

## DOCKETED

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## **Investigation Finds Gross Oversupply of Generated Power in California**

Please include the (linked below) Los Angeles Times investigative report on oversupply of power generation in California, published Feb. 5, 2017, as my comment on the Puente Power Project. It is clear from this investigation that the Public Utilities Commission has approved too many projects, while the power companies are sticking consumers with larger power costs for construction of unnecessary power plants. The California Energy Commission should not approve the Puente plant in the face of such obvious misbehavior by suppliers, and the rubber-stamping of projects by the PUC. Given this startling new information, the CEC must not force upon Oxnard and its citizens an unwanted and obviously unneeded power station.

link: <http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-fi-electricity-capacity/>

A key excerpt:

"California has a big and growing glut of power, an investigation by the Los Angeles Times has found. The state's power plants are on track to be able to produce at least 21% more electricity than it needs by 2020, based on official estimates. And that doesn't even count the soaring production of electricity by rooftop solar panels that has added to the surplus.

To cover the expense of new plants whose power isn't needed Colusa, for example, has operated far below capacity since opening Californians are paying a higher premium to switch on lights or turn on electric stoves. In recent years, the gap between what Californians pay versus the rest of the country has nearly doubled to about 50%.

This translates into a staggering bill. Although California uses 2.6% less electricity annually from the power grid now than in 2008, residential and business customers together pay \$6.8 billion more for power than they did then. The added cost to customers will total many billions of dollars over the next two decades, because regulators have approved higher rates for years to come so utilities can recoup the expense of building and maintaining the new plants, transmission lines and related equipment, even if their power isn't needed.

How this came about is a tale of what critics call misguided and inept decision-making by state utility regulators, who have ignored repeated warnings going back a decade about a looming power glut."