**B. Powers May 14, 2024 Statement**

Big picture, encapsulated in the County’s motto: “*The noblest motive is the public good*.” I have always been drawn to that motto. This campaign is all about the public good.

FDR, 1932: “*Where the community, a city or a county or district is not satisfied with the service rendered or the rates charged by the private utility, it has the undeniable right as one of the functions of government to set up its own governmentally owned and operated service*.”

We are not satisfied by the service being rendered by SDGE.

We are not satisfied by the highest rates in the nation.

We are not satisfied with record-breaking profits.

We are not satisfied with relentless attacks on rooftop solar.

We are not satisfied with fixed charges that undercut rooftop solar and energy conservation.

We are not satisfied with the disinformation campaign against public power directed by SDGE’s political action committee.

San Diego City Charter, Section 104: “. . . *any franchise may be terminated by ordinance whenever the City shall determine to acquire . . . the property of any utility . . . for the welfare of the City*.” In this case, the welfare of the City requires it.

Let’s talk about today. Today we are submitting the signatures we have gathered over the last five months to the Office of the City Clerk for certification.

Thank you to our hundreds of volunteers and many donors. We understand that we have collected more signatures with volunteers than any other initiative in the history of San Diego.

24,006 valid signatures are required to mandate the full City Council hold a public hearing and vote on whether to place this initiative on the ballot in November 2024. We are submitting more than 30,000 signatures. The City Clerk’s Office will let us know if we made the signature threshold.

For the resources we had available to us, the volunteers and campaign staff have done a tremendous job. It takes courage and moxie to gather signatures in public spaces. Hats-off to you.

We will continue making public electric power a front-line issue in this election year.

We will also continue building on the momentum we have achieved, for the reasons Mayor Tom Johnson of Cleveland enunciated in 1901: "*I believe in municipal ownership of these monopolies because if you do not own them they in turn will own you. They will rule your politics, corrupt your institutions and finally destroy your liberties*."

Tom Johnson fought for, and ultimately obtained, a public electric utility for Cleveland. In the recent past, Long Island and Kauai Island achieved the same goal. The City of San Francisco is pursuing public power. That is our aspiration for San Diego.

Thank you again to the Power San Diego volunteers, the donors, and our fine campaign staff.

Onward!