

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	15-AFC-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Puente Power Project
<b>TN #:</b>	211906
<b>Document Title:</b>	Request for Comments on the Preliminary Staff Assessment
<b>Description:</b>	Comments on the Preliminary Staff Assessment for the Proposed Puente Power Project (15-AFC-01) Letters to the Agency Distribution L1st
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<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
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**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



**June 20, 2016**

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY  
STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED  
PUENTE POWER PROJECT (15-AFC-01)**

To: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

The enclosed Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) contains the California Energy Commission staff's preliminary evaluation of the proposed Puente Power Project (P3) Application for Certification (15-AFC-01). The PSA was published on June 20, 2016 and is available for review on the Energy Commission's website, in two parts, at:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/getdocument.aspx?tn=211885-1>

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/getdocument.aspx?tn=211885-2>

The PSA is not a decision document for these proceedings, nor does it contain findings of the Energy Commission related to environmental impacts or the project's compliance with local, state, and federal laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). The PSA will serve as a precursor to the Final Staff Assessment (FSA).

Following publication of the PSA, and during a 45-day public comment period, staff will notice a public workshop. A PSA Workshop is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 21, 2016 and Friday, July 22, 2016 in Oxnard, California. After the conclusion of the workshop and the 45-day public comment period, staff will then prepare its FSA. The FSA will address comments received on the PSA and will serve as staff's formal testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by the Energy Commission Committee assigned to hear this case. The Committee will hold evidentiary hearings and will consider the recommendations presented by the staff, applicant, intervenors, government agencies, tribes, and the public, prior to proposing its decision. The Energy Commission will make the final decision, including findings, after the Committee's publication of its proposed decision.

The Energy Commission encourages agency participation in the review of P3's Application for Certification (AFC). The agency comment period for this PSA ends on August 4, 2016. If you wish to comment on the PSA, please submit comments by going to the Energy Commission's P3 webpage <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/puente/> and click on the "Submit e-Comment" link. Please provide your full name, any organization name, an e-mail address, a reference to Docket No. 15-AFC-01 in the subject line, and preferably put your comment in an attached document (.doc, .docx, or .pdf format). After entering characters to ensure that responses are generated by a human user and not a computer, click on the "Agree & Submit Your Comment" button to submit the comment to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit.

If you wish to mail written comments on the project, please submit them to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit. Please include the docket number (15-AFC-01) in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments and mail or hand-deliver them to:

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Unit, MS-4  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

All written comments and materials filed with the Dockets Unit will become a part of the public record of the proceeding. Additionally, comments may be posted on the P3 webpage of the Energy Commission's website.

### **SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PUENTE POWER PROJECT**

On April 15, 2015, NRG Oxnard Energy Center LLC submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct, own and operate the Puente Power Project (P3). The 262-megawatt (MW) electric power project would be located on a 3-acre portion of the 36-acre Mandalay Generating Station at 393 North Harbor Boulevard, Oxnard, Ventura County. The proposed project would be comprised of one gas-fired combustion turbine generator (CTG), a 188-foot exhaust stack, and miscellaneous improvements necessary to either extend or reuse existing site structures and utilities. The existing Mandalay Generating Station Units 1 and 2 will be decommissioned and, if the project is built and becomes operational, the power blocks and exhaust structure will be demolished and removed. The existing MGS Unit 3 would continue to operate.

### **ENERGY COMMISSION'S SITE CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications to construct and operate thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission has a certified regulatory program and is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

### **SUMMARY OF STAFF'S PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS**

Staff concludes that with implementation of staff's recommended mitigation measures described in the conditions of certification, the project would not cause a significant adverse impact to the environment, public health and safety, or to environmental justice communities, and would comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS).

### **AVAILABILITY OF THE PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT**

The status of the project, copies of notices and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's web site: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/puente/>.

If you have questions about this request for comments, please contact Shawn Pittard, Project Manager, at (916) 654-4026 or [Shawn.Pittard@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Shawn.Pittard@energy.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Date: June 20, 2016

Signature on File  
Chris Davis, Manager  
Siting Office

Mailed to Agency list - 7507