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California Energy Commission

Puente Power Plant Preliminary Staff Assessment Alternatives

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Alternatives to the Puente Power Plant

Section 15126.6 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, “Consideration and Discussion of Alternatives to the Proposed Project,” guides preparation of the alternatives analysis.

The Guidelines require an analysis of alternatives to the proposed project, or to its location, which would feasibly attain most of the basic project objectives but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the project’s significant impacts.



Alternatives Analysis Content

- ❖ Lists the project objectives identified by the applicant.
- ❖ Discusses the characteristics of *preferred resources* that determine their ability to provide the same set of services as a natural gas-fired power plant.
- ❖ Discusses historical use of the Puente Power Plant site for electrical power generation.
- ❖ Discusses staff's review of *brownfield* sites from online data (disturbed land previously used for industrial or sometimes commercial uses).
- ❖ Evaluates an initial list of seven potential off-site alternatives & the Ormond Beach Generating Station site as an alternative.



Alternatives Analysis Content (continued)

- ❖ Analyzes retrofitting Mandalay Generating Station Units 1 & 2 to comply with the State Water Board's once-through cooling policy.
- ❖ Evaluates the No-Project Alternative consisting of shut down of Units 1 & 2 by the end of 2020 with no demolition or construction necessarily occurring at the site.
- ❖ Evaluates two off-site alternatives carried forward for full analysis & comparison to the Puente Power Plant: the Del Norte/Fifth Street Off-site Alternative & the Ormond Beach Area Off-site Alternative.
- ❖ Evaluates two conceptual site reconfigurations of the Puente Power Plant that would avoid filling 2.03 acres of Coastal Commission defined wetlands located in the footprint of the project site.



Alternatives Analysis Conclusions

- ❖ No-Project Alternative would avoid many of the Puente Power Plant's environmental impacts, although impacts on visual resources & special-status bird species would remain potentially significant & unavoidable.
- ❖ Del Norte/Fifth Street Off-site Alternative would avoid an impact relating to the risk of inundation by tsunami; however, it would cause impacts on aircraft & pilot safety due to its location near Camarillo Airport.
- ❖ Ormond Beach Area Off-site Alternative would avoid wetlands impacts, risk of inundation by tsunami, & temporary water quality impacts during demolition without causing other environmental impacts.



Alternatives Analysis Conclusions (continued)

- ❖ No-Project Alternative would not meet the project objectives.
- ❖ Both off-site alternatives could potentially satisfy half of the basic project objectives. However, their feasibility is questionable given that the applicant does not have site control of either site. Demolition & removal of MGS Units 1 & 2 from the P3 site is not assumed under either off-site alternative.
- ❖ Conceptual Site Reconfigurations 1 & 2 would avoid filling the Coastal Commission wetlands without causing other environmental impacts & could potentially satisfy all of the project objectives. Although reconfiguring the site is potentially feasible, the project schedule would be delayed.