

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	15-AFC-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Puente Power Project
<b>TN #:</b>	205905
<b>Document Title:</b>	Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson Comments on the CEC Informational Hearing for the Proposed Puente Energy Facility Application
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	Patty Paul
<b>Organization:</b>	Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Public Agency
<b>Submission Date:</b>	8/28/2015 2:09:56 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	8/28/2015

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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**HANNAH-BETH JACKSON**  
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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JOINT COMMITTEES  
FAIRS, ALLOCATION  
& CLASSIFICATION  
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

August 27, 2015

Alana Mathews  
Public Advisor  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-12  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
publicadviser@energy.ca.gov

**RE: California Energy Commission Informational Hearing for the proposed "Puente" Energy Facility Application (Docket # 15-AFC-01)**

Dear Ms. Mathews:

As proposed, the "Puente" power plant facility would be located in my district, which includes the Western half of Ventura County and all of Santa Barbara County.

First and foremost, I want to express my continued support for the moratorium prohibiting the expansion of existing or development of new electrical generating facilities within the Oxnard Coastal Zone. I remain deeply concerned that Southern California Edison (SCE) has an application pending before the California Energy Commission (CEC) for approval of a contract with NRG Energy for a new 262 MW generating facility to be located adjacent to the existing NRG Mandalay Generating Station—despite the serious concerns of those who would most negatively be affected by these projects, the City of Oxnard and the numerous local residents and organizations that stand in opposition to its approval.

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) has identified Oxnard as a community disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment has categorized much of Oxnard, including the location of this proposed project, in the top 10 percent of zip codes most negatively impacted by pollution in the state. The proposal to locate another power plant which impacts the health and safety of its residents in Oxnard—a California city with the most number of coastal power plants and a relatively high proportion of immigrants and people of color—raises concern about our state's codified commitment to the principles of environmental justice.

As a long-standing supporter of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to address issues of climate change, I believe we must shift our reliance away from using peaker power plants and transition to securing our energy from carbon-neutral clean power production. While SCE and NRG have made significant strides in renewable generation projects, I remain concerned with the location of this project on the coastline and the impacts to the surrounding population and sensitive habitats. The proposed power plant contributes to our existing reliance on fossil fuels at a time when the State of California is moving toward clean, renewable energy. Moreover, I echo the Oxnard City Council's unanimous concern about the project's potential negative environmental impacts on the area's wetlands, endangered species, habitats, aesthetics and tourism as cited in the city's Petition to Intervene in the CEC Application for Certification process dated June 22, 2015.

Having chaired the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management, I appreciate the energy production and transmission challenges we face in our state and realize we must seize opportunities to create more resilient and dependable infrastructure that will, among other things, move us away from coastal power plants which are vulnerable to sea level rise. One of the CEC's core responsibilities is to plan for and direct state response to energy emergencies. I share the City of Oxnard's concern about this NRG facility's exposure to current and future coastal storms, shoreline erosion, nearby earthquake fault lines and tsunami hazards.

It is my hope and expectation that we can work together to protect our public health, our environment and meet our energy needs locally and across our great state in a reliable and responsible manner. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance by contacting me or my District Director, Carla Castilla, at 805-998-1940.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah-Beth Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON  
Senator, 19<sup>th</sup> District

- C. Chair Robert Weisenmiller, PhD., CEC
- Commissioner Janea A. Scott, Presiding Member, CEC
- Commissioner Karen Douglas, Associate Member, CEC
- John Hilliard, Siting Project Manager, CEC
- Chair Steve Kinsey, CA Coastal Commission
- President and CEO Stephen Berberich, CalISO
- Chair Kathy Long, Third District Supervisor, Ventura County Board of Supervisors
- Mayor Tim Flynn, City of Oxnard