

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	15-AFC-01
Project Title:	Puente Power Project
TN #:	205699
Document Title:	Water Supply Assessment
Description:	Letter from Energy Commission Staff to City of Oxnard regarding Water Supply Assessment for the Puente Power Project
Filer:	Jon Hilliard
Organization:	California Energy Commission
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov



August 12, 2015

VIA E-MAIL

City of Oxnard
Water Resources Division
251 South Hayes Avenue
Oxnard, CA 93030

RE: Water Supply Assessment (WSA) for Puente Power Project

On April 15, 2015 an Application for Certification (AFC) was submitted to the California Energy Commission by NRG Oxnard Energy Center, LLC (applicant) seeking permission to construct and operate the Puente Power Project (proposed project). As lead agency under CEQA for permitting of thermal power plants of 50 megawatts or more, California Energy Commission staff is currently analyzing potential environmental impacts of the proposed project including those related to water supply.

Because the site is located within the City of Oxnard Water Service Area, we are requesting your opinion on whether the proposed project warrants completion of a Water Supply Assessment in accordance with California Water Code Section 10910 - 10915. Based on information submitted to us by the applicant, it appears that a WSA is not required because it does not fit the definition of a "project" under Section 10912(a).

The proposed project is an industrial plant which would have 17 employees during operation and require less than 20 afy of water. The facility would occupy approximately three acres of land, consisting of a combustion-gas turbine connected to an electric generator and equipped with an emissions control system and other auxiliary systems. Because the proposed project would use the existing administration building and warehouse of the Mandalay Generating Station, its proposed enclosures would only contain equipment or system components so no new floor area would be constructed. Therefore, the proposed project is not applicable under Section 10912 (a)(5), because it would not house more than 1,000 people, would not occupy more than 40 acres, and would not have more than 65,000 square feet of floor area.

Additionally, the proposed project is not applicable under Section 10912 (a)(7), because its water use is less than a 500 dwelling unit project. We referred to the City of Oxnard's 2010 Urban Water Management Plan and found that water use of single-family residences in 2010 averaged 0.41 acre-feet per dwelling. Calculating equivalent use of a 500 dwelling unit project results in 205 afy, which is well above the proposed project's water demand. Furthermore, because the proposed project would replace the existing Mandalay Generating Station (where the annual potable water consumption during the past five years has ranged from approximately 38 to 88 afy), the net result is a

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decreased demand of potable water compared to current demand at the Mandalay property.

Please let us know in writing whether or not you agree with our findings. If you believe our findings to be in error and determine that the proposed project requires a WSA, please consider this letter as staff's formal request to the City of Oxnard for a WSA. An electronic copy of the AFC, which is the applicant's in depth description of the proposed project including its water use, can be found at www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/puente/. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 651-3758 or marylou.taylor@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Marylou Taylor, Associate Civil Engineer
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental
Protection Division

cc: Docket (15-AFC-01)