



OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM STEPHEN WHITBURN THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 2020

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THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED AND DECIDED BY THE NEW MAYOR AND COUNCIL

SAN DIEGO, CA – San Diego City Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn (District 3) issued the following statement regarding the Special Council Meeting on the Franchise Agreement for Gas and Electric Services for the City of San Diego.

“The newly-elected Mayor and Council must not only have time to review the bid from SDG&E, but also to ensure the City’s Climate Action Plan, Climate Equity Fund, and environmental goals are sufficiently funded and addressed, that the City’s ratepayers and taxpayers are adequately protected, that the City’s full menu of options have been thoroughly vetted, and that we proceed in a way that supports workers and working families,” said Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn.

The City of San Diego granted franchises for gas and electric services to San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) in 1970 for 50 years, which are set to expire on January 17th, 2021. Franchises can only be awarded, extended, or amended by a 2/3 vote of the Council. The City received one bid from SDG&E which was kept sealed and opened at today’s informational meeting.

Many residents and representatives of stakeholder groups asked the Council to request more time before deciding how to proceed, including the Climate Action Campaign, Citizens’ Franchise Alliance, San Diego 350, the San Diego Climate Hub, Alliance San Diego, and Hillcrest Indivisible.

“It is clear that our new Mayor and Council should be given the opportunity to pursue the best deal possible for our City and its residents.”

Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn represents San Diego’s Third Council District, including communities of Downtown, Little Italy, Bankers Hill, Mission Hills, Middletown, Hillcrest, University Heights, North Park, Normal Heights, Old Town, South Park, and Golden Hill.

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