

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Puente Power Project
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Document Title:	Intervenors Opposition to Staff's Motion to Modify Prehearing Location
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
State Energy Resources
Conservation and Development Commission

In the Matter of:)	Docket No. 15-AFC-01
)	
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION)	OPPOSITION TO STAFF MOTION TO
OF THE PUENTE POWER PROJECT)	MODIFY PREHEARING
)	CONFERENCE LOCATION

The Environmental Defense Center , the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter (Sierra Club), and the Environmental Coalition of Ventura County (collectively, Intervenor^s) oppose the California Energy Commission Staff^s (“Staff”) Motion to move the location of the Prehearing Conference from the proposed site in Oxnard to more than four-hundred miles away in Sacramento.¹ Intervenor^s do support Staff^s proposal to lengthen the time between Rebuttal Testimony and the Prehearing Conference Statement, as was stated in Intervenor^s pending request filed on January 12, 2017.

As the Committee is aware, the Puente Power Project is a proposal to burden the local community in Oxnard with a fourth fossil-fuel-burning power plant that will have significant impacts. The Committee has already scheduled the Prehearing Conference to take place in Oxnard near the proposed site for the Puente Power Project.² Moving the Pre-Hearing Conference to Sacramento would serve only to obstruct public access and transparency to the affected community. Staff acknowledges that the Applicant^s proposal has generated “substantial public interest” and thousands of pages of comments submitted by members of the affected community.³ Local attention is a reason to *keep* these proceedings in Oxnard, not to move them hundreds of miles away. Moreover, almost all of the Parties are community groups based in the

¹ Motion to Modify Due Date for Prehearing Conference Statement and Prehearing Conference Date and Location, *Application for Certification for the Puente Power Project*, No. 15-AFC-01, TN 215335 (Jan. 13, 2017).

² Memorandum from Paul Kramer, Hearing Officer to All Parties, Updated Proceeding Dates and Deadlines and Committee Requests for Information, *Application for Certification for the Puente Power Project*, No. 15-AFC-01, TN 21515 (Jan. 4, 2017).

³ *Id.* at

Oxnard area and comprise the affected community.⁴ Staff's request would shift the burdens of participating in these proceedings onto the local community for no reason other than Staff's travel convenience. Merely transferring the burden and expense of travel from one party to others is not sufficient justification to change the hearing location out of the affected community.

While Staff's motion does not address Intervenors' pending request to modify the existing schedule,⁵ the Committee can easily address the burden placed on Staff and all the Parties in a manner that preserves community access to all the proceedings by continuing to hold all of the hearings ,workshops and events for Puente in Oxnard, and instead grant Intervenors' request to modify the schedule to allow more time for Staff and the Parties to prepare the Prehearing Conference Statement and travel to the Prehearing conference. EDC, LPCSC, and ECVA agree with Staff's position that the deadline for Prehearing Conference Statements and the Prehearing Conference should be postponed and do not oppose extending those deadlines.

Dated: January 13, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Alicia Roessler

Alicia Roessler, Staff Attorney
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⁴ In addition to Intervenors, the City of Oxnard, and the California Environmental Justice Coalition has intervened in part to defend the interests of its member organization Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (TN # 210867), and the FFIERCE Coalition's representative is based in Santa Barbara (TN # 214378).

⁵ Intervenors' Joint Request to Modify Schedule, *Application for Certification for the Puente Power Project*, No. 15-AFC-01, TN-215273 (Jan. 12, 2017).