

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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December 9, 2016

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED PUENTE POWER PROJECT (15-AFC-01)**

To: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) for the Puente Power Project Application for Certification (15-AFC-01), published on December 8, 2016. The FSA contains the California Energy Commission staff's engineering, environmental, and public health and safety evaluation of the proposed project. The FSA is available for review on the Energy Commission website, in two parts, at:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/getdocument.aspx?tn=214712>

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/getdocument.aspx?tn=214713>

The FSA 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 FSA 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.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PUENTE POWER PROJECT

On April 15, 2015, NRG Oxnard Energy Center, LLC submitted an AFC to construct, own, and operate the Puente Power Project. The 262-megawatt (MW) electric power project would be located on a 3-acre portion of the 36-acre Mandalay Generating Station (MGS) at 393 North Harbor Boulevard, Oxnard, Ventura County. The proposed project would comprise 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 would be decommissioned and, if the Puente Power 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. The existing wastewater outfall structure to the Pacific Ocean would no longer be used, and would be demolished.

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, engineering aspects, and conformance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards 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 CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF’S CONCLUSIONS

Staff has concluded that the proposed Puente Power Project would have no significant impacts to the environment after the implementation of all feasible mitigation contained in the proposed conditions of certification, but that the project does not comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, regularions, and standards (LORS), specifically City of Oxnard’s Chapter 6, Safety and Hazards Policy 3.5 of the 2030 General Plan.

AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT

Copies of the FSA are also available at the Energy Commission’s Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Eureka, Fresno, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Additionally, copies of the FSA were mailed to the following public libraries:

Oxnard Public Library Downtown Main Library 251 South ‘A’ Street Oxnard, CA 93030	Oxnard Public Library Colonia Branch 1500 Camino del Sol #26 Oxnard, CA 93030
Oxnard Public Library South Oxnard Branch 4300 Saviers Road Oxnard, CA 93033	

A notice of availability of the FSA has also been sent to those public agencies that would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission’s exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

**PUBLIC RESOURCES, CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL SOURCES
FOR INFORMATION**

If you desire information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact Alana Mathews, the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by email at publicadviser@energy.ca.gov.

To request special accommodations for those persons with disabilities, contact Poneh Jones at poneh.jones@energy.state.ca.us or by telephone at (916) 654-5146.

For additional information contact Shawn Pittard, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4026 or email at shawn.pittard@energy.ca.gov.

News media inquiries should be directed to Albert Lundeen, Deputy Executive Director, at (916) 654-4027, or by email at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Date: 12/9/16

Signature on File

Michael D. Lewis, P.E., Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission and
Environmental Protection Division