

DOCKETED

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On Puente Power Plant

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

June 12, 2017

RE: Puente Power Plant, Ventura County

Dear Chair Weisenmuller and Commissioners,

I have been following with great interest the proposal by NRG to construct a new power plant near the beach in Oxnard. I represented this area for nearly 10 years while serving in the legislature. I am aware of the vulnerabilities of this location with increased threats of sea level rise, and the lack of public access to the beach due to the siting of power plants and the navy bases along this part of the coast. I am also a SCE ratepayer who will pay for this new plant, even if the gas generated from this facility is not needed in the years ahead.

As an author of many of the climate change policies over the past 15 years, I have an interest in not continuing to approve new natural gas power plants at the same time we work towards 100% renewable energy. A bill has already passed the State Senate this year and is consistent with the Governor's leadership on climate change. I understand the timing to transition to 100% renewable energy will take strategies to create the energy reliability we depend on. The CEC has lead the way in energy efficiency appliances and building standards that has kept our energy consumption flat. I have seen an accelerated use of storage to address the intermittency issue of depending 24-7 on renewable energy from private companies in the LA area, the new facility owned by SCE and Tesla, and the success of the US NAVY base in Ventura County to have built battery storage units on San Nicholas Island and the base, located within a few miles of the Puente Power plant.

The Oxnard community and the Ventura County Star, have been impressed with the time and interest of Commissioners Karen Douglas

and Janea Scott, in leading the review of the siting of the Puente power plant. I would hope the outcome of this decision would be based on whether the plant is needed over the long life of the facility and whether this location next to the ocean with rising sea levels is prudent. It's ironic that CalSO is now suggesting that the Bakersfield natural gas plant that may be prematurely closed in an area which wants the facility, while the City of Oxnard on behalf of its residents and their hope for a better future, have spent vital resources in trying to protect their community. Recent articles in the LA Times suggest that we have built more plants than needed, at a cost to the ratepayers and the communities who now find these uses may not be compatible with their economic and environmental best interests. A new natural gas power plant is not dependent on an ocean front location. California's climate change policies and the goal, and perhaps soon an enforceable target signed into law, is to reach 100% renewable energy. This plant is not consistent with that decision.

We are all sensitive to the history of these types of facilities being placed in disadvantaged communities. I am confident that the CEC and other interested partners can come up with a strategy to address the energy needs of California, while not leaving stranded assets of unneeded natural gas plants paid for by ratepayers when our state is committed to a 100% renewable energy future and energy efficiency policies.

Best regards,

Fran Pavley
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