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Project Title:	Puente Power Project
TN #:	216793
Document Title:	Puente Statement From Mr. Caskey
Description:	Statement: Opposed to the proposed Puente project
Filer:	Raquel Rodriguez
Organization:	David L. Caskey
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California Energy Commission
Statement for the Record
Puente Power Project (15-AFC-01)

David L. Caskey
406 Shoreview Drive
Port Hueneme, CA. 93041

My home in Port Hueneme is in close proximity to the Ormond power plant, one of two coastal power plants operated by NRG Energy in Oxnard. I am opposed to the proposed Puente project, also operated by NRG in Oxnard. The City of Port Hueneme is bordered in three directions by the city of Oxnard, and on the fourth by the Pacific Ocean. The city is bracketed by the two NRG power plants on its coastline. Along with my fellow residents, I am looking forward to the end of operations at Ormond by December of 2020, and hopefully at the Puente site within the same timeframe. After almost 50 years, I believe it is time for the era of coastal power generation in Ventura Country to end.

When I was able to buy my home in Port Hueneme I was very much concerned about Oxnard's history of coastal degradation from industrial usage, as well as the presence of the power plants, but I was also aware of the unique requirement in California law not only to coastal preservation, but where possible, to coastal restoration, for the current and succeeding generations. I am confident that the decision by the Commission will reflect the spirit of that law.

A power plant on the beach assaults one's senses, it is an insult to nature's beauty and bounty. It reminds us of our hubris in dealing with our environment, but also is a reminder that we can learn, and do better, as we balance interests, and make decisions for our future.

California is a global leader in environmental practices, policy and law. One example is this Commission's report on tracking progress on the phase-out of once-through cooling for power plants.

In clear language, this report neatly explains the strategy and progress that California has made, in the absence of specific federal law, to minimize the adverse environmental impact of the State's 19 coastal power plants that were built to use once-through cooling.

The report cites four coastal plants that need watching for compliance date deferrals, including the Puente site. The other three plants have much higher Annual Capacity Factors than this one, and presumably they are much more critical to the infrastructure of the power grid. One would serve power spikes for the San Diego area, affected by the loss of the San Onofre nuclear plant. Two others would serve power spikes in the west Los Angeles basin. The proposed Puente plant would be needed for power spikes in a much smaller area, the Moorpark sub-area.

The Commission has to consider a difficult benefit vs. risk question. In this case, I strongly believe the risk of continued operations on the beach in a critical coastal environment far exceeds the benefit of surge electrical power needs far inland.

The Commission has been made aware of many possible solutions to the surge power needs of the Moorpark sub-area including alternative generation, conservation, and battery storage. I am confident that by working with the ISO and SoCal Edison, the needs of the customers and consumers can be met without resorting to the continued generation of power at this sensitive coastal location. I would note that I am a customer of SoCal Edison.

The extension and reuse of the existing infrastructure is not justified in this case. Oxnard has already paid a severe price with the degrading of its coast. The benefits of a future for Oxnard and for all of Ventura County's coast without the blight of power plants on its beautiful coastline far outweigh the short term benefits of this proposal.

Sincerely,

David L Caskey