

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: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) for the proposed Puente Power Project Application for Certification (15-AFC-01). 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 Application for Certification (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 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 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 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 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 proposed in the conditions of certification, but that the project does not comply with all applicable LORS, specifically the city of Oxnard's Chapter 6, Safety and Hazards Policy 3.5 of the 2030 General Plan.

AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT

The Final 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, please contact Shawn Pittard, Project Manager, at (916) 654-4026 or Shawn.Pittard@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Date: December 9, 2016

Signature on File

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

Mailed to Agency list