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State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

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California State Legislature

SENATOR
HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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NATURAL RESOURCES
& WATER
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ARTS

February 10, 2017

Alana Mathews
Public Advisor
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-12
Sacramento, CA 95814
publicadviser@energy.ca.gov

RE: California Energy Commission Discretionary Hearing Regarding the Final Staff Assessment for the Puente Power Project

Dear Ms. Mathews:

As the State Senator representing the Western half of Ventura County and all of Santa Barbara County, I remain deeply concerned that the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Final Staff Assessment continues to favor Southern California Edison (SCE)'s application for approval of a contract with NRG Energy for a new 262 MW generating facility to be located adjacent to the existing NRG Mandalay Generating Station. I continue to join in opposition to this effort with those who stand to be most negatively affected by this project. I remain concerned about the environmental impacts of this project and apparent disregard for environmental justice. I also question the necessity of adding additional generation capacity to a system that is already overbuilt and costly, particularly when emerging clean technologies, such as battery storage, could be used to effectively meet our identified grid reliability and resiliency needs.

Reliable and renewable energy sources are important for the future of California. As a society, we are quickly moving away from our dependence on greenhouse gas generating facilities, which is why the Puente Power Project seems to be a step in the wrong direction. Rather than looking to this as an opportunity to develop creative, renewable energy sources, the Puente Power Project appears to be moving ahead without adequate consideration of both the short and long-term energy demands within the state and whether this project meets California's clean energy and reliability goals.

Having chaired the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management, I appreciate the energy production and transmission challenges we face in our state. However, it appears the major component missing in the current CEC's assessment of the Puente Power Project is adequately accounting for actual and future energy demand. A recent Los Angeles Times article stated that by 2020, the state's power plants are on track to produce at least 21% more energy than consumers require. While reliability is an important component of our energy needs assessment, Californians are on average using 2.6% less electricity annually at a cost of 50%

more than the rest of the country. Continuing to overbuild the system for the sake of reliability seems to be a costly and ineffective strategy and the proposed Puente Power Project continues to subscribe to this expensive and questionable approach.

I believe CEC should focus their effort on developing storage solutions and assisting the state in moving away from natural gas facilities. To this end, I encourage the CEC to consider various strategy options and to study battery storage as a local alternative to the Puente facility. Energy storage facilities are being built throughout the state, providing a strong alternative during times of high electricity consumption to natural gas peaker plants, such as the Puente Project. The development of local energy storage facilities has the potential to effectively meet the region's energy demands, while remaining in line with California's green energy goals.

For all of the aforementioned reasons I strongly urge the California Public Utilities Commission and California Energy Commission to pause and reevaluate the need for the Puente Power Project. In that reevaluation, I request that the California Energy Commission study other options as well as battery storage alternatives.

It is my hope and expectation that we can work together to protect our public health, our environment and meet our energy needs locally and across our great state in a reliable and responsible manner. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance by contacting me or my District Representative, Allison Maginot, at 805-998-1940.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah-Beth Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
Senator, 19th District