

Good morning, Sunset Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

My name is Dana Wen and I am a resident of Austin. I am the Vice President of 350 Austin, a nonprofit organization that is acting locally in the global climate movement. We are the Central Texas affiliate of 350.org, an international network of groups working towards a healthy climate and a just, sustainable future.

I am here today to address LCRA's Sunset Review and to share some feedback from my community.

First, I would like to commend LCRA's swift and effective response to the Highland Lakes flooding in October of this year. Without LCRA's monitoring and quick decision-making, I believe the flooding impact would have been much more widespread.

My concerns about LCRA center around a lack of long-term planning.

In the future, we can expect major flood events like the Highland Lakes flooding to occur more frequently. This is because of climate change. Climate research indicates that the flood and drought cycle in Central Texas will increase in intensity. We have already begun to experience record high temperatures in the summer months and record-breaking flood conditions.

In addition, the Central Texas region is booming in terms of population growth. As more and more people move to the area, demand for water resources will increase, especially as summer temperatures continue to rise. As you are well aware, our water supply is not infinite. We must plan carefully for the future in order to ensure that water is available to meet the needs of a growing population.

Long-term planning is also critical in regards to LCRA's electrical generation business. LCRA continues to run Fayette Coal Plant, a major source of air and water pollution in the state of Texas. It is well-known that coal plants are a losing investment, and this is only taking the financial perspective into account. We pay an even steeper price in terms of community and environmental health, which is severely impacted when fossil fuels are extracted and burned.

LCRA already has clean, renewable alternatives to dirty fossil fuels. Texas has a huge potential to be a leader in wind and solar power, and LCRA is well-positioned to be at the forefront of these revolutionary changes. I am confident that investment in renewable wind and solar energy technologies will prove to be a winner in the long-term. Renewable energy is the real cash cow, not dirty fossil fuels.

So, as a concerned citizen, I request that LCRA create long-term plans for its electrical generation and water-related businesses, on a scale of 10, 20, 50, and 100 years. These plans must take climate change and population growth into account, and be backed by sound scientific research. The health and wellbeing of our children and grandchildren depend on it.

Thank you.