

December 7, 2020

Chairman Steen and the CPS Board of Trustees,

I am writing to offer some clarification regarding statements made during the November 16, 2020, CPS Energy Board of Trustees meeting and reaffirm the Sierra Club's interest in helping develop the FlexSTEP program into a robust community-facing initiative responsive to the challenges of COVID-19 recovery efforts in San Antonio.

During the presentation of the FlexSTEP Bridge Extension vote (Item 10), Chairman Steen asked if CPS Energy's leadership had been in dialogue with the Sierra Club about the FlexSTEP program. As mentioned in the meeting, the Sierra Club had submitted [a third-party report on the program by Optimal Energy](#) recommending ambitious goals for the next 10-year tranche. CEO Paula Gold-Williams stated that the Sierra Club's membership had been invited several times to meet to discuss FlexSTEP but that we had refused each time.

“[The Sierra Club is] not really talking with us right now,” Gold-Williams reported at the meeting. “We've invited them on multiple occasions to talk to us and they choose not to currently.”

It is admittedly difficult to keep track of the “who's who” in the evolving constellation of community interests. But let me assure you that dialogue was the intention behind the release of Optimal's report on May 22, 2020. Indeed, before the report's release we held a virtual meeting between the report's author, Rick Luna of CPS Energy and several other individuals to ask questions and get input. We did also share the report with Rick Luna and several other individuals within CPS Energy. We remain interested in speaking with the utility's leadership, Council, and Mayor Ron Nirenberg.

To our knowledge, we have not yet received any feedback from CPS's leadership to the submitted report or an invitation to discuss the program. Neither have we, to the best of our knowledge, received acknowledgement to an October Open Letter we joined along with nearly two dozen community groups expounding upon the technical aspect of Optimal Energy's report by recommending FlexSTEP be employed as a critical tool of COVID-19 recovery.

I am writing today to reaffirm the Sierra Club's interest in discussing this vital community program at any time that is mutually agreeable. We would also be happy to invite the report's author to discuss his methodology and conclusions about medium and long-term goals for the program.

Respectfully,

Greg Harman