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Reject the Puente Power Project

The people of Oxnard are facing the potential siting of another power plant in their communities, threatening them with even greater hazards to their health and the wildlife and the environments that they should be enjoying with their children for decades to come. Instead, they have absorbed a disproportionate burden of the pollution from these toxic power plants, shouldering the costs and impacts of producing electricity for neighboring cities up and down the coast of California, from Simi Valley to Goleta, including the UCSB campus. We refuse to benefit from, perpetuate, or add further injury to the injustices suffered by these communities.

Unlike the residents of Santa Barbara, Ventura and Malibu, many residents and workers in Oxnard don't feel the warmth on their faces as they sunbathe on the beach, but instead feel the heat on their backs while they do stoop labor in the fields, picking fruit and vegetables for the rest of the country's tables. Nearby, their children are the youth who are most likely in the country to be attending schools next to fields doused with toxic pesticides. Oxnard has also been "home" to three landfills and the Halaco Superfund site.

So CEC it appears to accept NRG's claims that the threat of health and environmental impacts of the plants will be low, and the risk of disasters, such as tsunami and flooding from natural disasters and sea level rise that is clearly happening, is negligible. In other words, if CEC approves NRG's application, it will allow NRG to risk the lives, health and safety of the people of these communities, while it is not their own families or communities who will be at the epicenter of these so-called low risks. Indeed, NRG corporate headquarters is located three thousand miles away in New Jersey.

We, the undersigned, are faculty, staff, and students, currently or formerly at UCSB, and concerned California residents who hereby voice our clear opposition to the Puente Power Project being proposed by NRG Corporation, to be sited on the Oxnard coastline. We do so in support of those who are or have been residents of the area serviced by the existing and proposed power plants. We do not wish to perpetuate the environmental harms and toxic racism wrought by these plants upon the poor, immigrant communities of color living and working in Oxnard. We call upon the California Energy Commission to fulfill its public duty to protect vulnerable communities from these documented and foreseeable harms, and seek alternative sources of clean and sustainable energy and storage for the future health of our people and planet.