is set up and how CPS is operated. We
7 are very fortunate to have the current structure in
8 place as it exists today with CPS Energy providing such
9 a large annual benefit to the City's budget. On behalf
10 of The Real Estate Council of San Antonio, thank you for
11 your time this evening.

12 IVAN: Thank you for your participation.
13 Your time is up.

14 The next caller is Leo Gomez followed by
15 Adrienne Cox.

16 Go ahead, Leo.

17 MR. GOMEZ: Good evening, Mr. Chairman,
18 Trustees, CEO Gold-Williams, and CPS team. My name is
19 Leo Gomez, and I am the President and CEO of the Brooks
20 Development Authority responsible for developing,
21 redeveloping the former Air Force base here in southeast
22 San Antonio.

23 This evening I wanted to take the time to
24 thank you for a few items, and I actually have a
25 request; but I'd like to start by thanking you for your

1 key account team. It's been a fabulous opportunity to
2 build a good, strong working relationship day-in,
3 day-out between your team and our team at Brooks. The
4 communication has been fantastic, and I just want to let
5 y'all know that it's incredibly appreciated. It's that
6 kind of (indiscernible) that has led to the
7 establishment of Mission Solar at Brooks thanks to CPS
8 and its investment in what Mission Solar produces here
9 at the Brooks campus. To this date, it's the only
10 Texas-based manufacturer of solar panels, and we're
11 really proud of that, of not only U.S. made but Texas
12 made, San Antonio made, and Brooks made. So we're very
13 happy to have Mission Solar and their couple of hundred
14 jobs that they have and the few hundreds that they will
15 have in the future. So, again, thank you for that
16 investment in the past and your continued efforts with
17 Mission Solar.

18 Next I'd like to thank you for your help
19 in helping us realize the dream of building the largest
20 sous vide plant in the world in Cuisine Solutions. You
21 helped us make sure that we could get a gas line from
22 two-and-a-half miles away. To this plant parcel, that
23 will create 550-plus jobs here in Brooks, benefiting the
24 surrounding region. They have already indicated an
25 interest of adding a second (indiscernible), and we'll

1 have even more employees. Right across the street from
2 them is a 350,000-square foot facility that'll bring
3 600-plus jobs. My request is that we keep working
4 together to make sure we --

5 IVAN: Thank you for your participation.
6 Your time is up.

7 Our next speaker is Adrienne Cox followed
8 by Kristi Sutterfield.

9 Adrienne, go ahead.

10 MS. COX: Thank you, Chairman Steen,
11 Trustees, Mrs. Gold-Williams. I appreciate the
12 opportunity to share my thoughts with you today. My
13 name is Adrienne Cox. I'm Chief Operating Officer at
14 Port San Antonio. Port San Antonio with -- has over
15 13-million square feet of property spread across our
16 1900-acre campus, and we're home to some of the leading
17 global industries such as aerospace defense, global
18 logistics, manufacturing, cyber and security, and
19 education. Over 80 of our tenant customers employ more
20 than 14,000 people at our unique air, rail, and
21 highway-served property, and together they generate over
22 \$5 billion in annual economic impact for our region.

23 As a leading technology and innovation
24 campus, it is imperative that we can continue to provide
25 resources to our customers that will allow them to

1 support (indiscernible) businesses. Our partnership
2 with CPS allows us to accomplish this masterfully.
3 We're proud to work with such an amazing team at CPS.
4 Some of those team members specifically assigned to Port
5 San Antonio and our customers are Yvonne Haecker,
6 Ricardo Rentaria (phonetic), Kara Hill, and Karma
7 Nilsson, and let me tell you they are pretty darn
8 amazing. They work with us to both service our existing
9 customers as well as to strategize on how we can best be
10 prepared for our future customers. They are always
11 engaged, always available, and their level of
12 customer service is topnotch and very much appreciated.
13 So thank you for working with us. Thank you for your
14 partnership and thank you for allowing me this time.

15 IVAN: The next speaker is Kristi
16 Sutterfield followed by Trey Jacobson.

17 Kristi, go ahead.

18 MS. SUTTERFIELD: Good evening, Chairman,
19 Trustees, Paula, CPS team, colleagues, and -- and the
20 public. My name is Kristi Sutterfield. I'm the
21 Executive Director of the Greater San Antonio Builders
22 Association. We have a hundred-plus member companies,
23 and we represent 10,000 people in the residential
24 construction industry.

25 And I'd like to take just this opportunity

1 to thank Paula, you and your team, for working with us
2 this past year during the pandemic. It's been a
3 challenging year, but every challenge that we've had in
4 building new homes and delivering, you know, a safe
5 affordable place for our community to live has been met
6 head-on, and we -- we always take it as an opportunity.

7 You know, the residential construction
8 industry -- we had a call with the City of San Antonio.
9 They had the best month that they had in October than
10 they've had in, you know, 12 to 15 years, and while
11 every day is a new day and -- we appreciate what CPS has
12 done with their portal, what they've done with their
13 partnership with us, and the availability that you have
14 to the builders and developers and remodelers. We are
15 very very grateful, and I just thank you for the
16 opportunity to address you tonight, and we look forward
17 to the future.

18 IVAN: Our next speaker is Trey Jacobson
19 followed by Julie Novak.

20 Trey, go ahead.

21 MR. JACOBSON: I -- Members of the Board,
22 Paula, and to the CPS staff, good evening. My name is
23 Trey Jacobson. I'm a local consultant and I'm also
24 proud to serve as Co-chair for the Urban Land Institutes
25 Energy Task Force, and ULI represents the best of what

1 San Antonio provides for building a better city, and I'm
2 fortunate to have a broad and deep understanding of CPS
3 Energy. So time is short. So I'll only leave you with
4 just two key messages tonight.

5 First I want to thank you for your
6 leadership and your personal efforts to make sure that
7 CPS Energy is an integral part of this community and for
8 constantly looking for ways that you can do things
9 better. Through the energy task force and my work, I've
10 had the opportunity to work closely with your team, and
11 I can tell you your staff is outstanding. It is
12 professional and it is earnest in their efforts to
13 improve how to engage with the customers, design
14 professionals, and businesses, and this is not an easy
15 job. In fact, it's damn complicated when you consider
16 that you have to have electrical engineers to make
17 things work smoothly day-in and day-out.

18 My second point, my input, if you will, is
19 I want you to move forward and move deliberately. The
20 CPS Energy team runs not -- runs the largest municipal
21 gas and electric utility in America; but it also runs
22 one of the most innovative and celebrated utilities, as
23 well. You've already mentioned you're a state and
24 national leader, and we are blessed in San Antonio in so
25 many ways to have you as our city-owned utility.

1 Already for 75 years you've powered San Antonio, and you
2 know what you are doing, and it is my hope that after
3 this input session the leadership of CPS Energy, the
4 Board, will decisively begin to move forward and to the
5 future. Move forward. But you also have to bring this
6 community along with you, clearly. CPS Energy cannot
7 solve all of our local problems; but you surely need to
8 be part of a solution. So my message is keep up the
9 good work and have a blessed holiday season. Thank you
10 all.

11 IVAN: Our next speaker is Julie Novak
12 followed by Tamara Benavides.

13 Julie, go ahead.

14 MS. NOVAK: Thank you to the CPS Board of
15 Trustees for allowing us this opportunity. My name is
16 Julie Novak. I am the Chief Financial Officer at Fort
17 Sam Houston School District. We are an independent
18 school district and one of three in -- in the State of
19 Texas and only seven in the United States where our
20 district -- our district boundaries are co-determinate
21 with the military installation. We serve approximately
22 1500 students and have over 300 employees. We were the
23 first school district to collaborate with CPS Energy
24 with the Demand Response program, and we have
25 appreciated the professionalism of the staff, including

1 Yvonne Haecker and Brook Bedell.

2 Since our participation began, we have
3 received rebates totaling over \$300,000. This has
4 enabled us to further improve our HVAC and building
5 control system, and I hope that this program continues
6 as we serve our military students here in Military City
7 USA. Again, we appreciate the professionalism of all of
8 the staff that we have worked with with CPS Energy.
9 Thank you.

10 IVAN: Our next speaker is Tamara
11 Benavides followed by Tim Morrow.

12 Tamara, go ahead.

13 MS. BENAVIDES: Good evening. My name is
14 Tamara Benavides, and I am the Chairman of the Board for
15 the San Antonio Hotel & Lodging Association. The
16 San Antonio Hotel & Lodging Association represents
17 nearly 300 businesses from the hospitality community in
18 our city, including all hotel properties with more than
19 100 rooms as part of the Tourism Public Improvement
20 District.

21 Prior to the pandemic, the hospitality
22 industry employed one in seven workers in San Antonio
23 and contributed \$213 million in taxes and other revenue
24 to the City of San Antonio, 16 million of which was
25 CPS-related revenue. It is no secret that the travel

1 and tourism industry has been one of the hardest hit by
2 the coronavirus, and we continue to suffer greatly from
3 its lasting effects. As the situation endures, we are
4 increasingly concerned about the survival of many of our
5 lodging operators through this unprecedented period of
6 travel and gathering restrictions. Most hotels are
7 operating at less than 40 percent, and revenue is
8 sporadic at -- and unreliable, many -- mainly coinciding
9 with weekend leisure travel. This trend is likely to
10 continue for the next several months with the return of
11 business travel an unknown and no scheduled events
12 through the end of the year. Current forecasts do not
13 predict to return to 2019 revenue levels until 23 --
14 2023 or 2024. In the past, the state comptroller has
15 agreed to provide up to 90 days for hotels to remit
16 future state hotel tax remittan -- remittances without
17 penalties and interest and for many of our lodging
18 operators who function on a very lean cash flow basis
19 that has allowed them the flexibility to keep their
20 doors open and their staff employed. As we continue to
21 navigate the financial impact of the pandemic, the
22 hospitality community would greatly benefit from a
23 similar flexibility in remittance of energy cost. We
24 thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today
25 about the challenges our industry is facing and --

1 IVAN: Thank you for your participation.
2 Your time is up.

3 Our next speaker is Tim Morrow followed by
4 Howard Rogers.

5 Tim, go ahead. Tim Morrow, go ahead,
6 please. Okay.

7 MR. MORROW: Good evening. My --

8 IVAN: We'll move to our next speaker,
9 Howard Rogers, followed by Patrick Garcia.

10 Howard, go ahead.

11 MR. ROGERS: Good evening. I'm Howard
12 Rogers. I represent the San Antonio Manufacturers
13 Association who represents the interest of right at 1500
14 manufacturers with 5100 employees -- 15,000, pardon me,
15 15 -- 51,000 employees that bring \$40 million-plus a
16 year into our local economy.

17 We looked at CPS Energy to provide what I
18 call Paula's priv -- Pillars, that it is safe and
19 dependable energy supplies, reasonable prices,
20 environmental responsibility, resilience, and when we
21 looked at rates, we have -- for -- for almost 50 years
22 now, we have worked with them to -- to have rates that
23 are fair, equitable to all class of customers, that
24 reflect cost of service to those various classes, and
25 the fact that no customer class should subsidize

1 another. In no case should CPS be used as a welfare
2 agency. That works directly contrary to conservation.
3 It gives something away that is valuable to us as
4 electricity.

5 Trustee Ed Kelley reminds us that CPS
6 already contributes a million dollars a day to the City.
7 That -- that could be used for welfare, perhaps, but CPS
8 customers are being manuev -- or -- or that CPS
9 organization is being maneuvered by some in a direction
10 that they're clearly not going to go. It is with
11 unproven, unreliable expensive energy systems that we
12 look at in all -- as -- can you show us one that works;
13 or do you want us to copy California? It's ultrahigh
14 utility charges and it's blackouts. In any case, the
15 utility comm -- community looks at CPS as being far
16 ahead when it comes to the principles we discussed.
17 They're great. We love them.

18 IVAN: The next speaker is Pat Garcia
19 followed by Richard Perez.

20 Patrick, go ahead.

21 MR. PAT GARCIA: Yes. The Board of
22 Directors and Paula Gold and her staff, thank you for
23 the opportunity. I am President of Division Laundry &
24 Cleaners which is an 81-year-old family Hispanic
25 business owned by the Garcia family. We've been buying

1 energy since 1939 from the website in San Antonio. We
2 have prospered because of reliable energy. I can
3 remember that being part of the San Antonio
4 Manufacturers Energy Committee when I was 26-years old,
5 and, as of today, I'm still on the committee, and what I
6 have seen is everything that Mr. Howard Rogers had
7 reflected, but one -- you know, we're not West Texas.
8 We're sunlight and wind prevail, and they -- they have
9 storage cape -- storage capability issues and
10 reliability issues. We understand that. We understand
11 that there is a purpose for all of that and a place and
12 time. I applaud Paula Gold-Williams and her team for
13 being very insightful of all the predominant issues
14 around the country. They -- they had an RFP that went
15 global around the world to come in with ideas that will
16 give Flexible Path and the whole team at CPS and our
17 community a new source of energy called clean energy.

18 I applaud the testimonials today, and I
19 think that we live in a great city. I've been part of
20 this city for 80 -- you know, for almost 81 years, but
21 I'm not 81-years old. But I will tell you that the
22 reliability has been wonderful.

23 We supply laundry service to almost
24 50 percent of the hospitals in San Antonio and in
25 Austin, and being -- having reliable service, we operate

1 seven days a week, 24 hours a day. That's a necessity.
2 It's not a luxury, and I applaud CPS for all of their
3 efforts, and to the Board of Directors, I applaud you
4 for making great decisions, allowing CPS to have
5 tremendous success related to bonds, outstanding bond
6 ratings across the board and --

7 IVAN: Thank you for your participation.
8 Your time is up.

9 Our next speaker is Richard Perez followed
10 by Tim Morrow.

11 Richard, go ahead. Richard, are you
12 there?

13 MR. PEREZ: Yes, I'm here. Good evening,
14 Chairman Steen and Members of the CPS Energy Board of
15 Trustees. My name is Richard Perez, and I am the
16 President of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

17 The CPS Energy Board of Trustees is a
18 model of open and honest governance made up of
19 San Antonio citizens and our Mayor that work in the best
20 interest of our community. CPS is run by a competent
21 CEO and a team of professionals focused on customer
22 affordability, reliability, environmental
23 responsibility, resiliency, security, and safety.

24 San Antonio stands united in our support
25 for our trusted utility, and we'll protect it from the

1 so-called decapitation of the authority of the Board of
2 Trustees and Management.

3 In this time of COVID with so much
4 business turmoil, high unemployment, and the fear of
5 long-term effects of the pandemic, on our health, and on
6 our families, it is the community's belief that now is
7 not the time for a sweeping change in the governance of
8 CPS sought by the petition. The unintended consequences
9 are real with the October announcement by Fitch
10 downgrading their outlook for CPS Energy from stable to
11 negative, specifically citing the petition drive. We
12 cannot deny the negative consequences of this foolish
13 petition and the disastrous effects it will have on
14 rates which are the lowest of any large city in Texas.

15 I will close with a word about the false
16 statements by a small group of -- of environmentalists,
17 driving the petition. They claim CPS Energy has no
18 commitment to the environment. The fact is the
19 utility's Board of Trustees closed two coal units in
20 2018. The same small group of misguided
21 environmentalists continues to harangue CPS for a lack
22 of commitment to energy, to clean energy. Our citizens
23 know that CPS Energy ranks first in Texas and fifth in
24 the nation for solar energy, and they also know that CPS
25 Energy ranks second in Texas for wind energy.

1 San Antonians know better and are united in our efforts
2 to protect our well-run utilities, a -- run utility.
3 Thank you.

4 IVAN: Our next speaker is Tim Morrow
5 followed by Martin Gutierrez. Mr. Morrow was cut off
6 earlier from a technical glitch. So he has his two
7 minutes now.

8 Go ahead, Mr. Morrow.

9 MR. MORROW: Good evening. My name is Tim
10 Morrow, CEO, San Antonio Zoo, and on behalf of our over
11 700 employees, 600 volunteers, and millions of visitors,
12 I'd like to thank you for this opportunity and our
13 partnership with CPS.

14 San Antonio Zoological Society operates
15 the San Antonio Zoo, Center for Conservation and
16 Research, the train in Brackenridge Park, Starbucks in
17 Brackenridge Park, Kiddie Park, and the Will Smith Zoo
18 School, the largest nature-based preschool in the
19 country. At the core of everything we do, we are
20 focused on conservation and education. In fact, our
21 school was recently awarded LEED Platinum. It's the
22 first preschool in the United States and second on the
23 planet with this designation. San Antonio Zoo is
24 106-years old. It's a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, hosting
25 nearly 1.2 million visitors per year. We're privately

1 operated and self-funded, and we depend 100 percent on
2 visitors and donations to operate the Zoo. So every
3 single penny counts. At 106-years old, you can imagine
4 we have an aging infrastructure. So what is important
5 from -- for us from a partnership with CPS is reliable
6 power. It obviously allows us to operate. Our life
7 support systems depend on this reliable power and allows
8 our species to remain healthy. Many of the -- many of
9 the animals in our care are in danger or even extinct in
10 the wild. We appreciate affordability. It allows us --
11 it allows us to dedicate more funds to our mission. I
12 would like to see us grow this relationship as partners
13 and together we can help educate the community on the
14 impact of energy used, the importance of energy
15 conservation and all that CPS is doing to benefit our
16 planet.

17 I'd like to wrap up by thanking CPS and
18 each of you for your assistance during COVID, allowing
19 us to defer payments. This allowed us to focus on
20 animal care, conser -- conservation programs, and our
21 staff. As an organization we are surviving COVID,
22 thanks to the community donating to our recovery,
23 partnerships like the one we have with CPS as well as
24 the creativity, drive, and passion of our team to find
25 ways to avoid our own extinction. We have lofty goals

1 for improvements and expansion, and we'll need the help
2 of CPS to achieve these goals on behalf of our
3 community. Again, thank you for the time I was allotted
4 to speak to you and for all the staff that has assisted
5 San Antonio Zoo.

6 IVAN: Our next speaker is Martin
7 Gutierrez followed by Kimberly Britton.

8 Martin, go ahead.

9 MR. GUTIERREZ: Good evening. My name is
10 Martin Gutierrez, Director of Policy and Business
11 Advocacy for the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of
12 Commerce. I want to thank the CPS Energy Board of
13 Trustees for their opportunity to provide public comment
14 today. I am here today on behalf of the Hispanic
15 Chamber Board of Directors and the over 900 small local
16 and minority-owned businesses that we represent to
17 express our support for CPS energy.

18 A few weeks ago the Hispanic Chamber
19 hosted a virtual state of our utilities town hall
20 discussion in partnership with our Chamber friends.
21 Polling from the town hall shows that among our
22 community's top concerns when it comes to utilities is
23 affordability. For our more than 900 small local
24 minority-owned business, affordability is a top priority
25 for them as they render daily operations and look to

1 increase their bottom line. CPS Energy provides our
2 small business with affordable, reliable energy to
3 operate and effectively run their business. In fact,
4 CPS Energy offers some of the lowest rates among top ten
5 largest U.S. cities in the country. In addition, CPS
6 Energy has not had a rate increase in over six years.
7 CPS Energy is continuously at the top of its craft when
8 it comes to affordability and reliability, and this can
9 be attributed to the leadership of the CPS Energy's CEO
10 and Board of Trustees.

11 The pandemic hasn't made running a small
12 business any easier. We know the challenges the
13 pandemic has brought to our small business community,
14 and we're still in the thick of it. Our small business
15 community is hurting. On behalf of our more than 900
16 small local and minority-owned businesses, I want to
17 thank CPS Energy for -- for providing our members with
18 affordable and reliable energy during these challenging
19 times. To keep our small businesses open, to keep our
20 energy bills affordable, we must make sure CPS Energy
21 has the tools and structure and needs without being
22 politicized. Thank you.

23 IVAN: Our next speaker is Kimberly
24 Britton followed by Greg Harman.

25 Kimberly, go ahead.

1 MS. BRITTON: Good evening, Chair Steen
2 and Trustees. Thank you for this opportunity to address
3 you this evening. I'm Kimberly Britton, CEO of
4 Epicenter, and I reside in San Antonio, Texas.

5 As I'm sure you recall, Epicenter is an
6 energy innovation organization born out of the vision of
7 CPS Energy and its new energy economy partners. Since
8 our founding in 2015, we have grown. Our energy
9 incubator and accelerator, our thought leadership
10 events, and other programming now attracts stakeholders
11 and clients not only here in San Antonio but across the
12 U.S. and beyond.

13 I'm here this evening to speak regarding
14 CPS Energy's FlexPOWER Bundle initiative. In the
15 development of CPS Energy's plan to replace its aging
16 infrastructure with more zero emission resources, I
17 appreciate the thoughtful consideration and
18 determination, frankly, to embrace emerging and
19 cutting-edge technologies while still ensuring safe,
20 reliable, and affordable power for its customers like
21 me. As an active participant in the transformation of
22 the energy sector, Epicenter gets to foster and help to
23 operationalize many of these exciting technologies and
24 business models. On the other hand, my team and I are
25 acutely aware of the limitations these phenomenal

1 inventions and systems can have and appreciate more than
2 ever the balance of the FlexPOWER Bundle mind-set and
3 make room for the new and game-changing while ensuring
4 our lights will come on each time we flip that switch
5 and that we can afford the cost of doing so.

6 I applaud the Board of Trustees and
7 leadership of CPS for their (indiscernible) balancing of
8 providing safe, reliable, and affordable power with the
9 need to pursue creative and innovative projects that
10 lead us to zero emissions. I encourage the continuation
11 and expansion -- expansion of this good work, and I look
12 forward and very excited to see the results of yet
13 coming RFP. Thank you.

14 IVAN: Thank you.

15 Our next speaker is Greg Harman followed
16 by Timothy Heinle.

17 Greg, go ahead.

18 MR. HARMAN: Yes. I'm deeply concerned
19 about what I heard at this morning's CPS board meeting
20 prior to voting on -- to delay an energy conservation
21 and home weatherization program, one with huge COVID
22 recovery potential, able to reduce bills, keep people in
23 their homes and create jobs. A Board Member asked Paula
24 Gold-Williams if she had spoken with the Sierra Club on
25 this. She erroneously said that staff had reached out,

1 quote, on multiple occasions and that we had repeatedly
2 refused. In fact, the recommendations by Optimal Energy
3 for the FlexSTEP program were delivered in the spring to
4 zero response. This is how community organizations are
5 routinely treated and why there is now a petition to
6 move the governance from the Board to the City Council.
7 Paula claims that this petition will cost ratepayers'
8 bills to skyrocket. There is nothing behind this
9 statement. CPS has refused for years to provide any
10 assumptions about the cost of an early retirement of
11 coal power. They refused to provide the status to
12 members of the Climate Action Plan while that plan was
13 being developed, and the community members since the
14 CAAP adaptation -- adoption in 2019. It was the Sierra
15 Club again that twice paid for third-party studies on
16 the impact of coal power, and both times we saw that
17 coal -- our coal plant, one of the last built in the
18 U.S. for good reason, is an economic loser. She warns
19 today that walking away is not an option, but there is
20 no better response to the -- the alternative of losing
21 tens of millions of dollars a year that these coal
22 purchases represent. And while Paula talks about
23 extending the pause and disconnects, it has been under
24 her watch that disconnections for nonpayment by the
25 poorest San Antonio residents have spiked. She has

1 doubled the number of cutoffs over the previous two
2 CEOs.

3 Another report delivered to zero response
4 came from two dozen community organizations delivered in
5 October, one case of a -- of a canceled meeting. It
6 came after Paula's drumbeat of smearing climate
7 advocates. Though, again, on this call, she has said
8 that it's inappropriate for her to do so. In fact, we
9 are the ones bringing the data and working for a good
10 transition for San Antonio.

11 IVAN: Our next speaker is Timothy Heinle
12 followed by Darby Riley.

13 Timothy, go ahead.

14 MR. HEINLE: Good evening. Thank you
15 Chair Steen for the opportunity to address the Board of
16 Trustees and the Executive Team. My name is Timothy
17 Heinle. I'm Vice President of Business Development for
18 OCI Solar Power, and I'm a CPS customer here in
19 San Antonio. I'd like to acknowledge the successful
20 collaboration between OCI Solar Power and CPS Energy
21 which has made CPS a leader in utility-scale solar, has
22 brought new investment and new jobs to San Antonio and
23 what -- and has created what's called the New Energy
24 Economy.

25 I'm participating today to speak in

1 support of CPS Energy's Flexible Path and FlexPOWER
2 Bundle RFP. The Flexible Path is a well-designed
3 strategy. We at OCI agree with -- with -- with CPS's
4 CEO Paula's characterization that the strategy balances
5 the new with the tried and true. We understand that
6 renewable energy resources such as solar power are
7 intermittent and need to be firmed up, whether that's
8 with new battery projects, existing natural gas-fired
9 power plants or some other technology.

10 So let's get to it, the Flexible Bun --
11 the FlexPOWER Bundle RFP. Such a well-designed strategy
12 deserves a well-implemented RFP. We -- we strongly
13 believe that clean energy is price competitive with
14 fossil fuel energy resources, and the FlexPOWER Bundle
15 RFP will prove that to be true. We have one suggestion
16 for the RFP, and that is, in short, accelerate the
17 two -- the time lines for new solar contracts. As of
18 right now, CPS is anticipating three months -- well --
19 well, I'll stop there. We support CPS Energy's flexible
20 strategy, Flexible Path and the FlexPO -- PO --

21 IVAN: Thank you for your participation.
22 Your time is up.

23 Our next speaker is Darby Riley followed
24 by Isabel Briseno.

25 Darby, go ahead.

1 MR. RILEY: Yes. I'm Darby Riley. I'm a
2 local attorney, a CPS customer, and a long-time member
3 of the environmental stakeholders group which meets
4 regularly with CPS.

5 The Chamber of Commerce wants to keep the
6 rate structure as it is because it favors big users who
7 get a lower rate than small users. This is a policy
8 decision which elected officials should make. CPS
9 Energy represents the Chamber of Commerce more than it
10 represents the citizens of San Antonio, its owner. In a
11 time of the climate crisis and severe economic problems,
12 the elected officials of the City need to take charge of
13 energy policy and fiscal policy. The members are the --
14 the officials of CPS Energy should not be making these
15 important policy decisions. An argument against the
16 City Council making these policy decisions is that they
17 don't have the utility expertise. The current unelected
18 CPS Board consists of an attorney, a real estate
19 executive, a cyber security executive, and an educator.
20 They are -- do not have utility expertise.

21 Another argument is that if the City
22 Council becomes the board it would hurt the bond rating
23 of the City's wholly-owned utility. This has not been
24 the case with Austin Energy which has as good a bond
25 rating as CPS Energy, even though the City Council is

1 the board. CPS Energy refuses to accept a 10-year
2 window to close the coal plants, even though they are
3 the biggest polluters in this region. This is the
4 critical decade for cities around the world to
5 substantially reduce their fossil fuel emissions.

6 We also have a serious problem with asthma
7 and air quality in San Antonio. This demands action
8 from elected officials. San Antonio is number two in
9 the country in energy use per capita. Only Phoenix uses
10 more energy per person. Efficiency should be our number
11 one source of energy; but this govern --

12 IVAN: Thank you for your participation.
13 Your time is up.

14 The next speaker is Isabel Briseno
15 followed by Alan Montemayor.

16 Isabel, go ahead, please.

17 MS. BRISENO: Hi, Board of Trustees. I'm
18 Isabel Briseno, a campus organizer with Texas Rising,
19 and I live in San Antonio, Texas. I am here to urge you
20 to close the Spruce Coal Plant by 2030 among many other
21 items.

22 Coming out of the summer, San Antonians
23 are ready to hold our City accountable for acts of
24 racial injustice. The Spruce Coal Plant is another item
25 on a long list of things we need to do better on. The

1 plant itself is an environmental atrocity. The
2 emissions from the Spruce Coal Plant contribute to
3 respiratory illness and infection, and asthma is the
4 most prevalent chronic disease in San Antonio among
5 children. What price can you put on that? The many
6 schools and residences within this radius should not
7 have to suffer especially when relying on renewable
8 energy and storage alternatives could save over \$1
9 billion. Worse than the baseline level of pollution
10 that the plant represents, it is in a community that is
11 80-percent nonwhite. So black and Latino population on
12 average bear a pollution burden of 56 percent and
13 63 percent excessive exposure respectively. This means
14 that those of us who pollute the least don't only have
15 to pay higher rates but the public that the City Public
16 Service Board is meant to serve that needs the most help
17 is also taking the largest environmental hit. Closing
18 the Spruce Coal Plant by 2030 is only one step of a
19 bigger picture that results in a better San Antonio to
20 live in, and yet you still have yet to promise to do
21 this. This is part of why I've chosen to join the
22 efforts to recall CPS Energy as it is currently
23 governed.

24 As alluded to, the more energy one uses
25 the less they have to pay. I'm not sure the people that

1 live here care why larger polluters are given breaks.
2 This exploits regular customers and is yet another issue
3 that the public has had little say on. This is why we
4 need a board that the public elects and a Citizens
5 Advisory Committee with public meeting. It shouldn't
6 take us taking the time out of both our morning and
7 evenings to try and get through. Giving opportunities
8 to speak doesn't mean you're listening to us, but I'm
9 glad to hear you're always trying to do better because
10 we're handing you so many ways to do that. Thank you
11 for taking my recommendations and to consider --

12 IVAN: Our next speaker is Alan Montemayor
13 followed by David Pope.

14 And, Bella Nieto, if you are on the line,
15 please press zero to make your comment.

16 Alan, you're up.

17 MR. MONTEMAYOR: Thank you for the
18 opportunity to speak to you. I'm Alan Montemayor, a
19 lifetime San Antonio resident. I ask that you move
20 forward with the Rate Advisory Committee formation and
21 that you make that a transparent and very
22 citizen-involved committee that can also make decisions
23 on what generation sources are used. I ask that you
24 move forward on solar, wind, storage, community solar.
25 Move forward quickly on these. I think that they are

1 critical for jobs in our community and will keep us with
2 a clean breathing environment.

3 I ask that you organize the data on the
4 coal plant closure by 2030 and have an open dialogue
5 with the environmental groups, particularly the Sierra
6 Club such that you can move towards a plan for closing
7 that coal plant by 2030 on a -- sound environmental data
8 and sound fiscal data, as well. We know the bottom line
9 is important; but we also need to move forward with --
10 with this closure.

11 I ask that you have better cooperation
12 with SAWS, your biggest customer, particularly in the
13 area of giving them access to your network, to do
14 automatic meter reading for them and also to put the
15 large solar array out of the H2 Oaks's facility. I ask
16 that you move forward on electric vehicle fleets for
17 CPS, SAWS, City, and other groups around San Antonio and
18 that you move away from natural gas incentives
19 immediately, move more towards electricity and clean
20 electricity at that.

21 Lastly, I ask that you consider more than
22 the bottom line in all of your deliberations about these
23 decisions. Pursuant to that, one of your board members,
24 Ed Kelley, has been really impossible to move forward on
25 many different elements of -- that we've been asking

1 for. He really is bottom line oriented. I ask that he
2 resign immediately. Thank you for your service, and
3 I -- I ask -- and -- and -- that you resign for the
4 betterment of the Board. Thank you.

5 IVAN: Our next speaker is David Pope
6 followed by Diana Rath.

7 And for the second time, Bella Nieto, if
8 you would like to make your comment, please press zero.

9 David, go ahead.

10 MR. POPE: Good evening. My name is David
11 Pope. I am Regional President for Texas Capital Bank,
12 and I am commenting tonight as the 2020 Chairman of the
13 North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Our Chamber
14 represents over a thousand member businesses in the City
15 who rely on CPS to provide a reliable and consistent
16 source of electrical energy to keep their businesses
17 open and their employees working. As a business that is
18 owned by the community of San Antonio and its outlying
19 areas, CPS manages our energy assets based upon
20 reliability, affordability, and environmental
21 responsibly while still being financially accountable to
22 us, its customers.

23 CPS leads as an innovator in the safe and
24 secure reduction of climate emissions and development of
25 renewable energy production, and utility companies from

1 around the world look to CPS as a model of ingenuity,
2 reliability, and customer service. If -- if we have had
3 not any issues with the way that CPS is run today and
4 we're not paying astriment -- astronomical rates, our
5 Chamber members ask the question: Why are we
6 entertaining any challenge to our municipal --
7 municipal -- municipally-owned utility? Thank you for
8 your time tonight.

9 IVAN: Our next speaker will be Diane Rath
10 followed by Dr. Meredith McGuire.

11 Diane?

12 MS. RATH: Good Evening, Members of the
13 Board. I very much appreciate this opportunity to speak
14 the Alamo Area Council of Governments as the lead agency
15 on air quality issues in our 13-county region, and I
16 very much appreciate the partnership with CPS and their
17 commitment to improving air quality in this region, I
18 think, as demonstrated by the early closing of the Deely
19 Plant, even though it cost significant financial
20 resources and made less electricity to this region.
21 That went a long way to improving our air in the region.

22 CPS's commitment to diversify sources of
23 power is also extremely important in improving our air
24 quality. Previously the prime source of emissions in
25 our region was the automobile. At this point, it is

1 evolving so that point source, which is cement plants
2 and power plants, are the prime source of emissions. So
3 it's very important that we work collaboratively and in
4 partnership to ensure we have very financially
5 attractive electric rates; but at the same time
6 maintaining that commitment to cleaner air.

7 AACOG has 13 counties and over 70 members
8 with a very active air quality committee in all 13
9 counties. The commitment from CPS to support the
10 activities in the regions that use CPS is very
11 significant. I also appreciate the support that we
12 receive in disseminating information on funding that's
13 available through TCEQ to help different types of
14 employers, businesses, individuals, schools, have
15 cleaner engines, cleaner emissions, access better
16 technology so they can improve their resources and
17 decrease the emissions. So thank you very much. We
18 appreciate the partnership.

19 IVAN: Our next speaker is Meredith
20 McGuire followed by John Huffaker.

21 Meredith, go ahead.

22 MS. MCGUIRE: Hello. I am Dr. Meredith
23 McGuire, Cochair of the Conservation Committee of our
24 local Sierra Club.

25 CPS Energy's business model is woefully

1 out of date, and the rate structure used for decades is
2 preventing CPS from becoming the kind of nimble and
3 truly flexible utility that makes a rapid transition to
4 21st century solutions.

5 The key to that transition is maximizing
6 energy efficiency throughout the City and promoting
7 extensive local business and residential investment in
8 distributed energy resources, including on-site solar
9 and battery storage. CPS Energy should adopt some of
10 the excellent alternative rate structures that promote
11 precisely the kinds of energy efficiency development of
12 extensive distributed energy resources and energy demand
13 management. CPS Energy must make major changes to its
14 rate structure so you can incent the heaviest users in
15 the commercial class to invest in energy efficiency
16 measures and distributed energy resources, as well.
17 You're doing a disservice to the City for keeping that
18 terrible and inequitable rate structure which is the
19 declining rate structure that CPS Energy uses rather
20 than the inclining tiered rates that Austin uses.

21 San Antonio needs its businesses to be
22 forward-looking, investing in businesses, buildings, and
23 equipment that will strengthen our ability to be
24 resilient in the face of climate change. It's very
25 important that CPS gets fast track on the kinds -- the

1 better kind of a rate structure. Thank you.

2 IVAN: Our next speaker is John Huffaker
3 followed by Lexy Gar -- Garcia.

4 John, go ahead, please.

5 MR. HUFFAKER: Chairman Steen and CPS
6 Board of Trustees and CPS Executive Team, my name is
7 John Huffaker. I'm the Regional Service and Delivery
8 Executive based here in San Antonio, and I'm a CPS
9 customer, as well.

10 For almost ten years now CPS and I are
11 trying to work together in a partnership to bring
12 automatic meter infrastructure and distribution
13 automated benefits to San Antonio, and the result of
14 these programs has been to improve CPS operating
15 efficiency to reduce operational cost and to create a
16 meshed network that can support electric, gas, water
17 meters as well as city street lights and smart city
18 devices' functionality. And like all relationships,
19 it's evolved over time. We have built on our successes,
20 and we're now engaged with SAWS and with the City of
21 San Antonio to maximize the value of the investment that
22 has been made in the CPS network.

23 It's an exciting time to bring new
24 products and services to the markets and to be
25 introduced, in particular, into San Antonio, and the

1 opportunities includes areas such as load control
2 features, environmental sensors, methane detection
3 indoors, street lights that can be turned on and off or
4 dimmed, increasing safety for gas customers with gas
5 meters that can be shut off, water valve monitoring,
6 noise level monitoring, smart parking, and the most
7 exciting part is that this technology is always
8 evolving, and there's more and more features being
9 added. We have a strong education program that's been
10 designed with CPS and a stronger of technical and
11 professionals here in San Antonio, as well.

12 CPS's Flexible Path means that CPS and the
13 City can continue to look for ways to reduce cost,
14 become more efficient and to bring a range of benefits
15 to San Antonio and I'm pron -- proud to be a partner.
16 Thank you.

17 IVAN: Our next speaker is Lexy Garcia
18 followed by Dr. Femi Osidele.

19 Lexy, go ahead.

20 MS. LEXY GARCIA: Hello, Members of the
21 Board. My name is Lexy Garcia. I'm a ratepayer in
22 San Antonio, a Member of District 9, an organizer with
23 Texas Rising and a member of the recall CPS coalition.

24 Today is my first time addressing CPS, and
25 I wondered if this was a lack of being engaged, but

1 after it being pointed out that my public utility
2 company hasn't had an input session such as this one
3 since Feb -- like this one since February of 2019, and
4 going through the sign-up process I realized it's not a
5 lack of engagement but a purposely inconvenient way to
6 get my two minutes of comment heard. This illustrates
7 the approach this Board applies to all other aspects of
8 running this public good. There's not actual intent
9 behind the "people first" philosophy. No analysis
10 (indiscernible) the serious issue of inequity and
11 decision-making on both economic and racial fronts.

12 These are some of the main issues I've
13 heard in conversations from members of the community in
14 collecting signatures to recall CPS. Many don't even
15 realize CPS is a publically-owned utility. This is a
16 major failure on the part of CPS, showing that your
17 board structure functions more like a corporation. The
18 ratepayers of San Antonio deserve more. We deserve fair
19 rates, (indiscernible) users pay more as well as
20 breathable air and a transparent democratic say in our
21 energy source.

22 The urgency of my demands is supported by
23 looking around. We're in a climate crisis, health
24 crisis, and economic collapse. Closing the Spruce Coal
25 Plant by 2030 is crucial to achieving the goals of the

1 climate action plan. It is poisoning our air and
2 warming our Earth, all (indiscernible) not even being
3 profitable which is something that you very much value.
4 There are other solutions. Closure and transitioning to
5 an energy source we collectively decide on could at
6 least marginally slow the damage that your inaction has
7 already done. Unfortunately the expertise doesn't exist
8 within your structure. So the only way forward is to
9 recall and have Council oversee our public utility.
10 Thank you.

11 IVAN: Our next speaker is Femi Osidele
12 followed by Joleen Garcia.

13 Femi, go ahead.

14 DR. OSIDELE: Good evening, Board Members.
15 I'm Dr. Femi Osidele, electrical consult -- consultant,
16 and I also serve as Cochair on ICB's Climate Action
17 Transparent Committee.

18 Today I'm speaking as a CPS Energy
19 customer. My comments center on the public -- public
20 partnerships between CPS Energy and two of San Antonio's
21 finest utilities, namely, SAWS and VIA. This
22 partnership's model is worthy of celebration. First I
23 celebrate their advanced metering infrastructure project
24 as an -- as an excellent example of their water energy
25 lexis. This partnership between CPS Energy and SAWS

1 leverages CPS's existing data communications
2 (indiscernible) to collect and transmit (indiscernible)
3 meter, water meter data. (Indiscernible) operational
4 savings and demand reductions, the year my partnership
5 provides the potential net benefits of \$56 million to
6 SAWS over 20 years. And next I celebrate the renewable
7 natural gas projects which partners CPS Energy with VIA
8 in delivering locally (indiscernible) natural gas as
9 fuel for VIA's bus fleet.

10 Under the RNG projects, our residential
11 and commercial waste now starting landfills will
12 generate (indiscernible) gas to a (indiscernible) and
13 delivery to VIA's compressed natural gas fueling
14 stations. This would significantly reduce operational
15 losses from long distance transmission of alternative
16 gas supplies. Through the sale of certified renewable
17 fuel credits, the -- the RNG project also gives VIA a
18 potential revenue of more than half a million dollars
19 annually. VIA, the aforementioned financial benefits,
20 the AMI and RNG partnerships advance CPS Energy's
21 guiding pillar of environmental responsibility and its
22 commitments to innovation and community engagements. In
23 these big partnerships (indiscernible) San Antonio
24 and -- and (indiscernible) across Texas and the entire
25 nation. Thank you.

1 IVAN: Thank you.

2 Our next speaker is Joleen Garcia followed
3 by Joe Zhou.

4 Joleen, go ahead.

5 MS. JOLEEN GARCIA: Hello. This is Joleen
6 Garcia. We've learned from this pandemic that our
7 economy doesn't work with thousands and thousands of
8 average working families in San Antonio. We're
9 essential workers who don't earn an essential wage.
10 We're workers who lost our jobs during the pandemic, and
11 there are many mothers like myself doing the unpaid
12 labor of staying at home and caring for the kids and
13 their education.

14 And so when CPS Energy quotes from credit
15 rating agencies to justify their continued lack of a
16 strong public process or their business model and then
17 when businesses after businesses, especially
18 businessmen, speak up to adulate and thank you for
19 helping their business model -- but the retired folks,
20 the working families, the students, the
21 environmentalists are sending you a message that your
22 business model doesn't work for us, and I feel -- and I
23 urge you to begin taking notes. Furthermore, consider
24 the contrast in the voices that you hear at today's
25 public input session, and it's a strong indicator that

1 you need to listen to certain voices that you haven't
2 been listening to before and -- and you need to not be
3 so quick to turn to the business community, the Chambers
4 of Commerce, and et cetera.

5 You know, the community input process that
6 you have currently with the CAC unfortunately does --
7 they serve in an advisory capacity, and the
8 decision-making structure that you have is outdated. It
9 does not reflect the best practices that we now know
10 about creating a democratic process to create good
11 decisions that benefit our community.

12 So we need for you to mold policy
13 alongside especially black and Latino families which are
14 the most impacted in our community. And so I urge you
15 to take seriously what we are say --

16 IVAN: Thank you for your participation.
17 Your time is up.

18 Our next speaker is Joe Zhou followed by
19 Phillip Cabrera.

20 Joe, go ahead.

21 MR. ZHOU: Thank you to the Board of
22 Trustees, Paula, and the rest of the team for having me
23 at this venue. My name is Joe Zhou, the CEO at Quidnet
24 Energy.

25 We've been actually working in the region

1 for some time in consultation with CPS to develop a
2 geologic storage resource for storing energy as
3 pressurized water underground at a very low cost. What
4 I hope to comment on today is first express our
5 excitement and support for the Flexible Path and the
6 Flex Bundle Initiative underway and also provide an
7 update of our work with CPS in the region. For context,
8 the largest form of storage that's done in the world
9 today for grids is that you pump water up a hill and you
10 let it come back down through turbines to regenerate the
11 electricity. Unfortunately that is not available to CPS
12 due to a lack of mountains with the sufficient elevation
13 in the region. So what we do at Quidnet is instead of
14 pumping water up the hill to store the energy, we pump
15 water down underground to store it under pressure
16 instead. The civil scope is much simpler and,
17 therefore, the cost profile is much lower for this form
18 of storage, and it's built with very (indiscernible)
19 industrial components with supply chains that mated to
20 the region and mated to the state. It's really a
21 marriage at the end of the day between pump hydro
22 storage and the oil and gas industry. We're based in
23 Texas. The team is a combination of oil and gas
24 operators and power project developers, and we're
25 working with the Department of Energy to develop this

1 resource in key markets, including CPS. With the help
2 of the Epicenter team, we've been able to get started
3 with CPS in a partnership to look at this resource and
4 much similar to how you would try to measure the wind
5 speed in a given region before you develop the wind
6 project. We're actually in an active test well to
7 validate the geologic source resource to -- to look at
8 the storage pressure and hydraulic and so on and kind of
9 we're able to see storage pressures of comparable to the
10 largest pump storage facilities in the country, and we
11 certainly appreciate this opportunity to speak at this
12 venue. I think the Flex Bundle Initiative is an
13 important catalyst to this market, and we look forward
14 to supporting CPS's Flexible Path.

15 IVAN: Our next speaker is Phillip Cabrera
16 followed by Russell Seal.

17 Phillip, go ahead.

18 MR. CABRERA: Hello, this is Phillip
19 Cabrera. I live in District 8. I've -- I've --
20 actually, I was one of the people who petitioned for the
21 recall CPS because I really do believe in the directive.
22 I believe that you really should replace the current
23 Board of Trustees with the City Council because what we
24 need in this City is democratic energy, for energy
25 that's really geared more toward democracy. If we're

1 going to have a public utility, it should be ran by the
2 public. There should be real input when it comes to the
3 community and rates because right now the rate system
4 isn't fair. It's ridiculous that we have the same rates
5 as some other company like H-E-B when their usage is way
6 higher than the average person, the average
7 San Antonian, and the fact of the matter is this -- this
8 isn't a partisan issue. When I was petitioning on
9 election day, there are plenty of Republicans who agreed
10 that this Board of Trustees should be replaced by the
11 City Council and that the Mayor should be really at the
12 head of it because, like I said, this is a public
13 utility that should be ran by the public, and the
14 community should have the opportunity to replace that --
15 you know, whoever is in the Council for that reason, to
16 have that accountability. That's what the City needs.
17 So I've had Trumpers sign off on this petition. I've
18 had Democrats sign off on this petition, the
19 progressives, people who are moderate. It really
20 doesn't matter because all in all this is the community
21 and they all agree that they have a say in what they pay
22 for utility. It's kind of interesting to see how many
23 people from CPS are speaking seemingly more than actual
24 members, you know, or regular ratepayers, your average
25 customer for CPS. But do you know what? I appreciate

1 this opportunity that you gave me, and it was nice to
2 speak with y'all. So thanks. That's pretty much --

3 IVAN: Our next speaker is Russell Seal
4 followed by Jack Finger.

5 Russell, go ahead.

6 MR. SEAL: Yes. Thank you, Board, and
7 this -- my name is Russell Seal, and I'm a former leader
8 of the environmental stakeholders and I am a pharmacist
9 and who has previously worked pandemics in the H1N1 and
10 gave thousands of vaccinations.

11 Dr. Mackey, tonight I am speaking directly
12 to you as an educator. I previously talked to the Board
13 about ventilations in schools and how FlexSTEP which
14 can -- contribute to helping us during the pandemic in
15 taking a -- leadership and getting ahold of the
16 pandemic. This -- we have this one. The vaccine is
17 coming along, but we will have future pandemics and it
18 does not help and/or the environment. It has helped and
19 the environment. We have to get our buildings in shape
20 to get greater ventilations. This has been talked about
21 in the debate by President Elect Biden. This is
22 something CPS Energy must take a leadership role in
23 locally. You have the expertise to reach out. I
24 previously asked you to read the Buildings Helping
25 Buildings. Hopefully y'all have all read it by now and

1 hopefully y'all have all saw the news broadcast by April
2 Molina concerning ventilation in schools and the state
3 of our HVAC systems in our public school systems, and I
4 am sorely disappointed to hear today that the FlexSTEP
5 has been postponed. This is a key component to address
6 our energy efficiency and the health of our buildings.
7 We have to do both, and nobody has reached back out to
8 me after I asked y'all to reach out to me, and I've sent
9 the information to Eugster. He has not reached out or
10 responded to it, and I'm very disappointed that this
11 important issue has not been addressed. Thank you.

12 IVAN: Our next speaker is Jack Finger
13 followed by Melissa Kazen.

14 And, Dennis Roberts, if you'd like to make
15 your comment, please press zero now.

16 MR. FINGER: Yes. Mr. -- for all the
17 Board Members, this is Mr. Jack M. Finger for the
18 record. Number of crocks, yes, crocks that have been
19 mentioned today. Ms. Gold-Williams said that we need to
20 conserve our electricity and natural gas. So what
21 happens? We conserve. Our bills go down. CPS gets
22 less revenue and then CPS says, oh, we need to re --
23 reward such conversation [sic] with a rate increase.
24 Yeah. I'm sorry. That doesn't make any sense.

25 Crock number two, it's a fact that it

1 costs more to use renewable energy compared with -- with
2 electricity generated from -- from coal and natural --
3 natural gas, consequently, all -- all due to -- to
4 manmade global warming, another big crock because there
5 is no evidence that manmade global warming exists. Yes.
6 Yes. And the -- because wind doesn't always blow and
7 the sun doesn't always shine. Yes. I'm sorry. That
8 doesn't make any sense, either.

9 Number -- crock number three is the fact
10 that businesses get a free ride compared to residences.
11 The businesses do not have to economize like the
12 residences do. Does that make any sense to anybody
13 except maybe the business community? No. I'm sorry. I
14 don't like that.

15 And crock number four. So everyone has
16 had to economize to conserve. Has CPS reduced its force
17 and has Paula and other top individuals reduced their
18 six-figure salaries like other institutions have had to?
19 Well, I'm sorry. Maybe it's time that Mr. Kelley
20 that -- if you don't want a committee, fine; but it's
21 time that somebody fired Ms. Paula -- Paula Gold-Will --
22 Williams and all these other people who are putting out
23 these crazy things. No. Stop it. Goodbye.

24 IVAN: Our next speaker is Melissa Kazen
25 followed by Celia Valles.

1 And, Dennis Roberts, if you are on the
2 call, please press zero if you'd like to make a call.

3 Melissa, go ahead, please.

4 MS. KAZEN: Good evening. I'm Melissa
5 Kazen, Executive Vice President of Communities in
6 Schools of San Antonio, and on behalf of Communities in
7 Schools, I want to express our sincere gratitude to the
8 entire CPS Energy team for the support you have shown to
9 our students and families by putting people first.

10 For years CPS employees have served as
11 mentors to our students at Lanier, Kennedy, Sam Houston
12 and South San High Schools, students who traveled once a
13 month for four years to the CPS offices to meet with
14 their mentors. CPS mentors not only helped our students
15 professionally by assisting with goal setting, résumé
16 writing and job-interviewing skills but, more
17 importantly, providing the consistent positive role
18 model throughout their high school years.

19 When the pandemic hit and school buildings
20 closed, CPS mentors maintained their commitment to our
21 students and remained in their lives by becoming pen
22 pals so important during this time of uncertainty to
23 retain that sense of routine. So we thank you for
24 putting students first.

25 CPS employees have historically been one

1 of our biggest supporters of our annual stuff the bus
2 school supply drive, last year collecting over
3 4,000 pounds of school supplies for students and
4 families in need. So our families don't have to choose
5 between buying food or buying school supplies. Thank
6 you CPS for putting families first.

7 And, lastly, we thank you for your
8 flexibility in working with our families that struggled
9 financially under normal circumstances who, when the
10 pandemic hit, found themselves in an even greater and
11 more vulnerable economic state. By leveraging donated
12 funds with your existing assistance programs and payment
13 plans, Communities in Schools was able to provide over
14 \$10,000 in support to families to ensure their lights,
15 heat, and most importantly for learning -- their laptops
16 could remain charged so learning could continue. CPS,
17 thank you for being the great community partner that you
18 are, and we look forward, Communities in Schools, to
19 continuing our partnership for many years to come.
20 Thank you.

21 IVAN: Our next speaker is Celia Valles
22 followed by Dee Dee Belmares.

23 Celia, go ahead.

24 MS. VALLES: Hello, my name is Celia
25 Valles, and I am not a chairman or business executive

1 but a regular CPS ratepayer in San Antonio. I've been
2 collecting petition signatures for the recall CPS
3 petition, and in talking to other ratepayers, I've heard
4 stories ranging from annoyance over CEO pay to the
5 relating of anxiety over power shutoffs, even in the
6 summer. Collecting these stories and opinion is
7 enthusiasm for change within CPS. Ratepayers want a
8 utility company that goes beyond self-congratulating
9 Facebook videos and actually demonstrate the value and
10 incorporating ratepayers' needs and input. CPS both
11 saying "people first" and having low rates -- but before
12 2020 was disconnecting tens of thousands of customers'
13 power yearly, and while families in one of the most
14 economic segregated cities in the country, we're getting
15 the power shut off last year. The current CEO was
16 getting raises and bonuses and made almost a million
17 dollars. Not only this but CPS has refused to commit to
18 shut down the largest of the polluter, the Spruce Coal
19 Power Plant, which disproportionately affects people of
20 color. Someone needs to explain to me how this is
21 "people first" because all I see is a public utility
22 acting like a private company, caring more about their
23 pockets than a family -- family's ability to breathe
24 clean air and pay their bill. CPS has the opportunity
25 to change for the better of the community it serves.

1 This looks like any (indiscernible) policy of
2 disconnections for household at or below 200 percent of
3 the poverty level, creating a more robust FlexSTEP
4 program, creating more equitable rate structures,
5 creating a Rate Advisory Committee with actual ratepayer
6 power, and mandating energy policies that include
7 shutting down the Spruce Coal Plant by 2030. When CPS
8 says they are "people first," I don't believe them, but
9 rising to the occasion and meeting these demands would
10 be a step in the right direction. That is my comment.

11 IVAN: Our next speaker is Dee Dee
12 Belmares followed by Ashton Condell.

13 Dee Dee, go ahead.

14 MS. BELMARES: Good evening. My name is
15 Dee Dee Belmares. I am an organizer with Public
16 Citizen. I'm not a misguided environmentalist as
17 Richard Perez calls those of us working to protect our
18 planet from the climate -- climate crisis.

19 The last time CPS Energy held a public
20 input session in February of 2019 -- at that time, I had
21 called on the utility -- utility to show the financial
22 data so that we can move away from dirty coal. Today,
23 once again, as I have been doing since then, I'm asking
24 that CPS Energy be transparent with its customers and
25 show us how closing the Spruce Coal Plant by 2030 would

1 force a rate increase. It was good to hear today after
2 the Board of Trustee meeting that the Rate Advisory
3 Committee will finally be voted on possibly in December.
4 The environmental community has worked hard to give our
5 recommendations to CPS Energy, although y'all have never
6 acknowledged our recommendations. It's also
7 disappointing to hear comments repeatedly from Board of
8 Trustee Ed Kelley -- Kelley that a community-driven
9 committee is the stupidest thing that he's ever heard
10 of.

11 Mr. Kelley, community involvement should
12 never be called, as you named it, political hogwash. I
13 want to thank Trustee Gonzalez for recognizing the value
14 of such a community -- committee.

15 Finally, I would like to express how
16 horrified I was to read in the media in deceleration in
17 the current that force disconnections of our poorest
18 residents by CPS have more than doubled during CEO Paula
19 Gold-Williams' tenure. All of CPS Energy, the Board of
20 Trustees, the City leadership, the Mayor should be
21 ashamed of that. So that's why I'm calling the utility
22 to permanently end disconnections for our most
23 vulnerable residents, and I'm also telling you
24 everything that I just said are some of the reasons
25 why --

1 IVAN: Thank you for your participation.
2 Your time is up.

3 Our next speaker is Ashton Condel followed
4 by Steve Devos.

5 Ashton, go ahead.

6 MR. CONDEL: Almost two weeks ago the
7 people of San Antonio voted for leadership at the
8 highest level that ran a campaign based largely on
9 believing science and following the advice of
10 scientists. The people of San Antonio stood with our
11 City Council when they voted to adopt the City's Climate
12 Action & Adaptation Plan which would bring us in line
13 with the Paris Climate Accord. However, our public
14 utility acts as a barrier to these goals, and I'm afraid
15 that the CPS Board of Directors have displayed a deep
16 ideological commitment to gradualism which ignores the
17 dire warnings of scientists. It's an act of climate
18 denialism and an attack on scientific consensus for any
19 public body to suggest that we should continue to
20 operate coal plants leading to the 2040s; but that's
21 exactly what CPS plans on doing. Spruce 1 and 2 Coal
22 Plants are responsible for half of the City's carbon
23 emissions as well as pollutants that make overwhelmingly
24 people of color and surrounding working class
25 neighborhoods suffer from higher rates of respiratory

1 illness than other parts of the City. Spruce is also
2 costing the City hundreds of millions of dollars, money
3 which could be saved by switching to renewables which is
4 not only good for our planet and our lives but it's good
5 for our budgets.

6 Finally, this pandemic has helped to
7 reveal the many social weaknesses we have as a City.
8 Back in the spring, our Mayor and City Council made a
9 pledge to address these issues of inequity and come out
10 of this pandemic stronger and ahead of where we were
11 before. We believe that CPS has the opportunity to lead
12 the way in this transformation but not as it's currently
13 structured. Why do we live in the poorest big city in
14 the country and yet we pay the CEO of our public utility
15 a million dollars last year even after they disconnected
16 a record number of people from their power? Would a
17 truly accountable public body allow that? It's time to
18 find out. You put the public back in City public
19 services.

20 IVAN: Our next speaker is Steve Devos --
21 Devos followed by David Walter.

22 Steve, go ahead.

23 MR. DEVOS: Thank you. Good evening. I
24 thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name
25 is Steve Devos. I'm the Senior Programmer of Franklin

1 Energy here in San Antonio.

2 Franklin Energy provides grid optimization
3 programs, (indiscernible) next generation energy
4 efficiency, demand response, and distributed energy
5 resource programs. We have served over a hundred and 50
6 utilities nationally over the last 25 years, and
7 currently here in San Antonio we work in partnership
8 with CPS Energy as part of the nationally-recognized and
9 award-winning STEP program. We've enjoyed that business
10 relationship with CPS Energy since 2016 when we opened
11 our office on Wurzbach Road. That partnership, along
12 with our diverse and engaged local staff of 25, has
13 allowed us to jointly create value and lasting impact in
14 all the communities that we serve, and, as a result of
15 that, we've been fortunate to help people use the
16 world's most precious resources more efficiently.

17 In the last few years, we've installed
18 energy saving measures in 30,000 single and multifamily
19 homes. We've weatherized more than 12,000
20 income-qualified homes. We've provided energy
21 efficiency education kits to over 40,000 San Antonio
22 students, and we've also processed over 29,000 rebates
23 for energy saving HVAC equipment and installation. The
24 savings impa -- impact realized from that activity is
25 equivalent to the reduction of over 95,000 metric tons

1 of CO2. As a result of that, we're excited about the
2 City's continued role in a cleaner, flexible, and
3 affordable future for all San Antonios -- San Antonians,
4 and we're voicing our support for CPS Energy's Flexible
5 Path journey. We believe it will be a responsible yet
6 essential service for the community. Thanks again for
7 the opportunity to provide comments, and we wish you all
8 a very safe rest of 2020. Thank you.

9 IVAN: Our next speaker is David Walter
10 followed by Klaus Veezerfrom (phonetic).

11 David, go ahead.

12 MR. WALTER: Good evening, Trustees,
13 Management, and the Public. My name is David Walter,
14 and I'm a citizen of San Antonio, and I currently serve
15 as the Chair of the CPS Citizens Advisory Committee.

16 As you mentioned in your opening comments,
17 our Committee is made up of 15 members, 10 of which are
18 appointed directly by each City Council member. We meet
19 monthly, and I'm proud to say that during this pandemic
20 time we've met each month during this period to address
21 many of the challenging issues that CPS is facing this
22 year. We are a very diverse group with backgrounds that
23 include community health, environment, transportation,
24 energy, architecture, public clera -- public relations,
25 and the military.

1 In my years serving as -- on the
2 committee, I have been very impressed with the
3 committee's focus, diverse, and very candid feedback
4 that this committee provides to CPS management. From
5 the C -- CEO on down through the organization, CPS has
6 always engaged to seek feedback from the Citizens
7 Advisory Committee as well as other community
8 stakeholders. There are many voices and priorities that
9 pull this utility in different directions, and CPS
10 always seeks to listen and thoughtfully engage everyone.
11 This is a very complex business that requires skilled
12 professional people to make it work. From my
13 perspective, having engaged directly with all levels of
14 management, the CPS team is uniquely qualified to manage
15 this complex business through very challenging times
16 while relentlessly focusing on serving this community.
17 I believe CPS is a true asset that provides enormous
18 benefit to this community, and I'm very proud of the
19 work that the Citizens Advisory Committee does to
20 provide feedback in a conduit from our community. Thank
21 you.

22 IVAN: Our final speaker is Klaus
23 Vizeerfrom.

24 Klaus, go ahead.

25 MR. VIZEERFROM: Thank you. My name is

1 Klaus Liceworm (phonetic). I run a 90-year-old
2 engineering and manufacturing business, and I'm also a
3 CPS ratepayer in my personal home. I want to thank the
4 Board and CPS for the opportunity to speak before all of
5 you tonight.

6 CPS is a business partner to San Antonio
7 residents and businesses, providing 14 percent to the
8 City budget. Changing the management model to one run
9 by the City Council would potentially lead to an
10 increased cost and diminished response time to customers
11 (indiscernible). CPS Energy has always been progressive
12 and forward-thinking, having created programs to improve
13 consumer usage enough such that CPS Energy has been able
14 to delay the construction of an entire energy-producing
15 plant.

16 Rules, rates are a function of consumption
17 and infrastructure utilization. Homeowners require
18 infrastructure to be accessible 24/7 but only require it
19 during certain periods of a time of consumption. This
20 is not very efficient, but that is just the way that
21 works. Businesses require infrastructure that is
22 utilized at a maximum potential efficiency and
23 consumption level highly predictable and, therefore,
24 cost effective.

25 We have with CPS Energy a partner that has

1 always been reliable and very cost effective. They have
2 also been very people centered. Let's not damage this
3 relationship. If the efficient operations of CPS Energy
4 is lost, then the City of San Antonio will see a
5 shortfall in its income, resulting in higher taxes to
6 its residents, and it will cost us all more just to live
7 our lives normally. Thank you.

8 IVAN: Thank you very much. Thank you for
9 everyone who participated in the public input session.
10 This concludes that portion of the agenda, and I will
11 turn the call back over to Chair Steen.

12 CHAIRMAN STEEN: Thank you, Ivan. Can you
13 hear me?

14 IVAN: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN STEEN: Good. I'd like to
16 express the Board's sincere appreciation to everyone who
17 took time to share comments with us this evening. We
18 realize that we manage your community's assets, and in
19 doing so feedback from you is vital to the -- the
20 success of our organization and our community's future.
21 As a reminder, members of the public do not have to
22 attend a board meeting or a public input session to
23 communicate with the Board or with CPS Energy. There's
24 several different communication channels. You can email
25 us at feedback@cpsenergy.com, call us at 210-353-2222 or

1 you can do it by mail to CPS Energy, Attention Public
2 Input, 500 McCullough, San Antonio 78215.

3 The Members of the Board, if there is no
4 additional business per day -- for today, do I have a
5 motion to adjourn this meeting?

6 DR. MACKEY: I also move to --

7 MS. GONZALEZ: I just --

8 DR. MACKEY: Go ahead.

9 MS. GONZALEZ: Okay. Go ahead. Go ahead,
10 Dr. Mackey. I'm sorry about that. Go ahead.

11 DR. MACKEY: I move to adjourn the
12 meeting, Mr. Chairman.

13 CHAIRMAN STEEN: So we have a motion from
14 Dr. Mackey and I think maybe a second from Ms. Gonzalez;
15 is that correct?

16 MS. GONZALEZ: Yes, it is, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN STEEN: Thank you, ma'am. So all
18 in favor of adjourning this meeting, please signal by
19 saying aye.

20 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye, aye, aye.

21 CHAIRMAN STEEN: Any opposed?

22 (No responses)

23 CHAIRMAN STEEN: Thank you very much.

24 This meeting is adjourned.

25

1 HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION OF THE
CPS ENERGY BOARD PUBLIC MEETING

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I, Debra Overstreet, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
in and for the State of Texas, do hereby certify to the
following:

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That the AUDIO-RECORDED CPS ENERGY BOARD PUBLIC
MEETING was transcribed to the best of my ability;

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I further certify that I am neither counsel for,
related to, nor employed by any of the participants in
the audio-recorded meeting, and further that I am not
financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of
this meeting.

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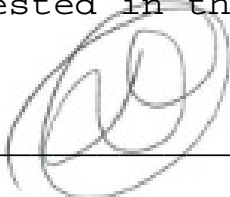
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