

DOCKETED

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Laura Espinoza IH Comments on Mission Rock

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



July 27, 2016

Commissioner Janea A. Scott, Presiding Member
Commissioner Karen Douglas, Associate Member
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, Ms-29
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: Proposed Mission Rock Energy Center

Dear Presiding Commissioner Scott and Commissioner Douglas:

Greetings from the League of United Latin American Citizens, the oldest and largest Latino Civil Rights Organization in the United States.

LULAC submits this communication on behalf of our membership; in ***strong opposition*** to the siting of the proposed energy center known as Mission Rock Center, in Santa Paula or any alternative location in the Santa Clara Valley.

This is an impoverished agricultural community of predominately Latino residents (over 80%) who greatly rely on maintaining a healthy environment for their jobs and physical and emotional health. This population of primarily Spanish speaking workers is overwhelmingly impacted by the health effects of working as farm workers in fields with pesticide use.

LULAC believes siting this dirty energy center would violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act which requires an assessment of the civil rights impacts of all decisions by State and Federal agencies. Additionally, such action could possibly violate Presidential Executive Order 12898 which requires Federal agencies to consider environmental justice implications in decision making.

California EPA Secretary, Mathew Rodriguez states that those most burdened by pollution speak Spanish as a first language. This characteristic fits Santa Paula and the Santa Clara Valley.

Additionally, Santa Paula meets several of the **Pollution Burden Indicators including lower educational attainment, high asthma rates, poverty, high unemployment, and linguistic isolation.**

The site is in a flood zone and on the Santa Clara river. The river is the largest wild river remaining in Southern California. There are serious impacts to our pristine environment which the voters have mandated remain open space and free of toxic development thru their support and passage of the SOAR measure.

The League of United Latin American Citizens, District 17, respectfully submits these comments in opposition to the siting of an energy center in Santa Paula which is already burdened with the a solid waste dump site and county jail. It is egregious and racially motivated to pit one minority community against another as the community of Oxnard is also considered for another energy site and also has a majority Latino population.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Espinosa".

Laura Espinosa
District Director
League of United Latin American Citizens
LULAC
District 17