

## DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Phil*

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## **Opposition to Proposed Fossil-fuel Power Plant in Santa Paula**

Please read the attached letter to the editor published in various Ventura County newspapers and also my presentation to the Santa Paula City Council March 21. Though air pollution impacts are a major concern, please also note that this site is immediately adjacent to the Santa Clara River and therefor is subject to flooding.

Thank you,

Phil White

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

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March 21, 2016

Presentation to Santa Paula City Council Regarding Proposed Fossil Fuel Power Plant

Members of the Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to the proposed fossil fuel power plant in Santa Paula, and to urge your council to take a position in opposition to this proposal. But I am also here to urge the council to take a position promoting a responsible alternative – Solarize Santa Paula.

I was born and raised in Santa Paula and graduated from Briggs and from Santa Paula High School. I have lived either in Santa Paula or within about 20 miles of Santa Paula my entire life.

I am a mechanical engineer and the president of AE Group Mechanical Engineers in Ventura. We provide engineering services throughout the County, including current projects here in Santa Paula. Prior to opening the engineering business, I was the Director of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District and worked to develop air pollution control programs to reduce the County's ozone and particulate air pollution problems.

The proposed power plant would be a major new source of oxides of nitrogen and particulates and would exacerbate the County's existing air pollution. As I'm sure you are aware, Ventura County air continues to exceed state and federal air quality standards for ozone and particulates. What's that mean? It means that our air is unhealthy, especially for children and older people. We need reductions in emissions, not increases as would come from a new fossil fuel power plant.

And further, this plant would be a major source of carbon dioxide emissions, contributing to global climate change. Let's think globally and act locally by not allowing this plant to be built here.

What are the responsible alternatives? First, Edison and the PUC need to really get serious about energy conservation, and be leaders in reducing energy use, rather than continue the foot dragging that we've always seen and continue to see. We are way past the time for business as usual that the PUC fosters that only benefits Edison and its shareholders at the expense of all us. Second, Edison needs to invest more in solar and wind for generating electricity, and in energy storage for leveling out the electrical supply during evening hours when solar is at its lowest.

The Santa Paula City Council should take a position on this. The City's image and the quality of its air surely are important subjects it should discuss. I do not see any benefit to Santa Paula from having major polluters like the Santa Clara Wastewater plant or a fossil fuel power plant here. The Oxnard City Council has certainly spoken up against a new plant there – so can you.

And here is another suggestion that your council could do: get behind a Solarize Santa Paula effort to encourage the installation of solar systems in the City to generate clean electricity. Both the cities of Ojai and Ventura have solar programs. So can Santa Paula.

Thank you for your attention. Do you have any questions?