

## DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Gail Pidduck*

*Submitted On: 8/21/2016*

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**An Artist's View**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

Commissioners:

Re: Mission Rock Energy Center 15-AFC-02

### An Artist's View

There are so many issues that make the Mission Rock Road site inappropriate for the development of a peaker plant. These will be addressed by my fellow community members who are more knowledgeable than I about the biological issues, flood plains, light pollution, etc. I am choosing to speak about cultural and visual resources.

I am a visual artist, and have been painting in the Santa Clara Valley for over 30 years. I have spent a majority of my days painting the fieldworkers, fields and mountains of this beautiful valley. My work has been included in a book published about the Santa Clara Valley by Easton Gallery of Montecito. People are drawn to my work, not because I am a great painter, but because I have tried to capture the beauty of this valley. Many of my collectors have come from areas that have lost the rural beauty we enjoy here.

As I drove back to Santa Paula from Ventura this week I shuddered as I tried to picture the power lines running north and south along Ellsworth Barranca, bisecting this irreplaceable valley. I can not imagine the CEC allowing power lines to be stretched across the Yosemite valley, a pristine area of Death Valley, or cutting a swath through the giant redwoods ( even with Calpine's assurance "but the poles will be painted brown, you won't even see them").

This small valley is one of a kind, a part of California that has all but disappeared. With its hills and mountains to the north and south, its fields and orchards, its historic farms and farmhouses, its free flowing river, and its small historic airport, this valley is a treasure to be protected by its citizens and to be recognized by the CEC as worth protecting visually.

If you are not convinced that this valley is a visual resource for the state of California and deserves to be preserved from those power lines and the power plant itself, please allow me an opportunity to give you a tour of the beauty that I see and have appreciated for 65 years.

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