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Dr. Gabino Aguirre IH Comments on Mission Rock

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Statement provided to the California Energy Commission Hearing in Santa Paula, CA --- July 28, 2016

Thank you for this opportunity to address this Commission. I am Dr. Gabino Aguirre, past Mayor and Councilman of the City of Santa Paula and a state commissioner myself. The California Energy Commission is California's primary energy policy and planning agency. Your commission has the responsibility for, among other things, promoting energy efficiency, supporting renewable energy technologies and for protecting the public against threats that compromise the health of our residents and natural environment. With these responsibilities in mind, I'd like to make the following points.

1. Energy policy and planning – As the planning and watchdog energy agency, you must guard against any applications that jeopardize the health and welfare of our communities. It is not about cooperating with the energy industry to facilitate the construction of facilities that will strengthen their energy grid so that they can have more satisfied customers. You cannot allow yourselves to be a party to a scheme involving a predatory profits-maximizing venture.
2. Renewable energy -- California is moving full-steam ahead towards renewables and carbon-cutting. Recently, Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill designed to get us away from losing and harmful technologies. This law requires state-regulated utilities to get 50 percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, and hydro, by 2030. We can't deny the reality of climate change and its horrific impacts on our ecosystem. You must reject the Limoneira-Calpine project which depends on fossil fuel technology that is outdated and dangerous to local and regional flora and fauna including all the two-leggeds in this center tonight. This project is dangerous to all of us. Outside of maintaining customers happy, this project serves no purpose other than turning a profit. You must render a decision that ensures the public welfare.
3. Environmental justice - The concept of "environmental justice" is that all people ... are able to enjoy equally high levels of environmental protection. Environmental Justice communities are commonly identified as those where residents are predominantly minorities or low-income, where residents have been excluded from the environmental policy setting or decision-making process, where they are subject to a disproportionate impact from one or more environmental hazards,

and where residents experience disparate implementation of environmental regulations, requirements, practices and activities in their communities. Environmental Justice efforts attempt to address the inequities of environmental protection in these communities. Santa Paula is such a community. Second poorest city in Ventura County with a minority population of over 70%, it is beset by economic and environmental challenges similar to other rural low-income communities. The tenets of environmental justice beg for your consideration and acknowledgement of Santa Paula as a community in need of your protection. That is your charge and we expect you to uphold it. The addition of an additional environmental stressor, the Limoneira-Calpine Peaker Plant, is unacceptable.

Although this firm touts great property tax and jobs benefits for the local community, it is too high a price to pay for a more dangerous and toxic environment. We don't see any sustainable benefits and many environmentally and socially harmful and life-threatening liabilities. Our community doesn't need or deserve this. You must fulfill your moral and legal responsibility to protect our city and its environs as outlined in your charter.

Submitted by Dr. Gabino Aguirre

Resident, City of Santa Paula