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Docket # AFC (15-AFC-01), the Puente Power Project

Puente Power Project, AFC (15-AFC-01)

It has become painfully, embarrassingly obvious that the California State regulatory agencies, the CPUC and the CEC, have no intention of acting on the valid concerns of either the City of Oxnard City Council or its residents that have been expressed in hearings, in courtrooms, in meeting halls and in electronic, written and verbal communications about the Puente Power Project.

The valid concerns about the susceptibility of the PPP site to environmental hazards are being ignored but they cannot be mitigated. They cannot be marginalized. Indeed, they must not be ignored if this alleged vital piece of our energy infrastructure is to be secure from the very real threats of wave run-up, coastal flooding, sea level rise and tsunamis.

It has become painfully, embarrassingly obvious that the individuals who sit on these regulatory agencies are both bullies (by ignoring the local government's land use plans) and chickens (by not placing peaker plants in the communities that actually cause the peak demand through heavy use of domestic air conditioning units).

The CEC is ignoring its core responsibilities by continuing to approve unneeded, outdated, polluting natural gas burning energy facilities in environmentally sensitive areas and economically disadvantaged communities of color that do not have the financial resources or expertise to fight either billion-dollar, out-of-state energy firms or in-state monopolistic energy providers that have corrupted the Public Utilities Commission.

It has become painfully, embarrassingly obvious that the CEC cares not a whit about the global threat of increasing GHG emissions by continuing to entertain and approve dirty, hydrocarbon-burning energy projects. Time is running out on our ability to slow climate change. With each new hydrocarbon-based power plant we are accelerating the cooking of our planet and the massively-disruptive forces that will be unleashed as a consequence of global warming.

As the CEC contemplates approving yet another hydrocarbon-burning, GHG-spewing energy facility in a low-income, Hispanic community that the local community has said it does not want, it simply borders on the surreal and the absurd. This is why the public mistrusts government. You are screwing us and we know it!

Our community wants clean, green, renewable energy projects. No matter how the hydrocarbon-based energy industry spins it, natural gas is neither clean, green nor renewable.

We want environmental justice for communities of color that have historically been asked to bear the brunt of polluting industrial uses. The air pollution from this proposed project will affect residents that already suffer from the adverse environmental consequences of multiple landfills, an EPA Superfund site, Class II injection wells, three existing coastal energy facilities and agricultural pesticide and fertilizer impacts.

We say enough! Oxnard has paid its dues. Stop the environmental injustice of siting yet another power plant on our beach. To impose this project on a poor community simply because they lack the financial and legal resources to fight the proposal is immoral at best and criminal at worst.

It is a moral imperative for the California Energy Commission to reject this proposal.