

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Mark Wieder

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Oppose Puente power plant

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

California Energy Commission
1516 9th St
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **docket number 15-AFC-01** (Application For Certification)

I support the people of Oxnard, CA, in opposing the toxic fossil-fuel burning Puente power plant proposed to be sited in their city. **I call upon the California Energy Commission to reject this proposal** for another unnecessary, toxic power plant, which will only generate more profits and wealth for NRG, a Fortune 200 company, at the expense of the health of Oxnard residents and the already fragile planet.

Oxnard is already "host" to three landfills and the Halaco Superfund site, and those most heavily impacted by the existing and proposed toxic plants are primarily working class immigrant communities of color. According to the California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA), within the environmentally overburdened communities in Oxnard, 85% are people of color, 29% lives in "linguistic isolation," 56% lives below two times the federal poverty level, and 46% of those over age 25 have less than high school education.

The proposed project is in clear contradiction to the clean energy goals already mandated in California and nationwide to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and find renewable, clean energy alternatives. Instead, it heaps more poison on Oxnard residents and beyond.

Many recent initiatives for alternative energy solutions have been legislated and are already underway in California, and in the region, that should continue to be developed. SB32 requires greater greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction measures so that direct emission reductions should be achieved after the year 2020. Its companion legislation, AB197, requires the Air Resources Board to prioritize "direct emission reductions" to achieve these reductions beyond the 2020 limit. These measures have been instituted to reduce existing and potential toxic impacts of dirty energy projects like NRG's Puente Power Plant (PPP).

There are alternatives: The CEC has authorized a study of alternatives to the PPP. Many possibilities exist or have been undertaken already in other areas: A utility-scale solar project with energy storage capacity could replace the need for another power plant in the region. The Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies has developed an alternative proposal that would cost less, produce more jobs, and provide reliable energy to the area. In the more affluent neighboring city of Goleta, Southern California Edison is now conducting a new bidding process to seek clean energy alternatives. While this has not been done in Oxnard, instead only other sites for gas-fired plants have been considered--all in other low-income, Latina/o communities. I do not support the sacrifice of any poor communities of color as a real "alternative."

Sincerely,

MARK WIEDER