

## DOCKETED

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## Behind the Scenes

I have owned a small business for 31 years and receive the Pacific Coast Business Times. Its editor has supported the NRG Company's construction of a gas-fired electric generating plant in Oxnard. But in the July 24-30 issue he wrote, "I was a bit surprised" when my phone rang July 22 from Jim Tovias...the two-term (Santa Paula) council member called to say he would support locating it in the unincorporated area just down-wind of Santa Paula.

If the editor was "a bit surprised," Santa Paulans will be appalled. If this issue was ever discussed by our Council, I heard nothing in public session. Mr. Tovias may now say that he was just expressing his personal opinion. **If so, he needs to raise such an issue publicly in Santa Paula, and obtain Council approval before lobbying an editor and others to support bringing us a plant that every community in the state seeks to avoid.**

The people of Oxnard will also be surprised. Their past Councils, current council, and ordinary citizens have spent the last half century working to rid themselves of such plants. Their level of support for NRG and its plants is again evident here tonight.

A large number of Ventura County residents opposed this "peaker" plant at the July 15 CPUC public hearing, but Santa Paulans did not attend. We had no inkling that one of our own Council members would be lobbying behind the scenes to bring it next-door to us.

One wonders why Councilman Tovias is lobbying so hard to bring us something which Oxnard is struggling to discard. If it were relocated to Santa Paula it would be necessary to construct new expensive, ugly power lines along with their electromagnetic concerns. It would also require large amounts of water for cooling purposes.

Promoters always talk about "jobs". There would be some temporary construction workers (mostly from out of area), but only 17 permanent positions. There will be no jobs lost if this speaker plant is not constructed in Ventura County.

Throughout the nation, electric generating plants have long been shuttled into the poorest communities, and NRG (with quiet assistance from our own Councilman) see Santa Paula as an easy mark.

**Do you believe in Santa Claus?** Tovia and the promoters speak of bringing us millions of dollars from these companies. This is at best an effort to treat us as suckers and fools. **Are you wondering** how many council members from Ventura, Thousand Oaks, Moorpark, Ojai, Fillmore, Port Hueneme, Simi Valley, Camarillo, Newbury Park, and Santa Barbara will be lobbying to bring this peach their way?

California and the entire nation are rapidly moving away from fossil fuels. Power companies need to help customers install solar panels on our own homes and improve insulation. If there is need for “peaker” plants, they should not be located near a populated area.

This is a health, quality of life, and community-perception issue. Natural gas is perhaps not as bad as some fossil fuels, but a Santa Paula plant would bring significant air pollution, ugly power lines, and additional greenhouse problems. Oxnard has long had quality of life and community-perception issues, largely due to such plants. Santa Paula is about to begin construction of a new development which can improve our tax base, community perception, property values, and quality of life. **We won't be needing an electric generating plant.**

**And the people of Oxnard deserve some relief; they won't be needing it either.**

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