

DOCKETED

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NOTICE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING AND
INFORMATIONAL HEARING
BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the Matter of:)
) Docket No. 15-AFC-02
Mission Rock Energy Center)
_____)

SANTA PAULA SENIOR CENTER
530 WEST MAIN STREET
SANTA PAULA, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2016

5:30 P.M.

Reported by:
Martha Nelson

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Karen Douglas, Commissioner and Presiding Member

Janea Scott, Commissioner and Associate Member

STAFF

Le-Quyen Nguyen, Adviser to Commissioner Douglas

Rhetta DeMesa, Adviser to Commissioner Scott

Matthew Coldwell, Adviser to Commissioner Scott

Kristy Chew, Technical Advisor to the Commission on Siting Matters

HEARING OFFICER

Susan Cochran

STAFF

Mike Monasmith, Project Manager

Galen Lemei, Staff Counsel

PUBLIC ADVISER

Alana Matthews, Public Adviser

Rosemary Avalos, Outreach Specialist

APPLICANT

Mitch Weinberg, Calpine Corporation

Barbara McBride, Calpine Corporation

Jill Van Dalen, Calpine Corporation

Greggory Wheatland, Ellison, Schneider & Harris, LLP,
counsel for Applicant

Samantha Neumyer, Ellison, Schneider & Harris, LLP

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT

Martin Hernandez, City of Santa Paula Mayor

John Proctor, Santa Paula City Council

Michael Villegas, Ventura County Air Pollution

Manuel Minjares, City of Fillmore Council Member

Delton Johnson

Laura Espinosa, League of United Latin-American Citizens

Jim Hines, Sierra Club, Los Padres Chapter

Susan Caughey

Liliana Gil

Shandi Mercado

Emma Aguirre

Sandra Sophia Roman

Michael Gil

Mark Anthony de Jesus

Jose Miguel Leal

Gabriel Lemus

Roselyn Gil

Gabino Aguirre

Mary Ann Krause, Santa Paula Alliance

Karl Krause, Santa Paula Alliance

John Brooks, Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas

Rich Niday

Helen Conly, Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas

Linda Livingston

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Sushila Wood

Charles Spink

Carmen Arenas

Stephanie Rodriguez, CAUSE

Ginger Gherardi, Santa Paula City Council

Macrina Hinojosa

Gail Pidduck

Nate Pidduck

Tony Skinner, Tri-County Building and Construction Trades

Veronica Vargas

Concha Maraza

Raymundo Pinedo

Marilena Terrazas

Larry Renteria

Woody Maxwell

Ivana Montalvo

Sytlalli Salgado

Zenaida Alcantar

Lucia Marquez

Jessica Gabriella Ramirez

Lorenzo Maraza, Santa Paula Latino Town Hall, Santa Paula Alliance

Bob Borrego

Edward Ramirez

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Rodney Cobos, Southern California Pipe Trades

Patricia Kennedy

Maria Roman

Audrey Vincent
Gabriel Guillen

Ron Whitehurst, Ventura County Climate Hub

John Morelli

Doug Jackson

Kathy Bremer

Josefina Zuniga

Matthew Jackson

Marcos Garcia

Marcos Garcia Razo

Alexandra Garcia Razo

Sara Brucker

Julian Lopez

Danny Marquez

Tiffany Grande

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P R O C E E D I N G S

5:33 P.M.

SANTA PAULA, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2016

(Interpreters are present and translating English into Spanish and Spanish into English.)

HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Good evening. Can we please get settled? Thank you.

My name is Susan Cochran. I am the Hearing Officer for the proceedings the Energy Commission is conducting on the Application for Certification for the Mission Rock Energy Center Project. I will often use the term proposed project this evening. When I do I will be referring to the Application for Certification for the Mission Rock Energy Center Project.

Today's meeting is being broadcast through our WebEx conferencing system. And participants should be aware that you are being recorded.

You will hear us talk about a docket repeatedly tonight. At the Energy Commission --

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: You need to slow down.

HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: I'm sorry. Slower. Sorry.

At the Energy Commission each project has its own electronic file folder. This electronic file folder is

1 called the docket. You can access the docket through the
2 Energy Commission's website. And during her presentation,
3 the Public Adviser, who is over there at the yellow table,
4 will show you how to find the docket for the Mission Rock
5 Energy Center Project.

6 For those in the room who would like to make
7 comments this evening, please fill out a blue card and give
8 it to the Public Adviser. She's showing you what the blue
9 card looks like. When it's your turn to speak, please come
10 up to the center podium and speak into the microphone. And
11 if you have a business card, it's helpful to give that to
12 the Court Reporter who is off over to my right, waving her
13 hand.

14 For WebEx participants --

15 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Off mic.) Isn't it a
16 "proposed project"?

17 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: I've said that, yes,
18 it's a proposed project.

19 For WebEx participants, you can use the chat
20 function to tell the WebEx coordinator that you want to make
21 a comment during the public comment period. And we'll
22 either relay your comment or open your line at the
23 appropriate time.

24 For phone-in only participants, we will open your
25 lines after hearing from the in-person and WebEx comments.

1 Materials for this meeting, including copies of
2 the slide presentations, were available out in the foyer in
3 both English and Spanish as a hard copy. In addition, those
4 PowerPoint presentations will be placed into the docket
5 after today.

6 With that, I'll turn it over to Commissioner
7 Douglas for opening remarks.

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Good afternoon everybody. I
9 would like to welcome everyone to the second Environmental
10 Scoping Meeting and Informational Hearing for the proposed
11 Mission Rock Energy Center. My name is Karen Douglas,
12 Presiding Member of the Committee, assigned by the Energy
13 Commission to oversee these proceedings.

14 I'm going to begin the hearing by apologizing for
15 the problems encountered during the prior hearing, and to
16 sincerely say thank you for returning and participating in
17 this second hearing. The Energy Commission respects and
18 values your participation here tonight and throughout the
19 process.

20 The Energy Commission has learned from the
21 experiences and the issues that developed in the previous
22 hearing, and we've applied the lessons learned with the hope
23 and expectation that this proceeding will run much more
24 smoothly and that your participation will be facilitated
25 this night.

1 If anyone in particular, if anyone is in need of
2 interpretive assistance, please pick up headsets at the
3 table over there for Spanish interpretation, if you'd like
4 to listen to the proceedings in Spanish.

5 And with that, I'll turn this back over to the
6 Hearing Officer.

7 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Thank you very much.

8 As I stated, this is the Informational Hearing and
9 Environmental Scoping Meeting about a proposed new power
10 plant called the Mission Rock Energy Center.

11 Before we begin, I would like to thank Mayor
12 Hernandez and other members of the community who told us
13 about this lovely facility, and who also helped us with the
14 interpreters that we have here this evening to help us
15 communicate with you more effectively.

16 As I said, there is an overflow room in the senior
17 dining room. The headphones, I'm assured, will work both
18 here in the main room and in the overflow room. The
19 overflow room also has screen projectors so that the
20 PowerPoints will be visible.

21 You may notice some folks here with us this
22 evening who are wearing security shirts and outfits. This
23 location requires that we have security so that if in the
24 very unlikely situation that an emergency occurs they will
25 help us safely leave the building.

1 (Colloquy between the Hearing Officer and Public
2 Adviser)

3 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Sorry about that.

4 The Energy Commission, as Commissioner Douglas
5 stated, assigned a Committee of two Commissioners to conduct
6 these proceedings. Commissioner Karen Douglas is the
7 Presiding Member of the Committee. And Commissioner Janea
8 Scott is the Associate Member of this Committee. Okay.

9 The other people here at the front of the hall
10 this evening --

11 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Wait. Wait. Just pause.

12 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: I'm sorry.

13 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: (Speaking Spanish.)

14 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: So I'd like to introduce
15 you to the other people who are here at the table in front
16 with me this evening.

17 First is Le-Quyen Nguyen who is an Adviser to
18 Commissioner Douglas. Then I have -- she is to my right.
19 To my left is Rhetta de Mesa, Adviser to Commissioner Scott,
20 Matt Coldwell who is also an Adviser to Commissioner Scott,
21 and finally, Kristy Chew, the Technical Adviser for Facility
22 Siting.

23 You may have also met today our Public Adviser,
24 Alana Matthews, and Rosemary Avalos from her office who is
25 an Outreach Specialist in her office who have helped us this

1 evening.

2 At this point I would like to ask the parties to
3 please introduce themselves and their representatives,
4 starting with the Applicant.

5 MS. MCBRIDE: Barbara McBride with Calpine.

6 MR. WEINBERG: My name is Mitch Weinberg with
7 Calpine.

8 MS. VAN DALEN: Jill Van Dalen with Calpine

9 MR. WHEATLAND: I'm Gregg Wheatland, Counsel for
10 Calpine.

11 MS. NEUMYER: Samantha Neumyer, Counsel for
12 Calpine.

13 MR. MONASMITH: Hello. I'm Mike Monasmith, the
14 Project Manager at the Energy Commission.

15 MR. KNIGHT: I'm Eric Knight, Environmental Office
16 Manager at the Energy Commission.

17 MR. LEMEI: And I'm Galen Lemei, Staff Counsel.

18 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Are there any other
19 public -- are there any public agencies, federal, state or
20 local governments, officials representing Native American
21 tribes or nations?

22 I know that we have in the audience this afternoon
23 Mayor Hernandez.

24 If you would like to come up and make some
25 remarks, now is a good time for you to do that if you would

1 like to.

2 MAYOR HERNANDEZ: Good evening. I would just like
3 to take an opportunity to thank all of you for being here
4 today, and welcome you to Santa Paula. I appreciate the
5 second opportunity, and hopefully we'll get through the
6 evening very well.

7 I'd also like to welcome and thank everybody in
8 the audience for being here today. We welcome your
9 comments. Let's learn more about this project, and let's
10 have a good hearing. And thank you for being here. Thank
11 you very much.

12 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Thank you, Mayor
13 Hernandez.

14 (Applause.)

15 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: I understand also -- I
16 also understand that Vice Mayor Jenny Crosswhite is in the
17 audience. Thank you.

18 Allison Mangino (phonetic) on behalf of Senator
19 Hannah-Beth Jackson is here, as is Lauren Arzu on behalf of
20 Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long. And last but not
21 least, Brad Hudson, a representative from Congresswoman
22 Julia Brownley. Thank you very much for coming. We
23 appreciate your attendance this evening.

24 So the first thing that I would like to go through
25 this evening --

1 MR. MINARJES: I just want to make a comment. My
2 name is Manuel Minjares. I'm a City Council Member with the
3 City of Fillmore.

4 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Oh. Thank you.

5 MR. MINARJES: I wanted to let the crowd also know
6 that the City of Fillmore is represented here, as well.

7 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Thank you very much for
8 coming.

9 (Applause.)

10 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Are there any other
11 public agency representatives? Have we been joined by
12 anyone else?

13 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Any other --

14 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Yes. Could you please
15 come up to the microphone?

16 MR. PROCTOR: John Proctor, Santa Paula City
17 Council.

18 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Thank you, Mr. Proctor.

19 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: John Proctor, Santa Paula
20 City Council.

21 MR. PROCTOR: Johnny come lately. Just got in.

22 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Welcome.

23 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Anyone else? Anyone?
24 Okay.

25 So the first thing that I would like to do this

1 evening is to give you the -- I'm sorry.

2 MR. VILLEGAS: Michael Villegas. I'm the
3 Executive Officer for the Ventura County Air Pollution
4 Control District.

5 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Thank you very much for
6 joining us.

7 (Applause.)

8 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Okay. Last call. Thank
9 you.

10 So the first thing I wanted to get over with is
11 the agenda that we'll be following. I am the first
12 presenter this evening, and I'm going to do several things
13 for you. I'm going to briefly describe the mission center
14 energy rock -- I'm sorry, Mission Rock Energy Center's LLC's
15 Application for Certification filed on December 30, 2015.
16 Again, I will frequently refer to this as the proposed
17 project.

18 I will describe the roles of the Energy
19 Commission, the Committee, the Applicant, Energy Commission
20 Staff, the public, governmental agencies, Native American
21 tribes and nations, and interveners in the Energy
22 Commission's review process for power plant licenses.

23 I'll then explain the Energy Commission -- the
24 process that the Energy Commission uses in reviewing
25 applications like the one before us this evening.

1 The Public Adviser will then explain what she does
2 and how she may assist you, the public, in participating in
3 the review of the proposed project.

4 The Energy Commission staff will then describe its
5 role in reviewing licensing applications.

6 Mission Rock Energy Center LLC, frequently
7 referred to as Calpine, will then provide an overview of the
8 power plant project it is proposing.

9 At that point the Energy Commission staff will
10 then discuss the issues they have identified to date with
11 the proposed project.

12 The Committee will then discuss the schedule of
13 future events, based on current information.

14 And finally, the Committee will listen to
15 comments, questions, or statements from the public.

16 Does anyone have any questions about how we will
17 proceed this evening? Okay.

18 On December 30, 2015, Mission Rock Energy Center
19 LLC, a subsidiary of Calpine, filed an Application for
20 Certification with the Energy Commission. Mission Rock
21 Energy LLC is called the applicant. The applicant is asking
22 for a license to build a new power plant. State Law, the
23 Warren-Alquist Act, says that whenever someone wants to
24 build a power plant of a certain size, that person or
25 company must obtain a license from the California Energy

1 Commission.

2 The new power plant would be located on
3 approximately ten acres of land located at 1025 Mission Rock
4 Road in an existing industrial park. The land is currently
5 used for recreational vehicle and boat storage. The
6 applicant will need to build other facilities to support the
7 power plant. These other facilities include a new natural-
8 gas pipeline to supply fuel for the generators at the power
9 plant, and a new transmission line to send the energy to the
10 electric grid. You will hear more details about the
11 applicants proposed new power plant and other facilities in
12 a moment.

13 At this time I will describe the various people
14 and groups that play a part in the Energy Commission's
15 review of power plant projects. These are the Energy
16 Commission, and that includes the Committee and the staff,
17 the applicant, governmental agencies, Native American
18 tribes, the public, and interveners.

19 The Energy Commission is the state's primary
20 energy policy and planning agency. It is made up of five
21 commissioners who are appointed by the governor. The
22 decision on whether to approve, deny, or modify the proposed
23 project is made by the five commissioners.

24 As we mentioned earlier, the Energy Commission has
25 assigned a Committee of two of its Members to manage the

1 proceeding. Commissioner Karen Douglas, to my right, serves
2 as the Presiding Member. And Commissioner Janea Scott, to
3 my left, serves as the Associate Member. The Committee
4 manages the proceedings, including setting a schedule, which
5 we'll talk about later this evening, and conducts Committee
6 events, such as the Informational Hearing this evening. The
7 Committee hears evidence about the project, including
8 potential environmental impacts.

9 The Committee then prepares a written decision
10 called the Presiding Member's Proposed Decision that is
11 considered by the entire Energy Commission. I will give you
12 a more detailed explanation of the Presiding Member's
13 Proposed Decision when we talk about how the Energy
14 Commission reviews requests to build power plants.

15 Each Commissioner has advisers who help them with
16 their work, including work done on power plant applications.

17 I am, as I said, the Hearing Officer. I am an
18 attorney assigned to help the Committee conduct the meetings
19 and hearings, and to assist them in writing documents for
20 the proposed project. When I refer to the Committee, I am
21 referring generally to all of the people sitting up here who
22 I introduced earlier.

23 The Energy Commission staff has the responsibility
24 to analyze proposed projects. In specific, the Energy
25 Commission staff reviews federal, state and local laws,

1 ordinances, regulations, and standards to see if the
2 proposed power plant will conform to them. The Energy
3 Commission staff also reviews the potential environmental
4 impacts and engineering aspects of a proposed power plant.
5 When the Energy Commission staff speaks in just a few
6 minutes they will provide more detail about their role.
7 They will also summarize the issues they have initially
8 identified with the proposed Mission Rock Energy Center.

9 It is important to note that the Energy Commission
10 staff is treated as a separate party in the review of power
11 plant applications. Even though the staff and the Committee
12 Members are both part of the Energy Commission, the staff
13 functions independently from the Committee and are treated
14 just like any other party to this proceeding. I will
15 explain the rule of parties later in my presentation.

16 The applicant is the entity who applies for a
17 license to build and construct a power plant. Mission Rock
18 Energy Center LLC, a subsidiary of Calpine, is the
19 organization that filed the Application for Certification on
20 December 30, 2015, and is thus considered the applicant for
21 this proposed project.

22 The Energy Commission solicits input from state,
23 local and federal agencies, particularly on applicable laws,
24 ordinances, and regulations. We also consult with Native
25 American tribes and nations on proposed projects. Energy

1 Commission staff will talk more about their outreach to
2 those groups in their presentation.

3 The public is an essential part of the Energy
4 Commission's process. We are committed to robust public
5 outreach and facilitating public participation in our
6 process. The scoping meeting is the very beginning of the
7 process. You will learn more about the application, and we
8 learn your initial thoughts, questions, and concerns. The
9 input we receive from you will help shape the Energy
10 Commission staff's analysis of the proposed project.

11 Throughout the process the public will have lots
12 of opportunities to provide written comments and ask
13 questions, both orally and in writing. There will be
14 Committee events, like tonight. Whenever there is a
15 Committee event we will provide a way to participate by
16 phone and on the computer. There are Staff workshops where
17 the focus is on the technical aspects of the application, as
18 well as the environmental and engineering evaluation Staff
19 is conducting.

20 Opportunities to comment on all of the major
21 documents produced in the case are also given, and I will
22 describe those documents in just a few minutes.

23 You can submit written comments either through the
24 mail or electronically. The Public Adviser will give you
25 more information about how to do that during her

1 presentation. By law the Energy Commission has a Public
2 Adviser appointed by the governor who is required to assist
3 the public with participating in Energy Commission events.
4 She will provide more information about her role and how her
5 office can help you shortly.

6 We see some folks standing in the back. If you
7 have an empty seat next to you, if you could raise your hand
8 so they could find a seat, that would be helpful. Also,
9 I'll remind you that there is an overflow room in the senior
10 dining area off to the left. Okay, if you'd like to stand,
11 that's fine. We just wanted to make sure that there are
12 seats if you would like them.

13 Next I'd like to talk about interveners.
14 Intervenors are interested groups and individuals who want
15 to become parties and take a more active role in the
16 process. As a party you can participate in evidentiary
17 hearings by introducing your own evidence and cross-
18 examining other parties. To become an intervener you must -
19 - oops. To become an intervener you must submit a written
20 request to the Committee that expresses an interest in
21 intervening, describes your interest in the case, and
22 specifies a particular subject matter or interest you may
23 have, such as air quality, public health, or alternatives.
24 If you would like more information on becoming an
25 intervener, please contact the Public Adviser and she will

1 assist you.

2 The Committee's scheduling order will establish
3 the deadline for filing a petition to intervene.

4 Intervening early will allow you to participate more in the
5 proceedings. The Public Adviser will assist members of the
6 public who would like to become interveners in the Mission
7 Rock Energy Center proceedings. However, and I want to
8 stress this, you do not have to be an intervener to
9 participate in the Energy Commission's process or to comment
10 on the proposed project.

11 I will now review the processes that the Energy
12 Commission uses to review and evaluate power plant siting
13 cases, like the proposed project. This will include the
14 various meetings and hearings that typically occur, and the
15 different documents that are created. After the other
16 presentations I will show several slides that contain dates
17 these activities are currently expected to occur.

18 The Energy Commission is the lead agency for this
19 proposed project under the California Environmental Quality
20 Act. The Warren-Alquist Act creates a certified regulatory
21 program that the Energy Commission uses to prepare its
22 environmental analysis. This certified regulatory program
23 means that the Energy Commission does not prepare an
24 environmental impact report. However, the Energy Commission
25 does prepare written documents that include an analysis of

1 the potential environmental effects of a project, including
2 mitigation measures, which we call conditions of
3 certification, to reduce or eliminate any significant
4 adverse effects a proposed power plant project may have on
5 the environment.

6 The documents prepared under the certified
7 regulatory program also discuss alternatives to the proposed
8 project. The Energy Commission's analysis is very similar
9 in substance to an environmental impact report, but the
10 process is different. The names of the documents are also
11 different. So let's talk a little bit about those different
12 documents.

13 The first is something called a Preliminary Staff
14 Assessment. The Energy Commission staff prepares a
15 Preliminary Staff Assessment that contains its independent
16 objective environmental and engineering analysis of the
17 proposed project. The Preliminary Staff Assessment is
18 available for public comment for at least 30 days. Anyone
19 can comment on the Preliminary Staff Assessment. Staff
20 generally holds a public workshop on the Preliminary Staff
21 Assessment during the comment period. I know that Staff
22 will be talking more about their Preliminary Staff
23 Assessment when they have their presentation.

24 After the comment period on the Preliminary Staff
25 Assessment is complete, Energy Commission staff prepares a

1 Final Staff Assessment. The Final Staff Assessment includes
2 the Energy Commission's staff's responses to the comments
3 received on the Preliminary Staff Assessment, and any
4 changes the staff may have made to the analysis based on
5 those comments.

6 After the Final Staff Assessment is filed in the
7 docket, the Committee will hold evidentiary hearings. At
8 these hearings the parties, including any interveners, will
9 present evidence. During these hearings the Committee will
10 listen to the evidence. The public will also be given the
11 opportunity to participate in these hearings and offer
12 comments. All public comments will become part of the
13 record, but the Committee cannot base its proposed factual
14 findings on public comments alone.

15 After hearing all of the evidence the Committee,
16 with help from me, prepares the Presiding Member's Proposed
17 Decision. This written document will contain the analysis
18 and conclusions the Committee has made about the factual and
19 legal questions presented during the evidentiary hearings.
20 The Committee can recommend that the proposed project be
21 approved, denied, or modified.

22 The Presiding Member's Proposed Decision will also
23 contain conditions of certification that are designed to m
24 itigate any identified environmental effects. The
25 conditions of certification also assure that if the proposed

1 project is built it will be operated safely and in
2 conformity with all relevant laws, ordinances, regulations,
3 and standards.

4 The Presiding Member's Proposed Decision will be
5 available for public comment for 30 days. During those 30
6 days the Committee will hold a conference where the parties
7 and the public can discuss the Presiding Member's Proposed
8 Decision.

9 After the comment period the full Energy
10 Commission will consider the Presiding Member's Proposed
11 Decision at one of its business meetings in Sacramento. The
12 Energy Commission can adopt, reject, or modify the Presiding
13 Member's Proposed Decision.

14 (Colloquy between the Hearing Officer and Public
15 Adviser)

16 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: I understand that some
17 side conversations are occurring. If you could allow me to
18 finish my presentation so that your neighbors and friends
19 can hear what's being said, I would appreciate that. I'm
20 talking as loud as I can, but I don't want to blast anyone
21 out of the room. So if we could just keep the side
22 conversations to a minimum, that would be very helpful.
23 Thank you.

24 Once the Energy Commission has acted on the
25 Presiding Members Proposed Decision, this is the Energy

1 Commission's final decision. After the Energy Commission
2 has made its final decision there are two ways to request a
3 review of the decision, by a motion for reconsideration to
4 the Energy Commission, or by an appeal to the California
5 Supreme Court.

6 Because the Energy Commission and the Committee
7 act like judges, we take very seriously the need to be fair
8 to all of the participants in our cases, whether they are
9 parties to the proceedings or members of the public. One
10 way we do this is the ex parte rule. The purpose of the ex
11 parte rule is to provide full disclosure to all participants
12 about any information that may be used as a basis for future
13 decisions on the proposed project. This rule means that all
14 contacts between interested parties, including the public,
15 and the Committee, including their advisers and me,
16 regarding any substantive matter much occur in only one of
17 two ways.

18 First, it can occur in a public discussion at a
19 meeting where notice of the meeting has been given, such as
20 tonight's Informational Hearing and Environmental Scoping
21 Meeting.

22 Second, you may make written comments through
23 either the e-commenting system or other methods that the
24 Public Adviser will describe shortly, or that are filed
25 electronically by a party in the proposed project's docket.

1 Those documents are automatically emailed to all of the
2 parties and the listserv. They are also transmitted to the
3 Committee and are available on the Energy Commission's
4 website.

5 I have just described a number of meetings,
6 workshops and hearing that will be occurring, and documents
7 that will be released. After we hear from the Public
8 Adviser, Energy Commission Staff and the applicant, we will
9 be talking about a scheduling order. This schedule is our
10 best estimate of when things may occur in making a decision
11 on the proposed project. However, the schedule may change
12 over time. The Committee may file updated schedules from
13 time to time to reflect changes and delays that occur.

14 For meetings, the law, the Bagley-Keene act, says
15 that the Energy Commission must give the public at least ten
16 days' notice of the date and time of the meeting. Even if
17 an event is listed in the scheduling order, separate notice
18 of individual events will be given. These notices will also
19 include information about participating by telephone and on
20 the computer. There will always be time for public comment
21 at the meetings, workshops or hearings.

22 For documents, the Energy Commission will provide
23 notice when they're ready for review. And that notice will
24 include the deadline to submit any comments you have on
25 them.

1 Now we will hear presentations from the Public
2 Adviser, the Energy Commission staff, and the applicant.
3 And I would first call on the Public Adviser for her
4 presentation.

5 MS. MATTHEWS: Good afternoon. My name is Alana
6 Matthews. I am the Public Adviser. So you've learned a
7 little information about what my role is at the Energy
8 Commission. I am an independently appointed attorney by the
9 governor who basically has their responsibilities in a
10 proceeding like this. One is to help the public understand
11 the process. The second is to recommend the best way to get
12 involved. There's a formal way to participate and an
13 informal way to participate. And then thirdly, to assist in
14 the successful participation in any of the proceedings that
15 we have. So want to make sure a success is that your voice
16 is being heard.

17 Some of the outreach that my office does to ensure
18 that community members are able to have notice of what's
19 going on and be able to participate is we do outreach to
20 local city and county officials, tribal officials and
21 members, schools, nonprofit groups, community organizations,
22 property owners, public members, and anyone who has
23 contacted our office, looking for more information. And the
24 way we do that is that we have paid local newspaper
25 advertisement. We have notices in the local libraries. We

1 do email blasts, informational meetings. And we also did a
2 PSA announcement to one of the local radio stations here.

3 The importance of public participation through
4 public comment, I always like to take an opportunity and
5 just focus on this because it can't be under-emphasized that
6 it is so important that you are here tonight, and that if
7 you want to make a public comment you fill out the blue card
8 so that your voice can be heard. And why is that important?
9 Well, four main reason.

10 One, the public comments are considered by the
11 Commissioners. That's our Committee. Those are the
12 decision makers.

13 Second, the public comments, they help the
14 Commissioners, the staff, even the applicant understand what
15 your concerns are. What are the concerns that you have
16 about having a power plant in your community, the
17 environmental impacts? All of that is information that the
18 Committee needs to hear, as well as the applicant and the
19 Commission staff.

20 Public comments are necessary to understand the
21 concerns of residents. And they are not considered
22 evidence, but they are a part of the official record.

23 Again, as I mentioned a few minutes ago that there are
24 two levels of participation. There's a formal and an
25 informal way to participate.

1 The first level is informal. That's by showing up
2 to the meetings and giving your public comment, getting a
3 blue card.

4 You can also make electronic comments. So at the
5 Public Adviser's table we have an iPad. We also have a
6 sign-up sheet. So anytime you want to get notification
7 about anything, any meeting or proceeding that's going on
8 with the Mission Rock Project, you'll get email notification
9 on that. And we also have a place where you can submit
10 electronic comments.

11 So if you want more information, you can come over
12 to the Public Adviser's table. We can walk you through
13 that. We have a demonstration to do that tonight. And then
14 you can submit written comments. For those that don't
15 necessarily like to use the computer or the internet, we'll
16 still take it. You can hand me your comments. If you have
17 something written or you have an article you think is
18 important, you can bring it to my table and I'll docket it
19 for you so it's a part of all of the documents for the
20 proceeding, or you can simply mail it using that address.
21 And don't worry, if you don't have it, we have brochures, we
22 have our address. So just know that that's available for
23 you.

24 The second level of participation is more formal,
25 and that's intervening. So our Hearing Officer, Ms.

1 Cochran, mentioned a little bit about that. So as an
2 intervener you're a party to the proceeding. Now anyone may
3 file a petition to intervene. You don't have to be an
4 attorney. You don't have to have any experience with power
5 plants before, if you are a concerned citizen and you want
6 to have a more formal part in the proceeding, you can become
7 an intervener.

8 The Public Adviser's office can help you by
9 providing a sample petition. So how you have to intervene,
10 you file a petition, and we can give you a sample of that.
11 That petition is considered by the assigned Committee and a
12 determination is made within 30 days.

13 And I think we have at least one person here who
14 has called our office and has inquired about that. So if
15 you have any more information, I have some information that
16 I can share with you.

17 The last bit of information I want to share with
18 you is the Energy Commission's website. If you simply go to
19 www.energy.ca.gov, that takes you to the Energy Commission's
20 website. And there's a drop-down menu that shows -- if you
21 click on the little tab that says "Power Plants" -- I guess
22 the laser pointer is not working but, oh, here we go, so,
23 okay, it says "Power Plants." And then you just simply --
24 it's there, and it's an alphabetical listing. And that will
25 bring up an alphabetical listing of all the active projects.

1 You look up "Mission Rock" and you'll be able to see that,
2 and that's how you can get to sign up for the listserv,
3 submit e-comments. And again, you don't have to memorize
4 all of that now. I have it on our iPad over here. I'm
5 happy to walk you through it.

6 So things that you can do, besides being able to
7 get up and make your comment tonight you can sign up
8 manually, fill out the form with your name and your email
9 address. We'll input your information so you can receive
10 all the notices that go out. It's a two-step process. So
11 you will get an email back from the Energy Commission, and
12 you have to respond to that. I think it's within 24 hours,
13 or else you'll have to sign up again. So that's the first
14 thing that you can do to participate.

15 Secondly, you can submit your written comments.
16 Tonight you can provide oral comments. And then you can
17 attend the public project events in person, or WebEx.
18 Sometimes it's in the evening. We want to be mindful that
19 people work during the day. But if you have other
20 responsibilities and you can't be here, you can always join
21 via WebEx or using a telephone line. We welcome non-English
22 speakers. And we'll make special accommodations to anyone
23 with disabilities. Just call my office and let us know.

24 Again, if you have any information, you can
25 contact my office. And I do have bilingual staff, Rosemary

1 Avalos. So you can call my office if you are Spanish-
2 speaking and she will be able to answer any questions that
3 you have.

4 Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: One thing I would like
6 to add is that the Public Adviser has shown you how to
7 obtain information about the proposed project. The Energy
8 Commission uses the U.S. Mail to give notice for very few
9 events. So if you don't -- and if you don't live near the
10 project site then you are likely not going to even be on
11 that mailing list. So that, we strongly encourage you to
12 sign up for the listserv. Because if you are on the mailing
13 list the U.S. mail takes longer. The listserv will give you
14 all of the documents and all of the events that are filed in
15 the case, including notices of Staff and Committee events
16 and it will get them to you much more quickly.

17 With that, I'll now ask the Energy Commission
18 staff to present their role in power plant siting cases.

19 MR. MONASMITH: Hello. Hi. I'm Mike Monasmith.
20 I'm the Project Manager at the California Energy Commission
21 for the Mission Rock Energy Center Power Plant Project. I'm
22 the lead of the team of a couple dozen engineers, analysts,
23 planners, archeologists, biologists and others who will have
24 two primary tasks initially when it comes to reviewing this
25 power plant project.

1 First, we're going to look to see if there any
2 impacts from this project in an independent and objective
3 way, any impacts to the environmental, to the public health,
4 or the transmission and engineering systems of our state.
5 We do that, as well as making sure that the project conforms
6 to all local and state laws, ordinances, regulations and
7 standards, or what we call LORS. Those are our two primary
8 objectives. Then I'm going to go back and tell you how that
9 actually occurs.

10 There we go. Okay. First slide, that's myself,
11 Mike Monasmith. Galen Lemei, our Staff Counsel. Eric
12 Knight who is also a Senior Manager with the team. There we
13 go. All right.

14 The process is called discovery. And we are in
15 the process of discovery right now. The applicant -- this
16 application was filed in late October. It went through a
17 few months process of data adequacy. It became data
18 adequate late May, at which point discovery commenced. It's
19 a six-month process upon which we undergo the beginning of
20 issue identification which is research, outreach. We
21 received over 54 comments from individuals here in the
22 community who were concerned about the project, the projects
23 impacts in relation to the river, in relation to air
24 quality, environmental justice, a whole list of concerns.

25 We take all of that information and we issue data

1 requests, what are actually questions we have to the
2 applicant about these specific issues and concerns that we
3 might have. We've issued 118 data requests to date in a
4 whole list of areas, everything from air quality to
5 biological resources, cultural resources, hazardous
6 material, workers' safety and fire protection, land use,
7 noise, traffic and transportation, and visual resources.

8 And the applicant has a specific amount of time in
9 which to respond to those questions. In fact, they're due
10 to us on September 1st by mutual agreement. And those are
11 called data responses.

12 After we get our data responses back we have
13 workshops. And those workshops will be here in the
14 community. They're informal. They involve give and take
15 between the Energy Commission staff and the applicant, the
16 project proponents, as well as members of the community,
17 interveners, and others from other agencies, we all
18 participate. It's not on the record like tonight's
19 proceeding is. It's not as formal. And it gives us an
20 opportunity to work through the issues to make sure that we
21 understand these impacts and what potentially could happen
22 if this power plant were to be built and to operate.

23 When that process is done, that's about a six-
24 month process that that takes, we produce what's called a
25 Preliminary Staff Assessment or a PSA. And that PSA

1 contains information that we've gathered over the six
2 months, over the discovery period, that six-month discovery
3 period. And we determine -- I can't read my own writing
4 back here, so I've got to look at the big one. In part, we
5 determine if the project does, in fact, conform with local
6 LORS, that is laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards.

7 We make a determination on the environmental and
8 engineering impacts of the project. We see if those impacts
9 were significant.

10 And if the threshold of significance are
11 determined, in fact, we'll be using Ventura County's
12 threshold of significance for the California Environmental
13 Quality Act. Those are the standards by which we will judge
14 whether or not an impact is significant or not. And we will
15 be in 21 technical areas from air quality to worker safety
16 and fire protection. And every single one of those there
17 will be a chapter where we talk about the impacts that this
18 project could have in those individual areas.

19 We will then identify if there is significant
20 impacts, if there is mitigation or measures that would help
21 reduce those impacts. And we suggest in the mitigation
22 measures, and they're called conditions of certification.
23 And we put this document out, it's usually several hundred
24 pages. Usually they run in between 750 and 1,000 pages in
25 length. They're quite lengthy, but they contain a lot of

1 information and reflect a lot of work that takes place over
2 that six-month discovery period.

3 And then it goes out for at least a 30-day comment
4 period for all of you to look at. If there's specific areas
5 that you're concerned about, if it's biology, if it's land
6 use, air quality, noise, if it's traffic, you have an
7 opportunity to look and then provide us with your comments.
8 And we take those comments and we respond to them and we
9 change the document, and then we will produce what's called
10 a Final Staff Assessment or an FSA. So the first one is a
11 draft, essentially, equivalent to a draft environmental
12 impact report that many of you may have heard about. That's
13 our Preliminary Staff Assessment.

14 And then we will, after we hear from other
15 agencies, from the public, from interveners, from the
16 applicant, they have a lot to say about mitigation measures
17 that we are suggesting be placed on their project for
18 certain impacts that we've determined would exist, could
19 exist, and we have a workshop on that PSA. And we produce
20 the FSA which is then our testimony as Staff when we go into
21 hearings.

22 This graph is a bit of a -- it shows a bit of how
23 the process works in terms of the parties. The Energy
24 Commission is in the middle. And we rely on interveners,
25 the public, members of the public, as well as local, state

1 and federal agencies and tribes. All of those have a role.
2 And we rely upon them to work with us to tell us how those
3 impacts in certain areas. For instance, biology is the
4 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the
5 transportation with Caltrans. We work with all those
6 agencies and with outreach, and we work with the local
7 entities, obviously with the City of Santa Paula. Even
8 though this project is not located within the City of Santa
9 Paula, we are working with the city on the impacts. But
10 certainly the County of Ventura, and we work with them, as
11 well, and have been.

12 The other -- these are some of the -- a list of
13 the other organizations. Under the County of Ventura, as I
14 mentioned earlier, the resource of this management agency,
15 their planning division, they have their own thresholds of
16 significance for the California Environmental Quality Act.
17 We are using that threshold of significance when we
18 determine whether or not an impact is significant or isn't
19 significant. If it's significant, then it requires
20 mitigation. And those mitigation measures are discussed
21 with all parties reflected in the PSA, and ultimately in the
22 FSA which is our testimony when we go to hearings.

23 Additionally, the City of Santa Paula, L.A. Water,
24 Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board which are issues to
25 do with the river. We've been in contact with Caltrans.

1 They have a big project that's planned, as many of you know,
2 on the 126, and how that might have impacts on truck traffic
3 and other traffic that would be created as a result of this
4 project.

5 The California Fish and Wildlife; as you know,
6 this project is relatively close to the Santa Clara River.
7 We have received letters from them in terms of potential
8 consultations on a lake and streambed alteration agreement.

9 They also are curious on the surveys, which we'll talk
10 about in a second, which are being conducted for sensitive
11 species, many of which rely on riparian areas and the other
12 areas within the river itself. That's also true for the
13 federal level at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

14 And for FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management
15 Agency, as you know, this is within a 100-year flood plain.
16 We have been in contact with the Ventura County Flood
17 Protection Agency. They are producing new maps, along with
18 FEMA, on the impacts to the river -- the river would have on
19 adjoining properties in the event of 100-year floods. We've
20 been working with them. That will be reflected in our
21 analysis.

22 The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the tribes.

23 And that's essentially the process at this point.

24 I know it sounds confusing. But essentially it's just
25 important for you to know that we're in this process of

1 discovery right now, of asking questions of the applicant.
2 All of that has been posted. It's all online for you to
3 review and to look at. Those questions and those data
4 requests will be coming back to us on September 1st.

5 We'll then have a workshop here in Santa Paula,
6 probably around September 13th or 14th, at which time we'll
7 be talking about those data responses, the responses that
8 the applicant is providing for these 118 questions that
9 we've asked them on a number of different areas.

10 After the applicant does their presentation, I'm
11 going to speak a little bit more about the issues to date
12 that we found with some concern in terms of schedule and
13 delay and potential impacts and ability to mitigate those
14 impacts.

15 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Thank you.

16 I'd like to remind everyone again that there is an
17 overflow room where, if you don't have a seat, you might be
18 more comfortable. There are tables and chairs in there.
19 You'll still be able to hear, whether over the headset or
20 through the public announcement system. And the slideshow
21 is also being broadcast in there. So again, the overflow
22 room is off to my left.

23 And there are also still some seats here,
24 especially here in the front and towards the middle. So if
25 you'd like to find someplace to sit, that would be awesome.

1 And then, again, if you're having any trouble with
2 your headsets, if they don't seem to be working, please go
3 to the interpreters' table and they'll be able to help you
4 out.

5 At this point we will now turn to the applicant so
6 that they may describe their visions of the project that
7 they've proposed.

8 MR. WEINBERG: Thank you. My name is Mitch
9 Weinberg. I'm the Director of Project Development for
10 Calpine. I have been working in the energy industry for 30
11 years. I've been 16 years with Calpine. And I'm leading
12 the development effort for the proposed Mission Rock
13 Project.

14 I want to thank the Commission for an opportunity
15 to present the project here today. But in particular, I
16 really want to thank so many members of the public. And I'm
17 sorry that my back is turned to you because, you know, the
18 reality is, as you've already heard, your participation is
19 crucial. And, frankly, there is no better way for you to
20 separate fact from fiction than to directly participate,
21 really engage, not just in this informational hearing but
22 the workshops where we can have a general back and forth, a
23 critical part of the process. And so I'm so glad to see so
24 many people here, and I hope this presence continues.

25 I apologize, I'm going to turn away.

1 I do want to take a few minutes to introduce
2 Calpine. I'm assuming most of you don't really know who
3 Calpine Corporation is. Calpine was founded in 1981 with
4 the goal of modernizing the power generation in the United
5 States. And so today, Calpine is one of the largest
6 independent power producers in the U.S. And what that
7 means, independent means we are independent of any electric
8 utility. So we sell energy to the electric utilities, but
9 then they sell the energy directly to you at a retail level.

10 So typically we own our own facilities, we develop
11 our own facilities. And the logic behind that is that we
12 intend to be in it for the long haul, so we want to control
13 the design and development of the facilities so that they
14 are built to last and they will perform throughout.

15 So today we have 27,000 megawatts of generation
16 across 84 power plants across the United States. That would
17 be enough on most days to run the state of California, but
18 not today. Today I expect the grid to peak at about 45,000
19 megawatts, and we'll get to the significance of that number
20 maybe a little bit later.

21 But if we just go the bottom of that slide, you
22 know, there's a few things I -- oh, sorry. Thank you.
23 Sure. How's that? Is that better?

24 So Calpine is committed to really only the
25 cleanest forms of generation. We are exclusively natural

1 gas and renewables, no coal, no nuclear, just gas and
2 renewables. And on the renewable side, Calpine is, in fact,
3 the largest producer of geothermal power in the United
4 States. We provide 15 percent of the state of California's
5 entire renewable component. It makes us the largest single
6 producer of renewable power in the state of California.

7 In addition to our geothermal activity which is
8 largely at our Geyser's facility north of San Francisco, we
9 have 1,000 megawatts of wind generation under development
10 now across the United States.

11 So, you know, core principles at Calpine, the
12 company, is, has been and remains committed to environmental
13 excellence, to the reduction of water consumption, and to
14 the safety of its employees and to the public.

15 But maybe one of the most important principles,
16 and it's at the bottom of this slide, is our engagement with
17 the community. We are, as I mentioned, 84 power plants
18 that's in about 60 different communities across the United
19 States, and in each of those communities there are Calpine
20 employees who now live and work. They become part of those
21 communities. Their kids go to school in their communities.
22 And they go to work at the power plant every day. So their
23 safety is paramount, just like your safety is paramount in
24 everything that we do. And I just think that's an important
25 fact to call out.

1 Just a little bit about Calpine that I have found
2 to be a very unique company in the power generation space.
3 We have taken a leadership position on many environmental
4 issues, both on pollution and greenhouse gas emissions,
5 supporting things as AB 32, which is the legislation that
6 led to the renewable procurement standard, currently pushing
7 us to 33 percent renewable use in the state of California by
8 2020. We've also now supported the recently passed SB 350.
9 That's pushing the state's renewable generation to 50
10 percent by 2030. That is more than any other state of the
11 union, and possibly more than anywhere else in the world.
12 And obviously what we're talking about here with the
13 proposed Mission Rock Project is a component of the other 50
14 percent.

15 And then in addition, Calpine has supported the
16 Clean Power Plan. That's President Obama's initiative now
17 with the federal EPA to reduce coal production in favor of a
18 shift to natural gas and renewables, although that is
19 presently blocked by lawsuits from 23 states. And senior
20 management from Calpine actually attended the Paris Climate
21 Summit with Governor Brown's delegation. The list goes on,
22 but I wanted to give you a sense of who Calpine is a as
23 responsible environmental leader.

24 So let's talk about Mission Rock Energy Center.
25 It's an innovative peaking facility for local reliability.

1 So what does that mean? Let's start with local reliability.

2 The project is designed to serve the grid here,
3 not in Nevada, not elsewhere in California, not other things
4 that I've heard mentioned. This is going to be plugged in
5 at the Santa Clara Substation which is just above Foothill
6 near Wells Road. And when called upon during peak usage it
7 will serve this community, the general Ventura-Moorpark
8 subregion.

9 What is a peaking facility? Well, a peaking
10 facility is a power plant that can come online very quickly,
11 serve a specific need, typically for a short period of time
12 and then it turns off. Calpine operates many peakers across
13 California, mostly in Northern California. And historically
14 we have found these units run somewhere between 300 and 500
15 hours a year out of 8,760 hours a year. So they do a very
16 important job for a very short period of time, but they're
17 there for reliability above all other things, not to sit
18 there and generate all day long.

19 So what's innovative about this design? What
20 makes this project unique? Well, I've got three items on
21 the screen there.

22 First of all, we've chosen five smaller individual
23 gas turbines. And these are aircraft engines. It's the GE
24 LM6000. It's the same engine that's on a 767, basically an
25 aircraft engine in a box. But it makes the plant highly

1 flexible in the amount of power it can deliver without
2 hurting efficiency. Why is that important? Well, a turbine
3 is most efficient and therefore cleanest when it's operating
4 at base load, when it's operating at the top end of its
5 range. These turbines are about 55 megawatts each, let's
6 call it 50 megawatts each. They are cleanest when they are
7 50 megawatts.

8 So a design with five turbines has an opportunity
9 to provide power to the grid in five different blocks, 50
10 megawatts at optimal performance, or 100 or 150 or 200,
11 without sacrificing our best environmental effort. That is
12 a key component of the Mission Rock philosophy.

13 So in addition, we've added a clutch system. And
14 I'm not sure how familiar you are with gas turbines, but the
15 gas turbine burns natural gas and it rotates. And instead
16 of producing thrust, like a jet engine does to move the
17 aircraft, that rotation is connected to a generator, and
18 that generator spins and synchronizes to the grid to provide
19 energy, and also to control voltage.

20 We propose to add a clutch between the turbine and
21 the generator so that once the generator is synchronized to
22 the grid, it can be disengaged from the turbine and the
23 turbine can be shut off and no longer burn natural gas, but
24 the generator can still provide voltage support to the grid.
25 The grid here operates at 220,000 volts. And sometimes it

1 wanders, it drifts up or down. But with a rotating
2 generator, known as a synchronous condenser, you can control
3 that and we can do it with a clutch without burning any gas.

4 In addition, we've proposed the addition of 25
5 megawatts of batteries. So that's an energy storage system
6 that could deliver energy to the grid without running the
7 gas turbines, it's completely independent, and delivery 100
8 megawatt hours of electricity. 25 megawatts would pretty
9 much serve the entire city of Santa Paula. I think there's
10 about 30,000 residents in Santa Paula, let's call it 25,000
11 households, that's the size of the battery array we are
12 proposing.

13 So this is a simulated view of the proposed
14 Mission Rock Energy Center. And so what we've got here,
15 these are the five turbines. These stack heights are 60
16 feet; right? This is the neighborhood in which we sit.
17 Right now there's an RV storage lot here, and I'll show you
18 that in another slide. There's an asphalt plant next door
19 that's operating now. These heights are about 70 feet.
20 We've got our control building. We've got tanks for water
21 and demineralized water. And these containers are
22 essentially shipping containers filled with batteries. This
23 can operate completely independent of the turbines. The
24 power goes through transformers into our little in-house
25 switchyard, and then off the grid, heading west.

1 So why choose a peaking facility? Why not a base
2 load plant? Why not some other kind of generation?

3 Some of you may or may not know that the grid
4 operates, at least today, almost entirely in real time, so
5 that when someone is using energy, something must be
6 generating energy to match. And when people stop using
7 energy, things that are running may need to turn off. We
8 don't as yet have any meaningful storage on the grid. Now
9 storage is going to be a very important part of California's
10 energy future.

11 And Assembly Bill 2515 has compelled the three
12 investor-owned utilities to install 1,325 megawatts of
13 storage by 2024. Okay, that's one gigawatt, essentially.
14 But we need advancements in reliability, durability and cost
15 to really get to the tens of thousands of megawatts of
16 storage that you'd need to provide significant grid
17 reliability.

18 And just to emphasize that point, today there's
19 8,000 megawatts of solar on the grid in California, and
20 that's at about 1:00 p.m., between noon and 1:00 p.m. So as
21 we sit here today, there is probably no solar operating in
22 the state of California, and we're just about to hit that
23 45,000 megawatt peak that I mentioned earlier.

24 So the role of a peaker is to close that gap, even
25 if we have a grid that is vastly more dependent on solar

1 than it is today, it's to close that gap between solar
2 coming off, what batteries can do today, what they can do in
3 ten years to make sure, really as a matter of public safety,
4 that there is reliable energy for the grid.

5 I want to talk a little bit about how we
6 identified the site as the location for the Mission Rock
7 Energy Center. There are really three principles that we
8 consider, land use decisions, grid reliability, meaning can
9 get to a place on the grid that's actually going to do the
10 job that needs to be done, and are the other
11 interconnections available, gas, water, sewer, what have
12 you, whatever is required.

13 So this slide is a little heavy on text. I
14 promise not to labor on it too long.

15 So land use; the key is really to respect the
16 local land use decisions that are already in place and not
17 presume that we're going to take a bunch of land out of ag
18 or we're going to convert some residential space into power
19 plant space of industrial space; right? And so the key --
20 you know, the question is: Are there properly zoned areas
21 in compatible neighborhoods? In other words, it may be
22 zoned industrial but it is next to something that's just not
23 compatible with a power plant. Grid reliability, as I
24 mentioned, can I get to the place on the grid where I need
25 to be to actually do the job that needs to be. And then

1 interconnections, can I get to all the other linear
2 facilities that I need. So let's look at the bottom of this
3 slide.

4 The site that we've proposed for Mission Rock is
5 already on heavy industrial zoned M-3 land, so no zoning
6 change is required. And it's in a neighborhood that's very
7 consistent with power generation.

8 Southern California Edison's Santa Clara
9 Substation, in our view, and I have a slide where we can
10 look at this a little bit later, is really the most
11 effective point to inject power into this local grid to do
12 the job that's going to need to be done when your 2,000
13 megawatts of generation on the coast goes away in 2020. The
14 substation is about 4.5 miles as the crow flies from the
15 Mission Rock site.

16 And then is there natural gas available? And is
17 there a water connection available? There's a natural gas
18 pipeline of sufficient size that's about two miles from the
19 project site. And also a source of recycled water about 1.7
20 miles.

21 So this is the project site. And you can see that
22 this is the industrial park that we keep talking about. We
23 have auto salvage operations, oil field services, a fairly
24 large asphalt plant, and the Mission Rock Energy Center
25 site, which is presently covered in asphalt corner to

1 corner, storing RVs and boats.

2 I'm going to actually call your attention to the
3 screen on the right. I'm not sure what happened to that
4 graphic on the left, but the bottom line is: What is the
5 grid reliability issue here in the greater Ventura area?
6 Why are we having this conversation?

7 There are 2,000 megawatts of generation on the
8 coast that are going to need to retire by 2020. They
9 currently use ocean water for cooling, and that's a practice
10 that's been cut off.

11 And so if you look at this graphic on the right,
12 what's been asked for is generation in the greater Moorpark
13 subarea. But in our view it's within the inner circle of
14 the Santa Clara subarea that's the most effective place to
15 install generation. So the Santa Clara Substation is where
16 we would connect. You know, Mission Rock probably sits
17 about here. The Santa Clara Substation is where we would
18 connect. And when there was local need the voltage will be
19 dropped at that substation and distributed into this local
20 community.

21 Just to pull back a little bit on location, to
22 give you a sense of exactly where we are, here's the Mission
23 Rock site. We're about halfway between the western edge of
24 Santa Paula and Saticoy. And here is the substation to
25 which we propose to connect.

1 This is a map showing the interconnection routes,
2 and I'll start with transmission. Here's the Mission Rock
3 site. Transmission would travel westbound, paralleling the
4 river. It would then turn north, paralleling the Ellsworth
5 Barranca. We would stay as close to the barranca as we
6 could, and we'd use brown-colored single-pole transmission
7 towers. Most of the trees in that Barranca are 150 to 200
8 feet, so that we expect those poles to visually somewhat be
9 lost in the Barranca. We'll then cross Foothill and get up
10 into the hills here. And then these yellow lines are
11 existing transmission lines. There are 12 different
12 circuits coming together and coming into the Santa Clara
13 Substation. We would line up as quickly as we can with
14 transmission already in place, come around and drop into the
15 Santa Clara Sub.

16 This inset shows the plant relative to the gas
17 connection, and the plant relative to the water connection.
18 There's already a recycled water pipeline that comes down
19 here. And that water is just used to irrigate alfalfa
20 fields down in this area, using standard sprinkler
21 irrigation.

22 So this is -- oh, let me back up.

23 I want to point out this location. This is KOP-1,
24 key observation point one. This is on Highway 126. We're
25 about a half mile from the Mission Rock site. This is the

1 view from that little rise on 126 of what Mission Rock would
2 look like laid into the existing landscape. What you see
3 here is the asphalt plant that's already existing. And
4 those are actually the colors that they've painted that
5 facility, sort of dark green and black. We like that color
6 scheme so we use it. And this is what you would see for
7 about 300 yards on 126. Beyond that, it's very tough to get
8 a visual on this plant.

9 So we've talked a little bit, the CEC staff has
10 talked a little bit about proximity to the river and us
11 being on the edge of a 100-year flood plain. We would
12 actually raise our site approximately five feet on the
13 northern edge, and as much as ten feet on the southern edge.
14 And this visual is already considering the site being raised
15 in elevation. So the site is raised to stay above the 100-
16 year flood plain. That protects the river from the project
17 and protects the project from the river.

18 Okay, so we've already talked a little bit about
19 the need for generation. You've got 2,000 megawatts of old
20 generation on the coast that's going away. But really, who
21 decides what's needed in the state of California for power
22 generation? It's the California Independent System
23 Operator, the Public Utilities Commission, the Energy
24 Commission that we're with today, and Southern California
25 Edison, at least here.

1 A modern grid that is dependent and going to be
2 more and more dependent on renewable resources simply needs
3 a backup source of reliable generation to assure the
4 availability of energy. And frankly, we simply believe
5 Mission Rock Energy Center is well-suited to serve that
6 goal.

7 The permitting process, I won't dwell on because
8 that's why we're all here today. Obviously, the Energy
9 Commission is the lead agency for anything over 50 megawatts
10 thermal. But this project will comply with all laws,
11 ordinances, regulations and standards, or it simply will not
12 get a permit. And in addition, we'll need an air permit
13 from the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District. And
14 the conditions in that permit will be folded into the Energy
15 Commission's license. And again, if it cannot meet all best
16 available control technology standards and national ambient
17 air quality standards, it simply will not get a permit.

18 Let me talk a little bit about community benefits
19 before I turn it back to Energy Commission staff. But
20 obviously, a project like this is no small task. And so
21 Calpine, as it has done with all of its projects in
22 California, works closely with organized labor. We have
23 fully negotiated labor agreements, a project labor agreement
24 and a maintenance labor agreement, with the building trades.
25 And we have actually signed that document and it's in

1 front -- those documents, and they're in front of the
2 building trades now. We expect something, including the
3 site elevation and other aspects, we expect about a 23-month
4 construction cycle. That's 175 jobs, 440,000 labor hours.

5 Once the project is up and running, it's a much
6 smaller workforce. It's about 16 new full-time jobs,
7 excellent jobs, with a payroll on the order of \$2.5 million.

8 Locally, if you're not working at the power plant,
9 what does it mean for you as a county resident or a citizen
10 of Santa Paula?

11 Well, a project of this scale, we're estimating
12 that the annual property tax is about \$3 million. About \$1
13 million of that is going directly to schools, \$550,000 a
14 year would go to Briggs Elementary School, and about
15 \$450,000 a year would go to Santa Paula High School. In
16 addition, there's about \$500,000 a year that go to the Fire
17 Protection District, and that's half of the \$3 million that
18 we've accounted for.

19 In addition, just regular maintenance activity at
20 the project is about a \$1.3 million annual budget, and a lot
21 of that is interaction with the local community so there's
22 some connection there.

23 And I'll just -- this last point here, because I
24 hear this come up quite a lot. Part of our transmission
25 route goes through lands owned by Limoneira Corporation.

1 And I put it on here because I just thought that the
2 arrangement that we have with Limoneira really highlights
3 the respect Limoneira has for Santa Paula. We are not
4 paying Limoneira Corporation for the easement rights. We
5 are paying the Limoneira foundation annual \$200,000 a year
6 for the right to use those easements. And they have
7 committed to turning that money back to charitable donations
8 into the City of Santa Paula, directly into Santa Paula,
9 nowhere else in Ventura County. So I felt that was at least
10 worth mentioning.

11 So thank you for your patience and your attention,
12 and I will turn it back to the Energy Commission.

13 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Thank you.

14 Now that you've heard from the applicant, we're
15 going to hear from Staff again. And this time they are
16 going to talk about issues that they have identified thus
17 far regarding the proposed project.

18 Mr. Monasmith?

19 MR. MONASMITH: Thank you, Ms. Cochran.

20 I had failed to mention earlier that the
21 jurisdiction that we have at the Energy Commission not only
22 includes the power plant site, the 10-acre power plant site,
23 but all linear features that are necessary for that plant to
24 operate, and that includes the natural gas pipeline they'd
25 have to build, the new reclaimed water line, and the 6.6-

1 mile transmission line that they're going to have to build
2 in order to plug into the Santa Clara Substation. So that
3 the scope of everything that we're looking at in terms of
4 impacts in the 21 different technical areas that I alluded
5 to earlier.

6 We produced in late June, prior to our first
7 meeting here, what was called an Issues Identification
8 Report. And those are made in order to provide the
9 Committee, the decision makers, with a heads-up on some of
10 the issues which we consider to be important and/or
11 potentially problematic in terms of the schedule, in terms
12 of mitigation and we highlight those issues. We put them in
13 the report and then we make that available, this available
14 so everybody here is also online. And we had some copies
15 that were available at the first meeting. People can review
16 them if they wish.

17 But I'm going to go through and talk about a
18 couple of the issues that we highlighted on our Issues
19 Identification Report. They are biological resources,
20 cultural resources, soil and water resources, transmission
21 system engineering, visual resources, and alternatives.
22 Again, these 6 are 6 of 21 technical disciplines which we
23 have been looking at, continue to look at and review in the
24 discovery process.

25 For biological resources, the reason why it was

1 issued is there are a number of surveys that need to be
2 conducted for certain sensitive species, including a
3 songbird that nests in and around the Santa Clara River
4 called the least Bell's vireo -- vireo, thank you. I didn't
5 know if it was vireo or vireo. Those are important surveys.
6 They have been -- the applicant has been conducting those
7 surveys. They should be concluding any week now.

8 The results of those are important for us for our
9 biologists to determine what the presence of that species is
10 in that area and what kind of impacts they would have. And
11 it's not just at the power plant site, but along the
12 transmission route which is -- there are 36 poles that will
13 constitute this transmission line, and probably up to 100,
14 some as high as 200 feet, and potentially going through
15 sensitive areas and to these areas. We need to make sure
16 that there aren't going to be any impacts. So biological
17 resources was on our radar screen.

18 Also, cultural resources. This area is part of an
19 identified assessed Santa Clara River Valley Rural Historic
20 District. It has a number of resources that constitute this
21 district, 32 farmhouses or homesteads. And our staff feels
22 it was necessary to get more information, better
23 information, more thorough information on these resources.
24 And the ability of the applicant to provide that information
25 is one of the reasons why we've had to provide some more

1 time for the data responses to come, those that are due
2 September 1st, which I mentioned to you earlier. Staff has
3 submitted those and we await the responses. We'll see how
4 those look.

5 Soil and water, as we've mentioned, Staff has
6 concerns about the proximity to the river. As Mitch
7 explained, they do have plans to raise the footprint. But
8 we still have to look at this in terms of what would happen
9 if there was a 100-year flood, what kind of scouring could
10 occur, what kind of measures and mitigation would need to be
11 put in place to make sure that this site is kept safe and
12 sound for the transmission system, but also for local
13 residents, obviously. So we do have concerns about that.

14 We also had some questions about the use of
15 recycled water that they're receiving from Limoneira, which
16 they will use, they will demineralize and use for their
17 industrial purposes. We had some questions about that, as
18 well.

19 The transmission system engineering, they need to
20 conduct Phase 1 and Phase 2 studies on the impacts that this
21 power plant would have if you plug it into the Santa Clara
22 Substation. What are going to be downstream impacts to
23 doing this? And we expect that report in early January. It
24 potentially would have an impact on the schedule. The Final
25 Staff Assessment is probably going to come around late

1 December, early January. So the ability to make sure that
2 our analysis would incorporate all the transmission system
3 engineering components could spell delays. So wanted to
4 make sure that the applicant, as well as the public, were
5 aware of that potential.

6 Visual resources, this has mostly to do with the
7 transmission line. It moves through the valley, through the
8 barranca up into the foothills and plugs into Santa Clara
9 Substation. What kind of visual impacts is that going to
10 have for existing communities, for residents, as well as
11 tourists, others who come to this area? We want to look at
12 that and make sure that we understand what those impacts.
13 In fact, our visual resources analyst is here in Santa Paula
14 today with a senior technical lead. They're taking photos.
15 They're looking at the key observation points, what we call
16 KOPs, making sure that those are reflective of this project
17 and what it would look like, these five 80-foot exhaust
18 towers which are going to be painted to blend in with the
19 existing granite construction tanks, towers. What that
20 would look like, we have some concerns about.

21 And then for alternatives, we want to make sure
22 the alternatives address the identified alternatives for the
23 proposed project and its objectives. And what would obtain
24 the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or
25 substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the

1 project. We'll be talking about alternative sites,
2 alternative technologies. The applicant has proposed some
3 alternatives. We will be doing an analysis on that. I know
4 we've received a lot of suggestions from you in the
5 community during the data adequacy phase. And we will also
6 be doing an analysis on a no project alternative.

7 And that is the six areas where we have some
8 concerns to date. We're continuing to do our analysis, as I
9 said. We'll get those data responses back the 1st of
10 September, and encourage everybody to come to the workshop
11 that we'll have mid-September when we'll be going through,
12 discussing the details of the impacts this project could
13 have on the community and its resources.

14 With that, I'm going to turn this over to Eric
15 Knight, one of the seniors in our division at the Energy
16 Commission and talk a bit about environmental justice.

17 MR. KNIGHT: Good evening. Again, I'm Eric
18 Knight, Environmental Office Manager at the Energy
19 Commission. I'm going to give a brief presentation on the
20 Energy Commission staff's approach to environmental justice
21 analysis.

22 First off, you know, what is an environmental
23 justice population? U.S. Environmental Protection
24 Guidelines define -- identify EJ populations as minority and
25 low-income populations. California law defines

1 environmental justice as the fair treatment of people of all
2 races, cultures and income with respect to the development,
3 adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental
4 laws, regulations and policies.

5 So as a Commission within the California Natural
6 Resources Agency, the Energy Commission considers
7 environmental justice in its decision-making process if its
8 actions have an impact on the environment, environmental
9 laws, or policies. Actions that are subject to EJ
10 consideration may include enforcing environmental laws or
11 regulations, or making discretionary decisions on projects
12 that may affect the environment, such as the Commission's
13 consideration of the Mission Rock Energy Center Project.

14 So there are several steps in our approach to
15 environmental justice. The first is to identify the areas
16 potentially affected by the project, and then determine if a
17 significant population minority person or persons living
18 below the federal poverty level live in the area affected by
19 the project.

20 For the Mission Rock Project, well, for any
21 project, what we, what Staff uses is United States census
22 data at the block level. And for the Mission Rock Project
23 there are census blocks in the area affected by the project
24 with significant minority populations greater than 50
25 percent. And also a significant number of individuals

1 living below the federal poverty level. So in our view,
2 Staff's view, the community surrounding the Mission Rock
3 Energy Center Project is an environmental justice community.

4 So another step that's critical to an
5 environmental justice analysis process is to notify the
6 public of opportunities to participate and, if necessary and
7 where possible, provide appropriate translation services.

8 And then finally, the next step is to determine if
9 there's a significant adverse impact that would affect the
10 EJ population, and that's impacts from the project alone,
11 direct impacts, or the projects impacts in combination with
12 other projects, so cumulative projects. So under California
13 Environmental Quality Act, you look at direct impacts,
14 indirect impacts and cumulative effects. We would focus our
15 attention then on environmental justice populations.

16 So Mike Monasmith talked earlier about the staff's
17 assessment. There's about 21 different technical
18 disciplines in that document. There are 11 disciplines that
19 consider the environmental justice population in their
20 analysis, they're listed on the screen there, air quality,
21 hazardous materials management, land use, noise and
22 vibration, public health, socioeconomics, soil and water
23 resources, traffic and transportation, transmission line
24 safety and nuisance, visual resources, and waste management.
25 So when the document is published, if you are interested in

1 knowing how the project effects the environmental justice
2 population in any particular discipline, you would go these
3 individual chapters and there will be a discussion in that
4 section.

5 And that's the end of my presentation.

6 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: I need the clicker,
7 please.

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you, Mike.

9 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: So the next thing that I
10 told you I was going to talk about was schedule. But before
11 I go into the schedule, I want to tell you, first of all,
12 that we're planning on taking a break shortly before public
13 comment. And I also wanted to just clarify something on a
14 substantive basis before we move on.

15 During the applicant's presentation he talked
16 about how the Energy Commission determines need for public
17 power facilities. And what I wanted to point out is that
18 the Energy Commission doesn't really look at need in
19 determining whether to approve or deny a power plant
20 project.

21 The true agency that determines the types of
22 facilities to be built and the need for them is the
23 California Public Utilities Commission. However, the Energy
24 Commission does consider frequently something we call
25 'public convenience and necessity'. And a lot of folks

1 think that the word necessity means need; it doesn't. What
2 it really means is that the project is highly important to
3 the public at large. And so it's not necessarily need, like
4 we consider need. It's instead a legal concept that takes
5 into account whether it's going to be important to the
6 public or somewhat -- basically, that it's going to be
7 important to the public.

8 So at this point I want to talk a little bit about
9 the schedule. And based on the things that you've already
10 heard, the schedule that I have before you this evening is
11 no good anymore. So, for example, well, we do know that the
12 things that happened in the past really did happen in the
13 past. But the things that happen in the future are going to
14 occur in a different order, and probably later than we think
15 that they're going to.

16 An important part of this, though, is that we will
17 expect status reports from all of the parties on the first
18 of each month beginning September 1st. And that will give
19 the Committee an ongoing report from everyone who
20 participates as a party, including interveners, so that we
21 have an understanding of what the case is doing and how we
22 can help move it along.

23 You'll also see here that we talked about the data
24 requests. And Mr. Monasmith already mentioned that the
25 deadline for the responses has been moved off of this July

1 date and is now September 1, and that there will be a data
2 response workshop in the middle of September.

3 An important date I do want to highlight for you,
4 though, for those of you considering whether to become an
5 intervener is the discovery closure date, which is at the
6 very bottom of this slide. Discovery closes on November 14
7 of this year. And that's based on when the AFC, the
8 Application for Certification, was deemed to be complete.
9 And then we add 180 days to that. That's according to our
10 regulations.

11 And so if you are an intervener, you can
12 participate in discovery if you intervene before that
13 deadline. If you intervene after that deadline, you'll have
14 to get permission from the Committee to file additional
15 discovery. And as Mr. Monasmith indicated, discovery is
16 your chance to ask questions and obtain documents from the
17 other parties in the case.

18 This shows this document that I've been going
19 through this evening. This PowerPoint will be placed in the
20 docket and will be available on the electronic file. I
21 would suggest that you study it so that you understand what
22 a typical schedule looks like and the typical intervals that
23 we use in these cases. However, as Mr. Monasmith indicated,
24 for example, that we know that there's going to be a delay
25 in receiving an important report from the California

1 Independent System Operator, and so that's going to push
2 some of these deadlines out. Nonetheless, this gives you an
3 idea of how long these things typically take.

4 If this case had run the way that we originally
5 thought it was going to, you'll see at the end that we were
6 looking at a Presiding Members Proposed Decision in June of
7 next year, and with a final Energy Commission decision
8 probably sometime two to three months after that.

9 The next slide I wanted to show you are the
10 important contacts. You've heard from all of us this
11 evening on this. These are the Energy Commission contacts.
12 Mr. Monasmith will be able to answer your substantive
13 questions. If you have questions about the attributes of
14 the project, he's the person to call. If you want to know
15 about the procedures that are going on, when is the next
16 hearing, you can call me. If you want help in how to
17 participate in the Energy Commission's process, you'll call
18 the Public Adviser. And again, this will be available
19 online. This is included in the handout that was
20 disseminated this evening. So you'll have this information
21 readily available to you, and it includes both our direct
22 dial phone numbers, as well as our email addresses.

23 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right, so I want to
24 thank everybody for your patience. I know it's been a lot
25 to sit through and a lot to listen to. We are about to take

1 a ten-minute break before public comment.

2 But before we do that, I just wanted to say
3 something about how public comment will go. In particular,
4 we have a very impressive number of young people, in fact,
5 kids who would like to speak tonight. And it's really great
6 to see their participation. So, you know, typically we will
7 take cards and we will take everyone up in the order that we
8 get the cards. We don't always do that exactly, but we try
9 to.

10 What I'm going to do in this case, however, is
11 have maybe five or six adults speak, and then call up the
12 kids, one at a time, obviously, to give their comment. That
13 way if they need to get home and, you know, they have an
14 earlier bedtime or something, you're able to do that. I did
15 go through the cards. When I saw people with the same last
16 name as the kids, I moved them forward. So you might just
17 get lucky or you might, you know, really be associated with
18 the child who is speaking.

19 For people who did not identify but who do have
20 kids who'd like to speak, you can talk to the Public Adviser
21 and I can add them to the list. For anyone who is here with
22 young children who are too young or don't want to address us
23 but would like us know to know that maybe a late evening is
24 going to be particular hard on you, or if there are other
25 reasons, please talk to the Public Adviser. And we're

1 really looking forward to hearing from you. There are a lot
2 of people here who would like to speak, and we just want to
3 make it as easy as we can on everyone.

4 So with that, let's take a ten-minute break.
5 We'll be back here at, what, 7:15, ready to go at 7:15.
6 Thank you.

7 (Off the record at 7:08 p.m.)

8 (On the record at 7:20 p.m.)

9 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right, it looks
10 like we're on, we're on the record. We're about to
11 get started with public comment. I'd like to ask
12 everybody to sit down, take your seats.

13 We want to be sure that everybody can hear
14 the public commenters, so we'll ask that you please
15 keep side conversations to the minimum. Even when
16 you're speaking outside of the auditorium and in the
17 hallway by the food, the sound comes into the room
18 and that can affect peoples' ability to hear.

19 The committee is now going to begin
20 accepting public comments about the proposed
21 project. The court reporter is recording all of the
22 comments received tonight. It's important to speak
23 into the microphone. Please give your name, and of
24 course I'll read your name. But that way your name
25 and your comments get into the public record and get

1 into the transcript of the proceedings for tonight.

2 With that, as I said, we will call up a
3 couple speakers -- oh, yeah, we're going to fix the
4 screen there.

5 If you haven't filled out a blue card and
6 you would like to make comments, please get a blue
7 card from the Public Adviser, fill out a card at the
8 Public Adviser's table. She'll bring the cards to
9 us.

10 As I said, I'm going to read the names and
11 we'll start comment with five or six adults and
12 really kind of get into the flow of public comments,
13 and then we'll have some of our younger speakers
14 make their comments and then we'll get back into the
15 rest of the cards.

16 So with that, let me ask -- and sometimes if
17 I mispronounce or misread your name, I'm sorry.
18 Sheldon Johnson or --

19 MR. JOHNSON: It's Delton Johnson

20 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Delton Johnson, thank
21 you.

22 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, thank you. Better
23 adjust that here so I can reach it. Hear me all
24 right?

25 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Yes.

1 MR. JOHNSON: I might start by saying Thank
2 you to the applicant. I feel that I disagree with
3 him on some things, but I will say I think he does a
4 credible job with what he's trying to do.

5 And I wanted to say also I appreciate what
6 you guys had to say, and you have some concern. I
7 was particularly concerned about some of the matters
8 that you mentioned.

9 I'd also thank Alana. I saw her last time.
10 Good person here.

11 I'm a retired small business owner and
12 public school teacher. I served two four-year terms
13 on our Ventura County Air Pollution Control
14 District's technical advisory board. I know
15 something, I don't want to claim I know everything.

16 I just wish this were a renewable facility,
17 which he talked about, because I'd like to support
18 it, but it's not. I strongly oppose the project for
19 four reasons that I've listed here.

20 And the first one I had down was water
21 rights, but I noticed that you talked about that and
22 I was a little surprised that you talked about that.
23 I feel the plant also, that it's premature. I
24 wanted to talk about the health and quality of life
25 issues, and also about your own policy on

1 environmental justice. So those are the four things
2 I wanted to talk about.

3 On water rights, I might mention to you that
4 Limoneira Corporation acquired water rights for
5 farming and for food processing. Water used for
6 these purposes is eventually returned to the
7 billion-year-old aquifer which we all share. Now
8 Limoneira plans to sell the water acquired for food
9 production to a power company which will never
10 return it to the aquifer.

11 I don't know if you realize how people here
12 have to conserve on water, and this massive amount
13 of water, massive amount of water, certainly ought
14 to go back into the aquifer. If it doesn't, they
15 better find some water and inject in there and not
16 go get it from the oil companies either.

17 Okay. This was never the intent of the
18 rights granted to this company, that they take this
19 water that they use for food production and then
20 sell it to a power company and it's gone forever.
21 It ought to be put back in the aquifer.

22 Locals still think of Limoneira Corporation
23 as agriculture, but it's now more accurate to think
24 of them as a developer. They're only months away
25 from starting construction of a 1,500 home

1 development plus commercial and industrial
2 facilities. And our city council is too chicken to
3 even require solar on their roofs. We're not even
4 having solar there. What an opportunity and we
5 haven't even done it.

6 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Dr. Johnson, could we
7 ask you to --

8 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir, move along quickly.
9 I'll move more quickly.

10 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

11 MR. JOHNSON: The proposal is premature.
12 It's being pushed by three large corporations,
13 Limoneira, Calpine and Edison. Technology already
14 exists that will make peaker plants obsolete in five
15 or ten years. Those in existence at that time will
16 serve as regular plants. To the corporation it's
17 just a matter of money.

18 Major advances in battery technology are
19 just around the corner. In fact, they're already
20 here. Corporations then intend to operate existing
21 peakers as just another power plant that will into a
22 proposed grid for a number of western states. Power
23 companies don't want to purchase power from solar
24 sources because they make far more money generating
25 it themselves.

1 I wanted to talk about health and quality of
2 life. Phil White, an engineer and former head of
3 our Ventura County Air Pollution Control District
4 has testified that this facility will be a major new
5 source of oxides of nitrogen. We already far exist
6 [sic] federal standards.

7 The proposed plant would be next-door to a
8 jail facility housing mostly mentally ill. It's
9 very near a K through 8 elementary school. It's
10 just downwind of Limoneira's own farm worker
11 housing. It's only two miles from the city of Santa
12 Paula.

13 Last thing I have is environmental justice.
14 Would you think about building this plant in
15 Camarillo or Santa Barbara or Ventura? The answer
16 is of course not. People wouldn't tolerate it. The
17 Governor would be ringing your phones.

18 I wanted to thank you for doing your thing
19 on environmental justice. I hope you're serious
20 about it. We have a heavy minority community with
21 many poor persons needing your help in this matter.
22 The issue could not be more clearly illustrated than
23 it is in this community.

24 Thank you for hearing me, and I probably was
25 a little long.

1 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Thank you
2 very much, Dr. Johnson.

3 The next speaker will be Laura Espinosa.

4 MS. ESPINOSA: Good evening and greetings
5 from the League of United Latin American Citizens,
6 the oldest and largest Latino civil rights
7 organization in the United States. My name is Laura
8 Espinosa, I'm the LULAC District director and a 40-
9 year resident of Santa Paula. LULAC is pleased to
10 offer comment this evening on the locally known
11 Limoneira Calpine project, also known as Mission
12 Rock project.

13 We submit our communications on behalf of
14 our membership and the entire Santa Clara valley in
15 strong opposition to the siting of the proposed
16 energy center known as the Mission Rock Center in
17 Santa Paula or any alternative location in the Santa
18 Clara valley.

19 This is an impoverished agricultural
20 community of predominantly Latino residents, over 80
21 percent, who greatly rely on maintaining a healthy
22 environment for their jobs and physical and
23 emotional health. This population of primarily
24 Spanish speaking workers is overwhelmingly impacted
25 by the health effects of working as farm workers in

1 fields with pesticide use.

2 LULAC believes siting this dirty energy
3 center would violate Title 6 of the Civil Rights
4 Act, which requires an assessment of the civil
5 rights impacts of all decisions by state and federal
6 agencies.

7 Additionally, such action could possibly
8 violate Presidential Executive Order 12898, which
9 requires federal agencies to consider environmental
10 justice implication in decision making.

11 California EPA Secretary Matthew Rodriguez
12 states that those most burdened by pollution speak
13 Spanish as their first language. This
14 characteristic fits Santa Paula and the Santa Clara
15 valley.

16 Additionally, Santa Paula meets several of
17 the pollution burden indicators, including lower
18 educational attainment, high asthma rates, poverty,
19 high unemployment, and linguistic isolation.

20 The site is in a flood zone on the Santa
21 Clara River. The river is the largest wild river
22 remaining in southern California. There are serious
23 impacts to our pristine environment which the voters
24 have mandated remain open space and free of toxic
25 development through their support and passage of the

1 SOR (phonetic) Measure.

2 The League of United Latin American Citizens
3 District 17 respectfully submits these comments in
4 opposition to the siting of an energy center in
5 Santa Paula, which is already burdened with the
6 solid waste dump site and a county jail.

7 It is egregious and racially motivated to
8 pit one minority community against another as the
9 community of Oxnard, our neighbor, is also
10 considered for another energy site and also has a
11 majority Latino population.

12 Respectfully submitted, LULAC District 17,
13 and thank you so much for your commitment to access
14 and the public meetings that you're holding.

15 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

16 Thank you very much. I'm going to read the
17 next two speakers, so the first person I read please
18 come forward. The second name I read just please be
19 ready to come forward and maybe move toward the
20 front of the room.

21 Jim Hines, Chairman, Sierra Club. And the
22 next speaker will be Susan Caughey.

23 MR. HINES: It doesn't seem to move so I'm
24 going to have to bend down.

25 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Sorry.

1 MR. HINES: Good evening. Thanks for coming
2 here to Santa Paula. My name is Jim Hines, for the
3 record, and my last name is spelled H-I-N-E-S.
4 Thank you very much. I represent the Sierra Club,
5 specifically the Los Padres Chapter which
6 encompasses Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties here
7 in southern California.

8 The Sierra Club has looked at, read the
9 docket information, obviously listened to the
10 presentation when you were here several weeks ago,
11 and tonight we've been on the site, the site tour
12 several weeks ago and have been on the Nature
13 Conservancy property adjacent.

14 The site is, and the proposal before you
15 tonight is a perfect element for disaster of the
16 environment. We have submitted extensive written
17 comments to your staff this evening. I will
18 highlight just a few of those.

19 We want the biological resources section of
20 your document to be expanded, and our letters
21 outline that that we've given to your staff this
22 evening.

23 We also want an extensive look at the flood
24 plain situation. Those of us who grew up in this
25 area have seen the Santa Clara River flow from bank

1 to bank and literally wash out homes and businesses
2 along its route on the way.

3 Climate change is real and the Commission
4 should look at the impacts of the emissions of this
5 facility, proposed emissions of this facility and
6 its impact on climate change and the environment.

7 And the environmental justice section, which
8 I think should be called the environmental injustice
9 section of a proposal such as this being placed in
10 an ethically disadvantaged community of this county
11 needs to really be treated seriously.

12 We were interveners in this action with the
13 Puente Power Plant siting process and environmental
14 justice is a number one issue in Oxnard and it's a
15 number one issue here.

16 So again, we would urge you to take an in-
17 depth look at the written comments that I submitted
18 to your staff earlier this evening, and we look
19 forward to participating in the process. We wish
20 the process had not had to happen but the reality is
21 we are here. We will work very diligently to make
22 sure that the Santa Clara River is protected at all
23 costs.

24 Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you very much.

1 And just quickly before you speak, just
2 hearing reference to comments submitted tonight
3 reminded me. Please do remember to docket your
4 public comments if you submit written comments to us
5 tonight or give them to the Public Adviser, who will
6 docket your comments for you. So let's please make
7 sure we get everybody's written comments in the
8 record.

9 So please, Susan Caughey.

10 MS. CAUGHEY: I'm Susan Caughey. I live in
11 the unincorporated county within a mile of the
12 proposed site. There are a few things I want to
13 talk to you about.

14 The primary one is visibility. I want the
15 committee to understand that this county has passed
16 the most restrictive land use rules in the U.S.,
17 among the most restrictive. A county-wide vote is
18 required for any land owner of ag or rural property
19 to change its use.

20 That has taken away very valuable property
21 rights that belong to me, and the only compensation
22 for that we maintain this beautiful river valley
23 that's a very rare asset.

24 Anything -- it's no question that Chimney
25 Rock, Mission Rock area is grandfathered and that

1 the zoning is correct for this use, but this use is
2 not in the spirit of what this county wants, and
3 it's very important to us that we maintain our green
4 space the best we can.

5 With that said, the stacks, five stacks plus
6 the water tank are 60 feet high, but also now we
7 know that to mitigate the flood plain issues they
8 claim that they will raise the ground level up by up
9 to 10 feet, which should make these items 70 feet.

10 Now, nowhere in any of the docket that I
11 have read has that 70 feet level been considered,
12 and I think the visibility studies need to take that
13 into consideration. And the air traffic concerns
14 for the airport should take that 70 feet into
15 consideration.

16 Something that would help immensely in this
17 issue is if Calpine installed story poles. Now,
18 many communities in the state require story poles
19 for new developments, and what they are are poles
20 that are set at the actual height of the proposed
21 constructions, and the corners are set at those
22 heights, and orange netting ribbon is tied between
23 those so you can visually see what the volume and
24 height of the proposed development is. And if the
25 height is such that poles aren't practical, cranes

1 can be used.

2 There are many communities in the state that
3 have city ordinances that require story poles for
4 the approval of development, and it allows everybody
5 to see what we're talking about. And I would think
6 if Calpine is correct that there's no significant
7 visual impact, that these story poles would prove it
8 to all of us. So it would be a benefit to Calpine
9 to use those.

10 My other concern is the water being used for
11 this project. They have a contract with Limoneira
12 for the packing house plant, the water, and the
13 sewage treatment water to be used in their process,
14 and this water is currently being used for
15 irrigation water. When that water -- it's not
16 wastewater that goes into the ocean, it's being used
17 for irrigation.

18 When that irrigation use is diverted to the
19 Calpine property it's going to have to be replaced
20 with other water, and that water's going to come
21 from the groundwater and our aquifer. So this is
22 not a zero use. It still is taking water from our
23 groundwater and aquifer.

24 Finally, I am concerned that the Mission
25 Rock Energy Center is organized as an LLC, a limited

1 liability company. As such, Calpine is protected
2 and shielded from any debts and obligations incurred
3 by Mission Rock Energy Center LLC.

4 I believe that we need to be shown evidence
5 that Mission Rock Energy Center LLC has the ability
6 to meet all of its obligations in the event of an
7 explosion, an ammonia spill, or any other disaster.
8 We as a community need that assurance that it will
9 meet its obligations, because Calpine will not be
10 responsible for any of those costs.

11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you for your
13 comments.

14 All right. I'm going to call up one more
15 adult and then we'll get into the list of kids.
16 We've had a couple other kids add onto the list.

17 Liliana Gil, are you here? Great. Come on
18 forward and -- perfect.

19 MS. GIL (Through Interpreter): Good
20 evening. I'm Liliana Gil. I'm here in
21 representation of the families and I wanted to know,
22 you said that you have everything under control as
23 far as nature and the river, but sometimes you see
24 on TV how are you going to keep things under control
25 as far as the air we breathe? The air we breathe.

1 And so I'm against this law because I came
2 here to talk to protect the rights of my children.
3 And any project on the beginning they always talk
4 about how good it is. They make everything look
5 great, but then when there's a disaster, a
6 catastrophe, the ones that are going to be hurt are
7 the ones that live here in Santa Paula because you
8 won't be here, the people involved in the project
9 won't be here.

10 So I'm here fighting for the rights of my
11 children and the people. Good evening, that's all.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Gracias.

13 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Indiscernible.)

14 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. And when
15 you come up to make your comment please make it into
16 the microphone and we'll get that in the record.

17 I'm going to first call up Shandi Mercado,
18 followed by Julia Corona. Shandi Mercado, if you
19 can come forward, please.

20 MS. MERCADO: Hello. I'm Shandi Mercado and
21 I wouldn't like the power plant here.

22 When I was in school I learned about this,
23 and the first time I heard about this I was scared
24 to death. I've seen videos about what it could do
25 to cities and how people would have to evacuate, and

1 I wouldn't want this to happen to our city. I
2 wouldn't want to be scared and my family have to
3 leave for our city to just go down the drain.

4 And it would affect our people, the air,
5 just our environment in general, and I wouldn't want
6 that. So I just wouldn't want that here. Thank
7 you.

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you for being
9 here.

10 Julia Corona? Or I can also call up Emma
11 Aguirre. Great, come on forward. Welcome.

12 MS. AGUIRRE: My name is Emma Aguirre. I go
13 to (indiscernible) School and I'm going to be in the
14 fifth grade, and we don't want more pollution and I
15 think it's a bad idea to build a power plant because
16 people walking by or people living close by might
17 inhale some chemicals. Those chemicals might be
18 really toxic and could cause major life problems or
19 maybe even death.

20 Also, the pollution is very bad for the
21 environment and could cause extinction in some
22 endangered species. Also, people who work there
23 could get very ill and blame us because supposedly
24 we let them build the power plant.

25 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

1 The next speaker is Sophia. I don't have a
2 last name, but Sophia. Are you here?

3 MS. ROMAN: So my name is Sandra Sophia
4 Roman and I was going to come in late and so I
5 wasn't sure if they'd place my first or middle name,
6 so --

7 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Got it.

8 MS. ROMAN: I'll just go.

9 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Go ahead.

10 MS. ROMAN: Well, my name is Sandra Roman,
11 and I have -- I have many credit cards but I'll try
12 to boil them down to three.

13 First is the pollutants that will be emitted
14 and negatively affect our children. And my concern
15 is how is that going to -- how are those pollutants
16 going to combine or interact with the pesticides
17 that are already being emitted? How is that going
18 to affect farm workers that are working the land
19 near the power plant?

20 My second concern is my distrust for
21 Calpine. They spoke about a clean track record, but
22 in 2009 the EPA fined Calpine for improper
23 management of arsenic, and I also found other
24 articles, but because of the time -- well, I can
25 Google them, I can email you what I found.

1 So I know there are other cases where there
2 was an explosion, and so I really don't trust
3 Calpine to build a power plant in a flood plain. I
4 think it's pretty ludicrous to even think of putting
5 a power plant in a place where it's so close to a
6 fault line and it's -- what is it -- it's subject to
7 liquefaction, so I just, I don't understand why
8 we're even having a meeting about putting a power
9 plant at such a dangerous site. And also, that's
10 going to affect the river ecosystem.

11 So those are my concerns and, again, I do
12 not trust Calpine. I don't want a power plant near
13 the riverbed, near the children.

14 And also, thank you for bringing up the
15 Limoneira contract you have, because the community
16 was quite shocked that Limoneira was involved with
17 this and we were not happy to hear that. So just so
18 you know. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

20 All right. The next speaker will be Michael
21 Gil. Are you here today? Oh, here he comes. Maybe
22 can you stand to the side of the podium so we can
23 see you? Thank you.

24 MR. GIL: Hi, my name is Michael Gil. I
25 wanted to say that we want our power plant to get

1 people to be safe and they don't get sick and the
2 other plants to go get sick and when people are sick
3 to not get cancer.

4 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you very much.

5 All right, I've got another card. This one
6 is -- there's no last name. Jeshua? It's written
7 in green crayon. Jeshua? Anybody? Okay, I'll keep
8 going, I'll call you up again.

9 Mark De Jesus?

10 MR. DE JESUS: Hi. My name is Mark Anthony
11 De Jesus, and earlier in the presentations I
12 overheard that this was one of the cleanest power
13 plants to date, but even then there is no actual
14 guarantee that this won't be as bad as other power
15 plants because there is obviously still going to be
16 pollution coming off of it.

17 The reason this concerns me is because I'm a
18 fourth generation child. My great grandfather is
19 almost 90 and he is definitely an honorable man that
20 many people knew. His name is Lawrence Gomez.
21 There's a chance that he will still be around by the
22 time I graduate high school in 2020, but I also want
23 him to see me graduate from college.

24 My grandfather is aging and his biggest
25 problem right now is regarding his breathing. The

1 power plant will have an effect on the air quality,
2 which is when I have a problem, the fact is that
3 this power plant is putting one person's life at
4 risk but what also concerns me is we have an entire
5 community to worry about.

6 Another thing is I was told from a source
7 that this meeting here seems to be just for show and
8 that this could already just be a done deal. That's
9 all I have to say.

10 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you for
11 speaking.

12 The next speaker is Jose Miguel Leal. Jose
13 Miguel Leal. Great, come on forward.

14 MR. LEAL: Hi, my name is Miguel. I don't
15 want this power plant in Santa Paula because kids
16 could get affected by the pollution, and the people
17 that live in Santa Paula, I don't want them to get
18 affected. And people who work on, like, like on the
19 field, they work hard to grow those plants, and with
20 the power plant those plants that they grow, they
21 took a long time to grow them, so if you put the
22 power plant those plants would die and --

23 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: That's okay, thank
24 you. Thank you for speaking.

25 Gabriel -- I'm sorry, I'm having trouble

1 with the last name. Lemcus or Lemus. Come on
2 forward.

3 MS. LEMUS: All right. Well, my name is
4 Gabriel Lemus and I have many concerns with this,
5 because first of all, I go to (indiscernible) School
6 and because of the power plant being so close to our
7 school, 200-some students will be affected directly,
8 and that's not even (indiscernible) probably has
9 more students still younger than us, so just imagine
10 how many little kids will be affected by this power
11 plant.

12 And not to mention the people who live by
13 the Limoneira packing house. Just imagine all those
14 people being affected and all those workers who pick
15 and everyone, everyone's going to be affected. The
16 city will, like, they'll have a lot of problems and
17 that's why I don't think this power plant should be
18 there. (indiscernible) Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

20 All right. Roselyn Gil. Roselyn Gil, come
21 on forward.

22 MS. GIL: Hello, good evening ladies and
23 gentlemen. My name is Roselyn Gil and I just wanted
24 to tell you that we would not like the power plant
25 in Santa Paula, so we would not like you to

1 pollution Santa Paula because Santa Paula like me is
2 my family, I have lots of friends and it's going to
3 affect my school, little kids that are barely being
4 born, and the pickers that work really hard to bring
5 food to this table, and our parents.

6 Thank you, and have a good evening.

7 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. You too.

8 All right. I've got two cards left in my
9 hand but I've already called these names, I'll call
10 them again and then we'll move on.

11 Julio Corona, or Julia, I can't really tell
12 if it's an O or an A. Or Jeshua, if either -- oh,
13 come on forward. No, not you? Sorry, sorry.

14 All right. Well, then I want to thank all
15 of the speakers so far and all the kids that have
16 come forward to speak to us tonight.

17 The next two cards will have Dr. Gabino
18 Aguirre followed by Mary Ann Krause.

19 DR. AGUIRRE: Buenos Tardes. First of all,
20 let me just tell you that I am a state commissioner
21 myself and I appreciate the structure of the
22 hearing. Compared to last time, I think this is --
23 this is great, so I want to thank you for that.

24 So thank you for the opportunity to address
25 the Commission. I'm Dr. Gabino Aguirre, former

1 mayor and councilman here in town.

2 The California Energy Commission is
3 California's primary energy policy and planning
4 agency. Your Commission has the responsibility for,
5 among other things, promoting energy efficiency,
6 supporting renewable energy technologies, and for
7 protecting the public against threats that
8 compromise the health of our residents and natural
9 environment. With these responsibilities in mind, I
10 have three points to make.

11 The first, energy policy and planning. As
12 the planning and watchdog agency you must guard
13 against any applications that jeopardize the health
14 and welfare of our communities. It is not about
15 cooperating with the energy industry to facilitate
16 the construction of facilities that will strengthen
17 their energy grid so that they can have more
18 satisfied customers. You cannot allow yourselves to
19 be a party to the scheme involving a predatory
20 profit maximizing venture.

21 Second point, renewable energy. California
22 is moving full steam ahead toward renewables and
23 carbon cutting. Recently Governor Brown signed a
24 bill, as you know, designed to get us away from
25 losing and harmful technologies. This law requires

1 state regulated utilities to get 50 percent of their
2 electricity from renewable energy sources such as
3 wind, solar, and hydro by 2030.

4 We can't deny the reality of climate change
5 and its horrific impacts on our ecosystem. You must
6 reject the Limoneira/Calpine so-called Mission Rock
7 energy Center project which depends on fossil fuel
8 technology that is outdated and dangerous to local
9 and regional flora and fauna, including all of the
10 two-leggeds here in this center tonight. Two-
11 leggeds being human beings.

12 This project is dangerous to all of us,
13 whether we swim in the sea, whether we crawl on the
14 ground, whether we burrow into the ground, whether
15 we live in houses, whether we live in caves, whether
16 we fly through the air, it's dangerous to all of us.

17 Outside of maintaining customers happy, this
18 project serves no purpose other than turning a
19 profit. You must render a decision that ensure the
20 public welfare.

21 Third point on, as I said, environmental
22 justice or environmental injustice. The concept of
23 environmental justice is that all people are able to
24 enjoy equally high levels of environmental
25 protection. Environmental justice communities are

1 commonly identified as those where residents are
2 predominantly minority or low income, where
3 residents have been excluded from the environmental
4 policy setting and decision making process, where
5 they are subject to a disproportionate impact from
6 one or more environmental hazards. And where
7 residents experience disparate implementation of
8 environmental regulations, requirements, practices,
9 and activities in their communities. Environmental
10 justice efforts attempt to address the inequities of
11 environmental protection in these communities.

12 Santa Paula is such a community. Second
13 poorest city in Ventura County with a minority
14 population of over 80 percent. It is beset by
15 economic and environmental challenges similar to
16 those of other rural low income communities.

17 Why not putting this plant in more affluent
18 parts of Ventura County? Why not Santa Barbara?
19 I'll tell you why. They won't have it, and we're
20 not going to have it either.

21 The tenants of environmental justice beg for
22 your consideration and acknowledgement of Santa
23 Paula as a community in need of your protection.
24 That is your charge and we expect you to uphold it.

25 The addition of an additional environmental

1 stressor in our community, the so-called Mission
2 Rock Energy Center, aka Limoneira Calpine peaker
3 plant, is unacceptable to all of us.

4 Although this firm, Calpine, touts great
5 property tax and jobs benefits for the local
6 community, it is too high a price to pay for a more
7 dangerous and toxic environment. Philanthropic
8 gifts? Our community is not for sale.

9 We do not -- we do not see any sustainable
10 benefits and many environmentally and socially
11 harmful and life threatening liabilities. Our
12 community doesn't need or deserve this. You must
13 fulfill your moral and legal responsibility to
14 protect our city and its environs as outlined in
15 your charter.

16 Calpine Mission Rock Energy Center, let's
17 cut to the chase, they're only here because they're
18 being pressured out of the Oxnard plain, the Oxnard
19 beach area, with issues of environmental impacts.
20 It is not clean technology. It adds to existing
21 pollution. It is unacceptable. Clearly, this is
22 the wrong project in the wrong place at the wrong
23 time.

24 Thank you very much.

25 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

1 All right. Mary Ann Krause, followed by
2 Karl Krause.

3 MS. KRAUSE: Krause.

4 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Krause?

5 MS. KRAUSE: It's Krause.

6 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Perfect.

7 MS. KRAUSE: Hard to follow my compadre
8 there.

9 Good evening, my name is Mary Ann Krause. I
10 am a city planner and a former council member and
11 mayor of Santa Paula. I'm also a member of Santa
12 Paula Alliance, which was formed to oppose this
13 project. I'm here to address the flood plain issue.

14 The Santa Clara River is the last free
15 flowing river in southern California, and in 2005
16 was identified by the organization American Rivers
17 as one of the most endangered rivers in America due
18 to concerns over continuing land development and
19 channelization.

20 Since 2000 a consortium of agencies,
21 including the state's own Coastal Conservancy, has
22 been quietly purchasing portions of the floodway and
23 flood plain with state tax dollars and
24 reestablishing habitat and wetlands to allow the
25 river to flow naturally and to prevent further

1 damage to both manmade and natural environments.

2 Property essentially adjacent to this project site
3 is under active restoration.

4 The applicant proposes to raze the project
5 site to comply with county flood plain regulations
6 and hopefully protect the site if the river overtops
7 its banks. This will not protect the site from one
8 of its greatest flooding risks, erosion.

9 In the 2005 El Nino Santa Paula Airport,
10 which is also adjacent the river, lost a portion of
11 the tie-down area, the taxiway, and the runway.
12 After many days of rain the river was not in danger
13 of overtopping its banks, but it did cut into the
14 bank at an angle and take out valuable improvements.
15 At that time it was basically dirt and asphalt. The
16 airport was closed while federal funding was secured
17 and emergency work was conducted.

18 This same erosive action could take out a
19 significant portion of the power plant, create an
20 environmental cleanup hazard, and render the plant
21 unusable for some time.

22 Since this proposed project is not required
23 to be adjacent a waterway, there's no practical
24 justification for putting it in such a vulnerable
25 location.

1 And by extension of that logic, there's no
2 justification to try and reduce its vulnerability by
3 constructing a levee, which would negatively impact
4 ongoing river restoration efforts.

5 The fact that this proposed project site is
6 in the flood plain should be considered a fatal flaw
7 for a project involving critical infrastructure, and
8 the proposed project should be deemed incompatible
9 with the long-established wetland and habitat
10 restoration project. I urge you to reject this
11 application. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

13 Karl Krause, please. Karl Krause followed
14 by John Brooks.

15 MR. KRAUSE: Good evening Commissioners
16 Douglas and Scott, and staff. My name is Karl
17 Krause and I'm a member of the Santa Paula Alliance,
18 a group formed to oppose the construction of this
19 power plant. I was the engineering manager at the
20 Ventura County Air Pollution Control District prior
21 to my retirement in 2005.

22 My primary concern is that this is the wrong
23 time in our history to build fossil fired power
24 plants. We're just beginning to recognize that
25 global warming is the most critical issue facing us

1 all, and that a world economy based on burning
2 fossil fuels in a primary factor in global warming.

3 I hope, I sincerely hope that Santa Paula
4 will not become the last place in California to host
5 a fossil fired power plant. Good grief.

6 In a letter to the Energy Commission the
7 City of Santa Paula asked you to site and explain
8 the demonstrated need for this project. In the
9 Energy Commission's response you stated that the
10 Energy Commission does not evaluate need and that
11 need is evaluated by the California Independent
12 System Operator and the California Public Utilities
13 Commission.

14 Yet, on Page 56 of your publication, *Public*
15 *Participation the Siting Process Practice and*
16 *Procedures Guide*, it states that the Energy
17 Commission siting process provides assurance that
18 only power plants actually needed will be built.

19 The executive summary for the Mission Rock
20 Energy Center application states that the primary
21 objective is to meet the need for new local capacity
22 in the Moorpark subarea of the Big Creek Ventura
23 local reliability subarea. This Cal ISO
24 determination was based on the assumption that the
25 Ormond Beach Generating Station and the Mandalay

1 Generating Station would both be shut down on
2 December 31st, 2020 in order to comply with the
3 State Water Resources Control Board (indiscernible)
4 cooling policy.

5 Recently, however, NRG submitted a letter to
6 the Water Board indicating their plan to comply with
7 the OTC policies of Ormond Beach and continue
8 operating the facility beyond December 31st, 2020.

9 Therefore, I do not believe that the Mission
10 Rock Energy Center is needed at this time, and I
11 urge the Energy Commission staff to approve the no
12 project alternative in the application.

13 The use of alternative methods of generating
14 electricity, primarily using solar panels and wind
15 powered generators, is increasing at a much faster
16 rate than experts anticipated just a few years ago.

17 I recently returned from a trip across
18 Germany where I saw more solar panels and wind
19 powered generators per mile than I've seen anywhere
20 in this country. I'm excited by the possibilities
21 of solarized Ventura and solarized Santa Barbara,
22 and I hope there's a solarized Santa Clara Valley at
23 some point.

24 I'm also encouraged that SCE awarded a
25 contract to AES Corporation to build a 100 megawatt

1 battery powered peaker plant in Long Beach.

2 We need to delay building any more fossil
3 fired power plants to see where renewable energy
4 together with improvements in battery technology
5 will take us. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

7 John Brooks followed by Rich Niday.

8 MR. BROOKS: Commissioners and Hearing
9 Officer and staff, hello. I am John Brooks. I'm
10 President of Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas.
11 We're known as CFROG. We're a new member of the
12 Santa Paula Alliance as well, and we're united
13 against this misguided attempt to place an unneeded,
14 ugly and wasteful gas fired power plant in the flood
15 plain of a major river.

16 Let's imagine just for a moment that you
17 came here to announce a plan to rooftop solar this
18 city of 30,000 wonderful people. They were going to
19 be one of the first to get a whole rooftop solar
20 grid that would feed the grid during the day and
21 would reduce the amount of peaker plants that are
22 needed.

23 Or let's pretend that you were here to
24 announce a shift of battery storage systems as
25 peaker plants. They're becoming more affordable and

1 less polluting. Battery facilities are also
2 smaller, more flexible, and easier to expand than
3 the gas fired peaker power plants.

4 Now, if you were going forward with this and
5 these new technology projects that people actually
6 want rather than the ones the fossil fuel industry
7 wants, we would be cheering you. Perhaps we'd honor
8 you with a parade down Harbor Boulevard, who knows?

9 Instead, here we go again trying to ward off
10 a project that no matter how you sugar coat it will
11 greatly hinder the future positive growth of this
12 city and put more pollution into the lungs of
13 vulnerable children and adults.

14 CFROG's air quality expert, Dr. Steven
15 Colombay (phonetic), one of the highly respected
16 people in the industry, says in terms of regional
17 air quality, Calpine appears to have satisfied most
18 reporting requirements and adequately assessed air
19 quality from the regional responsibility of the
20 Ventura County Air Pollution Control District.

21 But what is left are very local exposure
22 impacts of the neighborhood around the facility.
23 The school, the farm worker housing and the people
24 in the jail. This is referred to as environmental
25 injustice or hotspot determination. The closest

1 neighbors bear the highest exposure from regular
2 emissions and the greatest risk from any accidental
3 emissions or industrial accidents like spills and
4 explosions.

5 Sixty-foot-tall towers, make then seventy-
6 foot, I don't know, ugly new utility lines
7 supposedly hidden by trees, 24-hour light pollution
8 that will illuminate the entire valley. Why in the
9 face of melting glaciers and rising oceans are we
10 building fossil fuel infrastructure for the next
11 thirty years that'll make things worse?

12 We want solutions, not this type of
13 outdated, inefficient, and dangerous gas fueled
14 technology.

15 If Calpine is such an alternate energy
16 company, bring it here to Santa Paula. Give us
17 something to embrace. Clean alternative energy that
18 moves away from the sins of the past frequently
19 inflicted on communities of color and lower income.

20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

22 Rich Niday followed by Helen Conly.

23 MR. NIDAY: Good evening. Rich Niday. I'm
24 a Ventura County resident, sheet metal worker. I am
25 in support of this project as well as the PLA that

1 comes with it to support local hire here in Ventura
2 County.

3 Thank you and good night.

4 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

5 Helen Conly followed by Sandra Roman.

6 MS. CONLY: Thank you. Good evening,
7 commissioners, and thank you for being here. My
8 name is Helen Conly and I am also a member of the
9 organization called CFROG, the oil and gas industry
10 watchdog in this county. So while the former
11 speakers have all stated particularly good reasons
12 why this is not a good idea for the Santa Clara
13 valley and the riverbed, I actually have decided to
14 ask you all a question.

15 How many similar proposals for plants in
16 California have been denied by your Commission, and
17 can you please put that on the website so we could
18 see that so we know what the criteria is when you
19 find to deny.

20 We hear good speeches about mitigations but
21 we are involved with testifying often in front of
22 committees like yours, state and county. What I
23 find is that these projects are then mitigated to
24 death, all right? We don't want to find that when
25 you come back with your report, so I would like to

1 know how many projects like this have actually been
2 denied permits and what they are, what their
3 locations are. Could you please tell us that.

4 Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Thanks for
6 your questions.

7 Sandra Roman is the next speaker --

8 MS. ROMAN: I already went.

9 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh, you already went.
10 Got it, thank you.

11 Linda Livingston followed by Sushila Wood.

12 MS. LIVINGSTON: Hello. Linda Livingston,
13 L-I-V-I-N-G-S-T-O-N. First I just want to say
14 putting natural in front of the word 'gas' doesn't
15 make it clean.

16 And now I'm going to fill in just a little
17 bit of history of Calpine that for some reason
18 didn't make it into the slide show.

19 In 2004 there was the Sonoma and Lake County
20 Geyser Fire, 12,525-acre fire that scorched about
21 4600 acres protected under conservation easements.
22 It was traced back to a splice in Calpine's high
23 voltage line that showered dry grass with hot metal.

24 It took thousands of fire fighters, support from
25 local, state and federal agencies eight days to put

1 out the blaze.

2 The state sought to recover 14 million in
3 firefighting costs from Calpine and ultimately got a
4 \$10.8 million settlement.

5 2009 a lawsuit was filed by the Open Space
6 District and several associated land owners who
7 sought to recover land values and natural resources
8 damaged by the fire. The suit listed loss of
9 wildlife habitat, scenic values, timber, watershed
10 functions, and costs for restoration.

11 Now, the odds of it happening again, even if
12 they're infinitesimal, it's a risk not worth taking,
13 especially when this is considered outdated even by
14 Edison, and really the only one here to gain is
15 Calpine.

16 Something else I want to mention in their
17 history. Calpine was named in an energy gouging
18 lawsuit in 2002. Under the settlement Calpine paid
19 the attorney general \$8.5 million.

20 There's also a class action lawsuit in
21 northern California against Calpine charging that
22 certain officers and directors issued false and
23 misleading statements concerning business and
24 financial conditions to people that were purchasing
25 stock.

1 Anyway, I think it's important to know who
2 you're dealing with. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

4 Sushila Wood followed by Tom Koff.

5 MS. WOOD: Good evening. I just wanted to
6 thank you. I think this is really wonderful that
7 you go into such detail to make this happen to hear
8 everybody and to present so clearly.

9 I'm a local resident. I have a five-year-
10 old and a three-year-old. In some ways I wish they
11 were here, but in another way I'm glad they're not
12 here because I have a chance, an opportunity to
13 protect them. Protect them from being exposed to
14 these kind of things while they're so young.

15 I'm also a member of the Santa Paula
16 Alliance and I'm a concerned citizen. Now, I have a
17 few facts which just don't seem to add up in terms
18 of why we're going down this route.

19 Santa Barbara I've heard will be peaker
20 plant free in a couple of years. Because money
21 talks. They don't want this technology there, so
22 they can just decide to leave it behind. They have
23 fired up a hydroelectric power plant.

24 Let's look at that. I mean, we have, like
25 power here, we have other options. I really urge

1 the California Energy Commission. I think, you
2 know, it's great that you're here and you're doing
3 this hearing, but I really urge you to go beyond,
4 because it's great that you can say I'm doing my
5 job, but it's something else when you go to that
6 level where you know in your heart that you did the
7 right thing for yourself, for your children, and for
8 the people. That's something you're the only one
9 who can really know that you did. At the end of the
10 day you're the only one who can know I did
11 everything that I possibly could to do the right
12 thing by myself, my family, and my people, which is
13 humankind.

14 At this point in time, in the past five
15 years four gas plants have closed in the United
16 Kingdom. Four. This is according to Bloomberg
17 News. Forty-six applications for closures of power
18 plants have been issued in Germany in the past two
19 years alone, so that 46 power plants, gas and coal
20 plants that are closing down because they're no
21 longer needed, it's old technology.

22 We're in California. This is California. I
23 mean, this is California. I'm Australian but this
24 is California. I mean, come on. Like, this is
25 Santa Paula, this is California. We should be -- I

1 mean, we are a very -- I'm very proud to live in
2 California and I'm very proud to say that we're the
3 cutting edge of what's considered green and good in
4 this country. But let's go further. I mean, let's
5 learn from the rest of the world what is the cutting
6 edge and really go there, because we can, we can
7 afford to.

8 So 63 percent in the European Union power
9 companies have turned off -- turned off. 63 percent
10 more coal and gas plants (indiscernible). This is
11 just in the past few years.

12 So we really, really, really -- I'm really
13 asking you to diversify here and to really --

14 Calpine, I appreciate that you're trying to
15 follow the rules here, and the rules are set for a
16 reason, but even you can go beyond, you know. I
17 mean, we can all go beyond. It's a personal --
18 you're the one who knows that you, like, I went
19 beyond and I didn't just do my job.

20 Sure, you can go you did your job, very
21 good, but come on. We know in our hearts we can go
22 beyond, and that's an individual thing that you're
23 always going to know.

24 So what happens if emissions are higher
25 than, you know, they pay a big fine. That's just

1 called the cost of doing business, you know. And
2 sure, you pay out lawsuits and things like that, but
3 if you're a power company it's kind of the cost of
4 doing business, it's just a fact.

5 So I just really want to urge every single
6 individual involved whether in the hearing or in the
7 company of Calpine yourself to question your motives
8 and really go beyond, because we can change this and
9 we can be exceptionally proud and green California.

10 Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

12 Tom Koff. Tom Koff, are you here? All
13 right, I'll call him up later.

14 Charles Spink followed by Carmen Arenas.

15 MR. SPINK: Thank you and greetings, members
16 of the California Energy Commission, for making this
17 site visit possible. Again, it's been very
18 enjoyable this time around and I appreciate the
19 transparency you're proceeding with letting us know
20 how things are going to evolve over the next few
21 months, because this sounds like it's going to
22 require that to shake things out.

23 I also want to thank the many speakers prior
24 to my getting up here who basically have wowed me in
25 the kind of information they're bringing to the

1 table. I'm speaking on behalf of my wife and I
2 tonight and we've written several letters already to
3 the Commission previously and I don't want to take a
4 lot of time here because I know there's a lot of
5 cards of people who haven't yet talked, but I would
6 just briefly allude to the fact that issues of
7 pollutants are utmost of concern to my wife who has,
8 as many residents in Santa Paula, upper respiratory
9 problems.

10 You must know that this is a town of lower
11 socioeconomic means and those people often have
12 health-wise serious problems beyond the normal
13 population.

14 As well, one of my main concerns from the
15 get-go was the fact that I couldn't even begin to
16 understand how a project in the middle of a flood
17 plain wouldn't just automatically be are you kidding
18 me? I mean, need we ask what could possibly go
19 wrong. There's any number of instances where we've
20 seen what can go wrong.

21 I think Mary Ann Krause's information that
22 she presented to you, I couldn't do better than what
23 she had to say there, so I won't try, but it's to me
24 the issue that takes precedence above almost any
25 other issue and its importance to this project going

1 forward.

2 What I did want to say today, and it was the
3 last thing, was that many of us here tonight would
4 like -- and it's been expressed already very well --
5 would like to see much more weight given to
6 renewable non-polluting energy solutions. Given the
7 pressing needs that the buildup of catastrophic
8 greenhouse gasses demands of us, I don't think we
9 can address this issue short or long term by
10 deploying yet another gas powered power plant such
11 as Calpine's suggesting, here or anywhere. Indeed,
12 the CPUC goals demand that we address this issue
13 now, so it's important that we actually do this.

14 Natural gas as an energy solution is in
15 oversupply in the California market. This is well
16 documented and, as the EDF points out, once the full
17 spectrum of its extraction use cycle is considered,
18 natural gas is on a par with coal in terms of its
19 impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

20 The mantra we keep repeating that natural
21 gas is clean energy is, I think, a comfortable
22 falsehood. The people in Aliso Canyon would likely
23 bear witness to that assertion.

24 Fortunately, renewable energy such as wind
25 and solar is no longer a pie-in-the-sky alternative

1 and is rapidly becoming our cheapest energy option.
2 Locally we're seeing businesses and county offices
3 retrofitting parking lots with solar shade projects.
4 It's a no brainer.

5 Reflecting that reality and the need to find
6 storage solution for this burgeoning cheap energy,
7 an article in this July *Scientific American* states,
8 "Five years from now, if current plans work out, the
9 peaker plant will be gone, replaced by the world's
10 largest storage battery." That's a quote.

11 This is happening just down the road, as
12 alluded to, in Los Angeles where flexible power with
13 batteries are being augmented as a solution to these
14 peak power needs.

15 That's five years from now. Think back five
16 years and if you can recall, do you think we would
17 even have been thinking this at that point? Five
18 years will be a blink.

19 So my question to this Commission is, why
20 authorize Calpine's project now if by the time it
21 goes online it likely will be obsolete as our
22 cheapest or best energy solution?

23 Also, where is the demonstrated need for its
24 capacity beyond Calpine's desire to sell to you
25 their good idea? After all, gas fired power plants

1 are their bread and butter and they don't have a
2 contract with SCE to produce energy for them. So
3 how is this moving forward? Why is this getting
4 scrutiny in a time where better options are on the
5 horizon?

6 Lastly, would be (indiscernible) to think
7 that if you green light Calpine's project to go
8 online as currently proposed that it could be
9 switched to a vastly cleaner, cheaper energy
10 solution in a few years?

11 I think we know the answer to that question.
12 Let's not make it a question we need to ask in five
13 years.

14 Thank you for your time, Commissioners, your
15 staff's generous time here this evening. We hope
16 these issues can and will be addressed in the
17 ensuing months. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

19 Carmen Arenas followed by Stephanie
20 Rodriguez.

21 MS. ARENAS: My name is Carmen Arenas. I am
22 here to oppose the Calpine Limoneira proposed power
23 plant in Santa Paula in the Santa Clara River
24 Valley.

25 First of all, I want to say thank you to the

1 California Energy Commissioners for hosting this
2 public hearing. I am opposed to the Calpine
3 Limoneira power plant because the air quality of our
4 valley will be affected. According to the Ventura
5 County Air Pollution Control District, currently the
6 air quality exceeds both state and federal air
7 quality standards for ozone.

8 The pollutants released from the burning of
9 natural gas will further contribute to the out-of-
10 compliance ground level ozone. These elevated
11 levels of pollution will increase the risk of health
12 issues such as asthma and emphysema affecting the
13 Santa Clara River Valley residents.

14 As a person that enjoys running and doing
15 outdoor activities, I'm opposed to this polluting
16 power plant.

17 The proposed site falls within the 100-year
18 and 500-year flood plain defined by FEMA. That
19 makes the site vulnerable to flooding. Previous
20 flooding events have destroyed significant resources
21 in the vicinity, such as the airport.

22 It is not realistic to assume this will not
23 occur again. The community will be left with a
24 negative environmental impacts a flooding event will
25 have on the power plant.

1 It is also very important to note that the
2 proposed plant violates the minimum 1,500 feet
3 sensitive receptor distance requirement with the
4 local jail located only 800 feet away. The jail
5 houses approximately 800 people awaiting trial and
6 has over 185 employees.

7 Neighboring the proposed site are also
8 agricultural farms and large packing houses. Less
9 than two miles away are Briggs Elementary School and
10 the Limoneira farm working housing.

11 Above all, our fresh air comes from the
12 west, and that's where they're trying to put the
13 power plant. The fresh air breeze coming to the
14 valley will be polluted with this proposed power
15 plant. Therefore, I am against the polluting power
16 plant in the Santa Clara River Valley.

17 Thank you for your time.

18 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

19 Stephanie Rodriguez followed by Ginger
20 Gherardi -- I'm sorry, city council, got it.

21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Hello. My name is Stephanie
22 and I am from Oxnard. I stand in solidarity with
23 Santa Paula. Being from Oxnard, I constantly see my
24 town being picked on by big corporations like
25 Calpine, and now the same thing is happening in

1 Santa Paula.

2 In Oxnard we currently have three power
3 plants and a fourth one being proposed. I have been
4 fighting against these power plants in Oxnard and
5 now I stand here to fight for Santa Paula.

6 Cities like Oxnard and Santa Paula are being
7 targeted, but why? Because of people of color?
8 Because we're low income?

9 Take into consideration all the lives that
10 will be affected if the power plant is built here,
11 or anywhere. Please vote no.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

13 The next speaker. I'm sorry I read your
14 last name wrong.

15 MS. GHERARDI: That's okay, not a problem.

16 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: And let me just say
17 the next speaker, Macrina Hinojosa.

18 MS. GHERARDI: First of all, Thank you very
19 much for holding this second hearing here, and I
20 would like to apologize that I couldn't be here at
21 the first half of the meeting, I got here with the
22 break, so some of the issues that may bring up you
23 may have already covered, and I'll beg your
24 indulgence on that.

25 And the comments that I'm making this

1 evening are my own. The City has sent a letter to
2 the Commission previously raising some issues, so
3 these are just my comments.

4 My most basic concern for this project is
5 where is the justification. Because Calpine owns
6 the property doesn't mean that it's an appropriate
7 location for a power plant or the best use of that
8 property, and I think that's something that needs to
9 be taken into consideration.

10 It's also my understanding that this project
11 was not solicited by the CEC and that Calpine does
12 not have a contract with the Edison Company, so the
13 proposed project is just speculation at the expense
14 of the public living and working in Santa Paula. So
15 specific justification for the necessity of this
16 plant should be required from the California Energy
17 Commission before the matter is considered further.

18 I'd like to raise a couple of specific
19 issues, some of which I know have been addressed.

20 Probably the most significant one is the
21 flood plain. I cannot understand why anybody would
22 put a power plant, a \$300 million facility, in a 100
23 year flood plain. We have ample evidence of that
24 river being breached. The airport people have
25 mentioned previously.

1 The rivers have gone over the banks coming
2 up from the rivers over Highway 126. They've wiped
3 out the rail lines, we've had FEMA in here. The
4 rain, while we're in a drought right now, will come
5 and it will come again, so it's incredible to me
6 that it would be actually considered to be put in
7 that location.

8 The next thing I'd like to mention related
9 to that is that we have three Santa Paula firemen
10 who were seriously injured, two of them are no
11 longer able to work, because of an explosion at a
12 nearby wastewater facility right near this place.
13 And I would like to know now the Energy Commission
14 would be able to assure that there would be no
15 explosions or leaks or fires from the 20 lithium ion
16 battery units onsite.

17 And how will you prevent ammonia storage
18 tanks or other hazardous material from moving on the
19 site or being swept into the river at the time of a
20 flood or any kind of a massive rain event, which
21 appears will occur periodically, and that is a
22 guarantee.

23 And then how would you guarantee that none
24 of these hazardous chemicals will find their way
25 into the riverbed or into our water table, which is

1 where our drinking water comes from.

2 Another issue that I have has to do with
3 noise and I have no idea if this has been brought up
4 before or not.

5 I would like to know how much noise does the
6 equivalent of five jet engines actually make, and
7 how many hours per day will they run. We were told,
8 I was told you can't have solar power because it's
9 only available during the day time, which implied to
10 me, and I didn't read it in the documents, so it
11 implied to me that this would be running at night.

12 In Santa Paula you can't take a normal noise
13 measurement. There's a measurement you take onsite
14 and then you go a certain amount of feet away and
15 then take a measurement again.

16 If you looked out here when you were here,
17 you'll notice we're in a bowl and there are
18 mountains all the way around us. The noise runs up
19 the hills, so if this thing is running at night are
20 we really saying that we are going to disturb the
21 sleep of all of the people living in Santa Paula
22 because of noise that's being reflected up the
23 hills?

24 So I don't know how you did the noise
25 evaluation but I think that's an issue that needs to

1 be looked at.

2 The second issue related to the noise is
3 what impact -- and I don't know if you've done this
4 but I would like consideration of this. What impact
5 will the noise of these engines have on the wildlife
6 using the river basin, or birds or nesting birds?
7 And that needs to be considered in however you're
8 looking at the evaluation.

9 There has been mention about the Santa Paula
10 Airport opposing this. They're on record of doing
11 that because of the low altitude that their pilots
12 come in coming from the west, particularly when we
13 have a lot of fog. And if you're from this area you
14 know the fog generally breaks at Kimball Road.
15 There's fog that's socked in to there and then it
16 comes clear as it comes in here, so they're coming
17 in very low.

18 In the last five years I think there have
19 been three fatalities with planes hitting regular
20 power lines, so there is a significant issue of
21 having higher power lines coming in and a danger
22 with planes coming in, so I want to know who's going
23 to assume the liability for that if such an accident
24 would happen because of the raised power lines.

25 The next one has to do with visual

1 pollution. I realize that transmission lines may be
2 beautiful to some people. They're pretty ugly to
3 me. And the newer lines that they put one right
4 across the road from where I live, this humungous
5 concrete thing that goes way up, they're even uglier
6 than the poles that are normally there. So I think
7 we're going to be looking at some visual blight with
8 36 ugly poles from 80 to 200 feet in the air, that
9 is problematic.

10 But more importantly for me is another
11 environmental issue. I understand that the plant is
12 going to be lighted all night whether it's in
13 operation or not, and I would like to know what the
14 environmental effect will be on the wildlife who
15 currently use the river by taking an area that was
16 normally dark and now having it lit all night. Do
17 they go down to the river? Does it impact the
18 wildlife, the birds, anything else? Has that been
19 considered in your evaluation?

20 And then lastly, the issue that's been
21 brought up by a lot of people, what's the need for
22 the plant, and the issue is obviously environmental
23 justice.

24 If there is a need, why isn't it being
25 located in the area where the demand is coming from

1 rather than a predominantly agricultural low income
2 minority community?

3 We in Santa Paula have learned the hard way
4 that we can be taken advantage of when we were given
5 a jail and when we were given a regional landfill.
6 We're hoping that the State will take the issue of
7 environmental justice seriously and treat us with
8 equality and give the peaker plant to somebody else.

9 The last thing that I want to say is that
10 much has been made about the environmental issues
11 only having a very minimal effect. A couple of days
12 a year, it's going to run, I don't know, twelve days
13 a year, whatever the number is.

14 I need to tell you that's patently untrue,
15 and it's patently untrue because the effects of the
16 peaker plant in Santa Paula will be 365 days a year.
17 There will be visual impacts of the transmission
18 lines 365 days a year whether the plant is operating
19 or not. There will be risks to pilots 365 days a
20 year. There will be risks to wildlife.

21 So again, I would just simply like to say
22 thank you for coming. I really appreciate the
23 effort you went to, to include the entire community
24 in this. And I would like you to consider getting
25 some answers to these other questions. Thanks.

1 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you for your
2 comments.

3 And if we could have the translators come
4 over, we'd like to get translation.

5 I'll just say before the next speaker,
6 because I know you missed the earlier presentation.
7 The environmental analysis has not been done yet.
8 The staff which does the analysis is still in the
9 data gathering and discovery phase, so your
10 questions are definitely helping them. I saw them
11 writing quite a few notes.

12 So now Macrina Hinojosa por favor.

13 MS. HINOJOSA (Through Interpreter): Good
14 evening. You said my name already, Macrina
15 Hinojosa. I'm here to give my testimony and my
16 words and say why I do not want this power plant
17 here in Santa Paula.

18 It's a town of town members a majority of
19 low income people. I would like to also say that
20 I've lived here for 40 years and I live surrounded
21 with pesticide pollution. Because of that I had
22 cancer, skin cancer. I have allergies and my skin.
23 My daughter was born with some mental disabilities
24 and multiple of my neighbors also their children
25 have some mental disabilities. And skin disease is

1 very serious ones.

2 We don't want any more pollution in this
3 small town where there is already a lot of people
4 suffering because of multiple many diseases. We
5 don't want any more pollution. We want more parks.
6 Resources for the youth. And I ask Calpine and
7 Limoneira don't bring any more pollution to Santa
8 Paula. Thank you very much.

9 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Gracias.

10 The next speakers are Gail Pidduck and then
11 Nate Pidduck. And I'm sorry if I mispronounced your
12 last name.

13 MS. PIDDUCK: No one can say our last name,
14 it's P-I-D-D-U-C-K. Thank you for this evening.

15 I grew up just to the north and east of
16 where this power plant is proposed. I too attended
17 Briggs School and I've never been more proud than of
18 the young man who spoke tonight from Briggs School.

19 I grew up hearing from my grandfather about
20 the Saint Francis Dam disaster and he lost property
21 and buildings in that disaster.

22 And then I lived through the 1969 flood
23 which also wreaked havoc with the Santa Clara River
24 and its tributaries.

25 You can't decide where a river is going to

1 flow when it overflows, and I think that needs to be
2 taken into consideration with this idea of raising
3 the pad ten feet.

4 There are those who will try to convince our
5 community that this plant would be a pot of gold
6 with promises of money for entities in our valley.
7 But these same individuals and companies are slow to
8 warn us of the cost to our community.

9 The health of those with the least to say in
10 this issue are children, the elderly, and the
11 incarcerated should be of more concern than promised
12 funds that may never materialize.

13 As a small stockholder in Limoneira, I have
14 also expressed my disappointment to Harold Edwards,
15 the CEO, that a company that has long supported our
16 community is now supporting this plant by providing
17 water and easements and putting profits over the
18 concerns of our citizens and the health of our
19 valley.

20 Without the water promised by Limoneira
21 where would the water come from for this plant in
22 these times of serious drought? I would certainly
23 hope it would not come from the city of Santa Paula.

24 We live in a beautiful valley with a free
25 flowing river. A small town that is working to

1 survive and grow in smart ways. Please allow us to
2 decide what we want and need in our valley.

3 Thank you for listening to our community
4 members. As you make your recommendations and your
5 reports, please remember that it is the members of
6 our community that will feel the effects of your
7 decision for years to come. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

9 All right. Nate Pidduck followed by Tony
10 Skinner, please.

11 MR. PIDDUCK: Hi, name's Nate Pidduck. I'm
12 a life-long Santa Paula resident and I went on to
13 get my degree in environmental science from
14 University of California Santa Barbara.

15 The applicant has asked for a permit to
16 operate the plant for 2,500 hours per year, but
17 estimates actual operations at 500 hours or less.
18 Since water is essential to operations, water supply
19 must be calculated on the maximum permitted hours,
20 not estimated hours.

21 The applicant says the plant will need
22 30,000 gallons per hour under typical hot operating
23 conditions. This results in a need for 230 acre
24 feet of water per year. Limoneira can only supply
25 somewhere between 48 and 85 acre feet of water per

1 year. Clearly this is not enough water to operate
2 the plant to its full permitted capacity.

3 Once permitted, if ISO determines that the
4 plant is needed to generate electricity when it has
5 insufficient water to do so, it will be the water
6 used to control nitrogen oxide that will be
7 sacrificed since starving the turbines of cooling
8 water will almost certainly result in damage to the
9 equipment.

10 The result is that the plant will emit
11 additional air pollution at the very time the air
12 pollution is already high due to high ambient air
13 temperatures. This will have an impact on the
14 health of local residents, especially the children
15 in the nearby schools, including Briggs School
16 District, and farm workers and others who work out
17 of doors or do not have air conditioning.

18 Insufficient water to operate the plant at
19 full permit hours must result in a reduction of
20 permitted hours or a denial of the permit.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

23 All right. Tony Skinner followed by
24 Veronica Vargas.

25 MR. SKINNER: Hi, good evening. My name's

1 Tony Skinner and I'm the executive secretary
2 treasurer of the Tri-County Building and
3 Construction Trades Council, as well as the
4 president of the International Brotherhood of
5 Electrical Workers in Ventura, and I'm here on
6 behalf of 14 affiliates to speak in favor of the
7 permit for the Mission Rock project.

8 The construction industry in Ventura County
9 has never come back from the recession of 2008. In
10 fact, we're down 6900 jobs from our pre-recession
11 high.

12 If built, because of the project labor
13 agreement with Calpine, this project will be built
14 and maintained with the highest quality, best
15 trained, and safest workforce in the industry
16 provided by the trades.

17 This will allow us to continue to expand and
18 train apprentices who will be the workforce of the
19 future and allow our brothers and sisters who have
20 had to work away from their homes and families to
21 come back home and work in their own county.

22 Thank you very much.

23 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you for your
24 comments.

25 Veronica Vargas, and we need a translator,

1 interpreter.

2 MS. VARGAS (Through Interpreter): Good
3 evening. My name is Veronica Vargas. I'm here
4 representing my husband and my son who couldn't be
5 here today, and so many other people that maybe
6 they're scared to come, like me right now. I'm not
7 even, you know, too confident about what I'm going
8 to say, but I would like to speak to you.

9 The people that are going to come here and
10 build their power plant, they're going to get a lot
11 of money. We are from a poor town and we come from
12 other countries also and we come here to try to move
13 forward and be better, and they say that they could
14 help us but help us how long?

15 They're going to build their power plant in
16 six months, I think I heard earlier, and they're
17 going to employ 200 people or something like that
18 for what, two years or something? They're going to
19 get rich out of this.

20 Are they going to give monies to the
21 schools, what, like \$2,000 to the high school or
22 something like that? And then but how much are they
23 going to make?

24 We are going to be here with the pollution
25 afterwards and our children and our grandchildren,

1 they're going to be here and they're going to have
2 it and they're going to be the ones living here.
3 We're going to pass away eventually but our children
4 are going to be here with that pollution, and I
5 don't think it's worth it.

6 The donation they're going to give to the
7 school, to the high school, or whatever Limoneira is
8 going to give to the communities with need, because
9 how much does Limoneira make? They're going to give
10 us money but how are they keeping themselves?
11 They're not going to give us all their earnings
12 because it wouldn't be a business for them. This is
13 business for them but we don't want for them to do
14 business with us. That's why we pay taxes here and
15 we help our Santa Paula make it better. This is
16 where we live and we want to continue living here
17 and that's why we pay our taxes. We don't need
18 someone rich to come here, make themselves even
19 richer with us and later for us to be left with
20 these diseases. And that's what we're going to have
21 to put up with. They're not going to be living here
22 in Santa Paula, they live in their mansions,
23 beautiful and elegant ones, and we are the poor
24 people here, the ones that are going to remain here.

25 I ask you please to consider all of this and

1 see the impact this is going to have on our poor
2 population, agricultural population. We want to
3 continue living healthy. Poor but healthy. Thank
4 you very much.

5 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Gracias.

6 The next speaker, last name Martinez, first
7 name starts with an R, it might be -- is there
8 anyone here whose last name is Martinez and first
9 name starts with an R? I'm sorry, I can't read the
10 writing. Oh, please come forward. And I believe we
11 may need a translator.

12 MS. MARAZA: No, I got it. Good evening.
13 My name is Concha Maraza (phonetic). I've been
14 hearing different ways of saying no, we don't want
15 this plant here. Well, the Lord said don't be
16 greedy. Leave this land smooth as it is. If you
17 come to build something good for Santa Paula, do it,
18 but don't come to destroy it. Don't be greedy.
19 Just think whatever you do to others, you do to the
20 Lord. Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

22 All right. The next speaker is Raymundo
23 Pinedo, followed by actually, after Raymundo Pinedo
24 the Public Adviser is going to read a comment into
25 the record, and then we'll keep going.

1 MR. PINEDO: Good evening, California Energy
2 Commission. My name is Raymundo Pinedo. I was a
3 student at Briggs and I wouldn't like to have all
4 those deadly emissions coming to my school.

5 I also live in Limoneira and I've talked to
6 a lot of the people there in Limoneira and they're
7 concerned for their children. And also we have
8 concerns for the people that work in the packing
9 house, the fields, and also even the administrators
10 that are there.

11 So we would not like this plant being built
12 there.

13 I'm here representing (indiscernible) Santa
14 Paula students, mentor club and all the children and
15 all the citizens of Santa Paula which we're against
16 Calpine's application to build a power plant in our
17 community and surrounding communities.

18 Solar, wind and vegetation are the only
19 natural and safe types of energy for our
20 communities.

21 I just retired from Santa Paula High School
22 and I was a teacher assistant and I worked in
23 physical sciences classes and we studied the
24 different types of energy resources. Power plants
25 were the bottom of the safe environmental energy

1 resources such as the one that Calpine is trying to
2 build.

3 The gas producing companies have lied in
4 other communities elsewhere in the United States
5 where water resources and air resources were
6 contaminated their land and their environment.

7 Each class, almost each class was a hundred
8 percent of these students wrote to letters to
9 Governor Brown to keep all power plants out of our
10 communities. I will ask our teachers to cc: these
11 letters to the California Energy Commission to deny
12 the building of these power plants in our community.
13 Our health and environment is more important and
14 valuable than money. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

16 So Rosemary, let me ask, are you reading a
17 comment for someone who's here?

18 MS. AVALOS: No, he left.

19 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh, he left. Well,
20 tell you what, why don't we do it later then. Let's
21 get through the folks who are here and we'll do it
22 later. Thank you.

23 Marilena Terrazas with CAUSE followed by
24 Larry Renteria also with CAUSE.

25 MS. TERRAZAS: Good evening, Board. My name

1 is Marilena Terrazas and I'm an intern with CAUSE
2 and a senior at Santa Paula High School.

3 The proposed Mission Rock power plant will
4 be detrimental to the health of our environment and
5 our community. The proposed natural gas power
6 plant, as I'm sure you're aware, is in the 100 year
7 flood plain of the recovering Santa Clara River. A
8 restoration effort which I have been personally
9 involved with for the past three years has been
10 ongoing way past my time with organizations such as
11 the Nature Conservancy, UCSB and CAUSE.

12 The Santa Clara River is a hidden gem that
13 brings beauty to the Santa Paula residents. A power
14 plant built here would be completely disregarding
15 the restoration efforts put in by the Santa Paula
16 residents that have given their time and energy into
17 seeing our beautiful areas get restored.

18 A natural gas power plant is far from a
19 clean energy source. A power plant will release
20 particulate matter 2.5 which cannot be filtered out
21 by human lungs. It will also be releasing carbon
22 dioxide. Not only do these gases add to the issue
23 of global warming but they're incredibly damaging to
24 lungs.

25 Surrounding the power plant are fields, farm

1 worker housing, Briggs, and Olive Land Schools. The
2 power plant is targeting field workers and their
3 families who are already victims many times to
4 unfair labor practices. Children can no longer go
5 to school and play on a jungle gym without running
6 the risk of contracting asthma.

7 As Calpine has said earlier, they'll be
8 giving money to these schools, but they should be
9 giving money to cover healthcare and new hospitals
10 that will be required to cover the new lung diseases
11 that people are going to contract.

12 Not only our community, but no community
13 deserves to have their natural resources demolished
14 and the lives of its citizens disregarded. Santa
15 Paula is not voiceless and we are not weak. We need
16 to be making energy methods that make sense.

17 Governor Brown's bill requires by that 2030
18 50 percent of energies be renewable. Ventura County
19 needs to leave nonrenewable energy practices in the
20 past and look toward the future of sustainable and
21 renewable energy. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

23 Larry Renteria with CAUSE followed by Woody
24 Maxwell, please.

25 MR. RENTERIA: Do I have to spell my last

1 name? Hi, my name's Larry Renteria and I'm a senior
2 at Santa Paula High School. I went to the last CEC
3 hearing on June 28th and I wasn't let into the room
4 because it was at capacity, so I sat outside trying
5 to hear what was going on inside but it was kind of
6 difficult. And then out of nowhere, like everyone
7 started leaving and I had no idea what was going on,
8 but then I found out it was because of lack of
9 translation so everyone got fed up with it and just
10 left.

11 At first I took being not allowed into the
12 room as an insult, and especially not having
13 translation for the Spanish speaking members of our
14 community. But then I looked at it and I saw it
15 more as a reality check, and I saw that this is how
16 Santa Paula is seen throughout the state. We're not
17 seen as active, we're seen as a lesser community,
18 and for lack of a better word, a useless community.
19 If this is how our government sees us, then of
20 course Calpine would pick on us as a place for their
21 power plant.

22 However, at the first hearing I believe that
23 we changed our reputation a little bit because now
24 we're in this big room with all this translation and
25 all this time that went into the meeting, and I

1 think we need to uphold that reputation.

2 Now we're seen as a community for the people
3 who won't be taken advantage of and our voices are
4 being heard. And I think the best way to maintain
5 this reputation is by denying Calpine's request to
6 build a power plant in Santa Paula.

7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

9 Woody Maxwell followed by Ivana Montalvo.

10 MR. MAXWELL: Good evening, I'm Woody
11 Maxwell representing Malzacker Ranch. I teach high
12 school chemistry in Ventura. And the question that
13 comes up is why?

14 As was demonstrated by Calpine guy -- I
15 forget your name, sorry -- that we have --

16 MR. WEINBERG: Mitch.

17 MR. MAXWELL: Mitch, Calpine guy Mitch that
18 we have a 1500 megawatt plant in Ormond Beach. We
19 have another 500 megawatt plant between Oxnard and
20 Ventura and right next to this peaker plant that was
21 just renovated recently. We haven't demonstrated a
22 need.

23 Also it was brought up that we have to have
24 water that can no longer circulate the water through
25 the power plants. Well, so the suggestion is let's

1 use the water from the sewage treatment plant in
2 Santa Paula. And I keep wondering, well, why is all
3 this happening?

4 But, well, there's a sewage treatment plant
5 in Oxnard not far from Ormond Beach and there's a
6 sewage treatment plant in Ventura that's dumping
7 hundreds of thousands of gallons of water a day into
8 the estuary. Well, there you go, there's your water
9 for cooling water, then you don't have to worry
10 about once through and you can keep them right where
11 they are.

12 I have a feeling why they actually want to
13 move them is because someone wants to build houses
14 there and they're unsightly, but I can't prove that.

15 Second thing is, is the electrical grid, you
16 mentioned having to connect to an electrical grid.
17 That's not cheap. Those existing power plants are
18 already connected to the electrical grid. You don't
19 have to build new power lines. You don't have to
20 spend the money on the copper, you don't have to
21 spend the money to mine the copper to make the power
22 lines, that stuff is already in existence.

23 As also was brought up quite succinctly by a
24 number of people is, well, why here? You're in an
25 agricultural community. I know that AmGen uses far

1 more electricity than the entire valley here does.
2 Why not put it in Newberry Park? They have a sewage
3 treatment plant, they've got water. You could run
4 it right through there, it be no problem.

5 Then there's the aquifer, which is depleted
6 because, well, we're in a drought, and right now the
7 reason the Santa Paula city sewage, new sewage
8 treatment plant, which is another long story having
9 faced a group like this, they weren't allowed to
10 dump it in the river, they were told that they had
11 to put it into the percolation ponds going in to get
12 cleaned up. Of course, it polluted my in-laws
13 groundwater but the city said that's not a big deal.

14 And so, wait, now you're going to take that
15 water that comes out of the aquifer into our city
16 homes. Oh wait, we're not going to put it back in.
17 We're going to send it to Limoneira, they're going
18 to put it through reverse osmosis and they're going
19 to use it in some sort of industrial thing; I
20 believe that's what you said.

21 And so, well, why?

22 And I think that we should be looking at
23 like wind energy. Now I know that we have planes so
24 you don't want big windmills like they have in
25 Banning Pass and Tehachapi Pass, but why aren't we

1 doing that?

2 You mentioned also Calpine is a leading
3 purveyor of non-fossil fuel power. Why aren't we
4 going that way?

5 We've got plenty of wind. We get sun every
6 day here. Yes, you're right, the sun does go down
7 every night and we need something to go on, but you
8 also clearly pointed out that we have 2,000
9 megawatts of generation already, which is the size
10 of a nuclear power plant in case anyone's
11 interested.

12 And then of course, if the brine that goes
13 to Limoneira's reverse osmosis has to go somewhere,
14 it's got to go to the ocean. There is a brine line
15 that exists that goes from that industrial area to
16 Oxnard's treatment plant. Well, what do they have
17 to say about that?

18 So we still come back to the question of
19 why, and it doesn't make sense. It makes no sense
20 other than someone wants to make money on the back
21 of Santa Paula when we've got power plants, they're
22 already there. We could upgrade them and be fine.
23 And then as solar and other things come in we can
24 shut them down and take them out like they do in
25 Germany.

1 Thank you very much.

2 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

3 Ivana Montalvo with CAUSE followed by
4 Sytlalli Salgado.

5 MS. MONTALVO: Good evening. I'm here as a
6 youth of Santa Paula like many actively participants
7 in restoring and bringing back Santa Paula's natural
8 beauty and protect our environment. The
9 consideration of the power plant is insensitive to
10 the youth who take time from studying, time with
11 family, sports and work to go out and spend hours in
12 the sun in attempts to undo previous damages made to
13 our community. Damages that were caused by making
14 decisions based off of money rather than ethic.

15 All the work that has been done to this
16 plant would be in vane if the power plant is built.

17 The location of the potential power plant is even
18 worse. Near a school with small children, children
19 who cannot defend themselves.

20 Near homes with families who will not be
21 able to escape the pollution.

22 I personally attended both Briggs, the
23 middle school that would be closest to the power
24 plant, and (indiscernible) elementary school. I
25 would like to be a voice for those children who are

1 not present to defend themselves.

2 My younger brother even. Though presently I
3 don't attend either school, having someone you love
4 be constantly near that makes it more real. I know
5 you wouldn't want your own family members being
6 exposed to a polluting power plant.

7 The power plant cannot be sugar coated no
8 matter how cleverly worded. The reality of having a
9 power plant means having pollution and decades of
10 consequences. We are a city who wants to progress
11 and we simply don't want it here. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

13 Sytlalli -- and I may be saying your name
14 wrong -- Salgado with CAUSE, oh good. And followed
15 by Zenaida Alcantar with CAUSE.

16 MS. SALGADO: Hello. My name is Sytlalli
17 Salgado and Santa Paula is my home. I've lived here
18 since I was born. I went to (indiscernible)
19 Elementary School, (indiscernible) Middle School,
20 and now I'm going to be a senior at Santa Paula High
21 School.

22 And I just want to start off by asking how
23 many power plants have you seen in wealthy
24 communities such as Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, Simi
25 Valley, or Santa Barbara? None.

1 Power plants are often placed in communities
2 with low income or big Latino communities. An
3 example of that situation would be Oxnard. They
4 already suffered the damages from three polluting
5 power plants, and possibly four, and now another in
6 Santa Paula?

7 This injustice needs to stop. We don't
8 deserve to suffer these damages while the wealthy
9 communities just benefit from it.

10 As a community member, I feel like corporate
11 profit is being prioritized versus the health and
12 wellbeing of the residents of Santa Paula. There
13 are alternatives that are actually ecofriendly and
14 won't affect our health, such as solar panels.

15 By not accepting this power plant, you, the
16 CEC, can break apart the injustices here in Santa
17 Paula, because I do not want my beautiful home to
18 turn into a wasteland. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

20 Zenaida Alcantar followed by Lily Valdez.

21 MS. ALCANTAR: Good evening. My name is
22 Zenaida Alcantar, senior (indiscernible) high school
23 and from CAUSE standing before you today on this
24 warm Santa Paula evening asking you please to not
25 approve this power plant.

1 As a resident from (indiscernible) and
2 Oxnard, I have seen how much a community has fought
3 for rights to live in the cleanest environment
4 possible. For example, we have done beach cleanups
5 on a beach I didn't even know existed until just
6 recently, Ormond Beach. I didn't know about this
7 beach and I literally lived down the street from it.
8 I couldn't tell because all I saw when I drove down
9 (indiscernible) Road was clouds of smoke in the
10 distance. Little did I know that it was one of
11 three power plants and they're proposing a fourth
12 one surrounding my community.

13 Making temperatures rise and polluting the
14 air is quite detrimental not only to the environment
15 but to us. Now Calpine wants to set up one of these
16 power plants onto Santa Paula near Santa Clara
17 River? All this power plant would be doing would be
18 destroying and polluting this habitat.

19 It's really quite a joke that these
20 corporations are picking on vulnerable cities that
21 they think are not going to fight back. Well, we
22 are.

23 Do any of you guys have kids? Okay.
24 Imagine your child breathing in toxic fumes on a
25 daily basis. Think of the children and farm workers

1 and so many other people that will be living in this
2 community, and just think about all the people being
3 surrounded by this monstrosity every single day.

4 I am here today to stand in solidarity with
5 my neighboring city of Santa Paula to stop this
6 power plant from being approved and ask you please
7 vote no. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

9 All right. Lily Valdez, are you here?

10 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She went home.

11 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: She went home, okay.

12 I'm just going to take two or three more
13 speakers and then we're going to take a short break.
14 I know it's late and folks might not even want a
15 break, but we need to give the court reporter a
16 break, and it actually would be nice to stand up and
17 stretch for a minute, so I'm going to take then two
18 or three more cards and we'll take a quick break.

19 Lucia Marquez followed by Jessica Gabriela
20 Ramirez.

21 MS. MARQUEZ: Good evening Commissioners.
22 My name is Lucia Marquez and I am a volunteer with
23 CAUSE, but also a resident of Santa Paula for the
24 past 21 years.

25 The past month I have been working with

1 community members organizing against the proposed
2 Calpine Limoneira power plant. The past two weeks
3 Santa Paula residents have managed to create a
4 petition and collect over 1,000 signatures to show
5 you, the CEC, that they do not want this power plant
6 to be approved, and I would like to present these
7 petition signatures to you today.

8 Santa Paula is a predominantly Latino
9 immigrant and low income community. It's
10 communities like these that are targeted by
11 corporations like Calpine for polluting projects at
12 the expense of our community's health.

13 Side with the community, side with health,
14 and side with justice. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you for your
16 comments. Thank you.

17 All right. Two more and then we'll take a
18 quick break. Jessica Gabriela Ramirez followed by
19 Maggie Cervantes.

20 MS. RAMIREZ: Thank you. Hello, good
21 evening. My name is Jessica Gabriela and I'm a
22 rising senior at Channel Islands High School and I'm
23 here today with CAUSE as a youth as well as to stand
24 in solidarity with the Santa Paula residents.

25 Dear California Energy Commission, thank you

1 for coming back more prepared with the necessary
2 tools for the whole Santa Paula community to
3 actually take part in today's meeting. And as you
4 will realize or have already realized, the residents
5 of Santa Paula do not want this power plant built
6 here in the city.

7 So I am from Oxnard and we have the power
8 plants, and yet another being proposed. Oxnard,
9 although working class and industrial community, is
10 home to beautiful beaches and extraordinary wildlife
11 habitats like our lost treasure, Ormond Beach.

12 But Oxnard, like Santa Paula, is also home
13 to many minority race, low income, farm working
14 families that, like our environment, suffer from
15 pollution induced allergies and diseases that are
16 often new to family lines.

17 Families that are struggling to put food on
18 the table have been fighting literally to stay
19 alive, and I would hate to see another community so
20 similar to my own have to be dragged through the
21 same path. The odds are not fair. There is blatant
22 injustice before us all and this needs to stop
23 beginning right now here in Santa Paula. So by
24 personal experience and care for the future
25 generations of Santa Paula, no family, rich or poor,

1 should ever have the misfortune of being touched by
2 any illness or disease, cancer especially. So let's
3 not start the trend here in our aspiring community
4 in Santa Paula. Please vote no. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

6 Maggie Cervantes. Maggie Cervantes, are you
7 here? All right. Well, then I think we are on to a
8 ten minute break, so we'll reconvene at 9:25. Thank
9 you.

10 (Off the record at 9:15 p.m.)

11 (On the record at 9:29 p.m.)

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Lorenzo Maraza,
13 please come forward.

14 MR. MARAZA: Thank you. Good evening. And
15 once again, we really appreciate the time you're
16 taking to listen to us.

17 My name is Lorenzo Maraza and I'm a 42-year
18 resident of Santa Paula. I'm a member of the Santa
19 Paula Alliance. And I am President of Santa Paula
20 Latino Town Hall. Santa Paula Latino Town Hall is a
21 community-based organization that or 20 years has
22 been committed to mobilize and empower its members
23 and community through community-building activities
24 that impact the quality of life of its residents.
25 The organization was formed to address concerns,

1 such as the one being presented here tonight. Santa
2 Paula Latino Town Hall is very concerned and
3 adamantly opposes the propose power plant project.

4 Less than two years ago this community
5 experienced a major catastrophe, a chemical
6 explosion that resulted in major injuries to several
7 of our residents, and it could have been worse. We
8 don't want to ever face what occurred two years ago.

9 As you've been hearing here tonight, this
10 community will do whatever it takes to defeat this
11 project. Our children deserve better. Our
12 environment deserves better. Our residents and
13 county residents deserve better.

14 Santa Paula Latino Town Hall feels that
15 Calpine and Limoneira have once again taken
16 advantage of a community of color to build this
17 power plant. Twenty years ago, it was actually
18 twenty years ago last year, a similar situation
19 occurred. You heard about it already. We were
20 pretty much handed a jail, a jail that continues to
21 expand. And now we have to come to this. Again,
22 this community, a community of color, was selected.
23 And in selecting Santa Paula as a site this
24 constitutes a social and an environmental justice
25 violation.

1 This proposed power plant will contaminate
2 our environment, it will produce electricity
3 earmarked for other cities, it will be built next to
4 a river that one day soon will flood, as it has done
5 in the past. Residents who can least afford one
6 more utility bill will be carrying on this
7 responsibility. Once again, you need to know that
8 we will remain strong, we will not be compromised by
9 special interest groups or businesses that have
10 betrayed our trust and the trust of all the
11 residents of this community. No power plant in
12 Santa Paula.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Bob Borrego, please,
15 followed by Ginger Gherardi.

16 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Off mic.) She already
17 spoke.

18 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh, of course she
19 did. I think there was an extra card.

20 Followed by Edward Ramirez.

21 MR. BORREGO: I am Robert Borrego, a 90-year
22 resident of Santa Paula. So I want to tell you
23 about our beautiful city of 70,000 residents, of
24 which 80 percent are Latinos. Most of them are
25 farmworkers. They are paid very low wages since

1 they have not received a pay increase in many years.

2 Because of the low-paid workers, we have a
3 high rate of poverty. In our schools, from 87 to 94
4 percent of our students receive a free or reduced-
5 free lunch. Santa Paula is the second poorest city
6 in the county, but cost of living is high here due
7 to the lack of affordable housing. Sixty percent of
8 our teachers live outside of town. The city
9 receives very low funds from sales tax. Low-income
10 workers have no disposable income, so they don't buy
11 goods or services here. Therefore the city has no
12 money to hire additional police officers or
13 additional firefighters. This situation puts our
14 city at high risk from the 11 gangs that are now
15 active here in town.

16 As you can see, these troubling conditions
17 are faced daily by our residents. Please don't
18 burden us with a facility that will add misery to
19 our daily lives. Don't destroy the beauty of our
20 city that is part of the marvelous Santa Clara River
21 Valley.

22 As you know, most farmworkers are the most
23 exploited workers in California. Please don't
24 discriminate against them. If you do it will be
25 racial discrimination, so don't discriminate against

1 all these poor workers in Santa Paula.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

4 Edward Ramirez, followed by Manuel Minjares.

5 MR. RAMIREZ: (Speaking Spanish.)

6 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: (Speaking Spanish.)

7 MR. RAMIREZ: No, no, no.

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh, no, no. You're
9 going to start in Spanish?

10 MR. RAMIREZ: No, I'm fine. I can speak
11 English.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Well, if you'd like
13 English or Spanish please?

14 MR. RAMIREZ: No. I just had two sentences.
15 I'm going to do English.

16 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh, go ahead. Do it.

17 MR. RAMIREZ: Yeah.

18 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Sorry.

19 MR. RAMIREZ: (Speaking Spanish.)

20 I went to preschool a few feet to your
21 right, over there. I went to elementary school
22 right across the street. I've lived right next to
23 the high school, right across the street from it for
24 a decade. Santa Paula and home are synonymous to
25 me, and I want to protect my home.

1 The Limoneira-Calpine project would only
2 create 16 new living-wage jobs. I'm not an expert.
3 What is that, like \$16.00 an hour. I know it's not
4 something amazing.

5 And on to that, they had an incident, if I
6 remember, in Sutter (phonetic) County where for the
7 rest of this year they will have to close a plant.
8 So that's 20 jobs that were just lost. And it was
9 also a Peaker facility, just like the one they
10 propose here. That's just something I wanted to
11 say.

12 And for as fancy and as clean and as nice as
13 the, you know, box jet engines are, they're still
14 burning all that fossil fuel. They have to create
15 pollution. That's just how it works. I have
16 asthma. My mom has asthma. My nephews have asthma.
17 This is just going to make things worse. We all
18 have to breathe air.

19 I heard of a Calpine representative speaking
20 of environmental excellence. When I was
21 intermingling here in one of the breaks I heard
22 someone say that they were fined by the EPA for, I
23 believe it was arsenic that was being released into
24 the groundwater. I'm not sure about that. That's
25 why I'm here. I would like to find that out. If

1 there is, that's something that, in my eyes, would
2 make them untrustworthy.

3 Like I said, this is home. And I had, a
4 couple of hours ago, at least a dozen kin of mine
5 here. I plan on raising my kids here. I've lived
6 here all my life. And I wouldn't want it to be
7 Limoneira or Calpine's fault that, you know, at one
8 point my kids, hopefully in a couple of years, but
9 my kids develop asthma or something like that.

10 Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

12 Manuel Minjares, followed by Liz Hernandez.

13

14 Manuel Minjares, are you here? All right.

15 We'll go to Liz Hernandez. Are you here?

16 All right.

17 And for the people I skip, I've just put the
18 cards in the back. I'll call them again at the end
19 of the night in case they're just stretching their
20 legs or something.

21 Rodney Cobos, are you here? Okay.

22 Followed by Patricia Kennedy.

23 MR. COBOS: Good evening, Commission. My
24 name is Rodney Cobos, last name C-O-B-O-S.

25 You know, the best economic justice to

1 anybody in this community is a job. I am a
2 representative with the Southern California Pipe
3 Trades District Council 16 out of Los Angeles, a
4 member of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union
5 here in Ventura, and I'm also a 47-year community
6 member.

7 I'm here in support of this project. I love
8 Santa Paula and I love my family. And there's
9 nothing that would get me up to this podium to say
10 or do something that would affect my family. I've
11 made my livelihood working on construction projects
12 throughout Ventura County.

13 You know, California has some of the most
14 stringent regulations of building projects like
15 this. And I have faith in our elected officials,
16 our Commissioner, that they will do the right thing
17 and look at every aspect of this project to where
18 there will be -- and there's no guarantee. Who can
19 guarantee that there will never be an accident or
20 some kind of catastrophe in any project? But under
21 this project, Calpine, and I thank them for
22 committing to hiring some of the best, highly-
23 skilled, trained workforce in this county.

24 I was involved with supplying employees to
25 the Mandalay Southern California Edison Peaker

1 Plant. And I'll tell you what, that was one of
2 the -- excuse me -- best economic stimulus package
3 that they could have handed this local union. At
4 the time the economy was really -- we were
5 struggling, struggling for employment. And this
6 project came along and put quite a few of our
7 members to work, put food on their table, paid the
8 rent, paid their mortgage, paid their property
9 taxes. And I understand that Santa Paula is made up
10 of low-income and minority people, and I understand
11 that. But again, the best economic justice we could
12 give this community are good paying construction
13 jobs.

14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

16 Patricia Kennedy, followed by Luce Maria
17 Espinosa.

18 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Off mic.) She left.

19 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh, she left? All
20 right.

21 Luce Maria Espinosa, followed by Maria
22 Roman.

23 MS. KENNEDY: And I'm going to honor this
24 guy. His legs are going to be dead by the end of
25 the day.

1 My name is Patricia Kennedy. I am a fourth
2 generation Santa Paulan. I live in the greenbelt
3 area directly above the proposed site on Briggs
4 Road at Foothill. And I have a whole list of
5 concerns. I've sent my document in, so I'm just
6 going to bring up a few things that people haven't
7 addressed or that I think need to be reinforced.

8 Everybody has talked about the flood plain.
9 That's an obvious issue. The proposed area is 0.3
10 miles from the Oak Ridge Fault line. And I
11 discovered, in doing some research, that it's
12 thought that that fault line may have started the
13 Northridge Quake, which directly impacted me because
14 I taught in that neighborhood and was driving from
15 here to that neighborhood.

16 What I didn't know is that with liquefaction
17 there is a Public Resources Code section 2693(c)
18 that requires mitigation if you are building in an
19 area of liquefaction, and this site is definitely on
20 the USGS Seismic Hazards Zones maps in the Santa
21 Paula quadrangle. And I haven't seen that mentioned
22 in anything that I've read so far. So I'm concerned
23 that that needs to be addressed since it's required
24 by law that it be mitigated.

25 The issue of air quality definitely has been

1 addressed, so I won't do that again.

2 The issue of gas leaks and explosions
3 definitely is an issue for those of us who live here
4 and lived through the recent explosion at the Santa
5 Clara Wastewater Facility, now known as Green
6 Compass Environmental Solutions. I live within a
7 three-mile radius of that, and I was required to
8 shelter in place. So I'm concerned about another
9 environmental disaster like that.

10 And it concerns me that the wastewater from
11 this site will be discharged to a site owned by
12 Green Compass. I assume -- and do we have research?
13 I'm not sure that that pipeline has been authorized
14 to take waste into Oxnard.

15 I'm also concerned about the fact that the
16 site will have hazardous waste for up to 90 days
17 right next to the site of the explosion, since I
18 will be up the hill from there.

19 The transmission lines are going to have a
20 definite scenic issue -- effect on the valley. And
21 the photo documentation of the existing visual
22 issues are totally inaccurate in terms of the
23 effect. I'm going to look at this plant from the my
24 front of my house, as are most of my neighbors.

25 I'm going to hear this plant. As somebody

1 addressed, we are in a bowl. Sound bounces in this
2 bowl. I hear the freeway all the time, and I am at
3 Foothill. I'm definitely going to hear jet engines
4 if I'm hearing the freeway traffic. And the visual
5 impact is way more than is being addressed.

6 The riparian habitat has been addressed, and
7 it's both the Ellsworth Barranca and the Santa Clara
8 River Valley that are affected, and especially 24-
9 hour light which is going to affect plants and
10 animals. The cycle of day and night will affect
11 whether or not seeds are produced by plants. And
12 I've seen that happen with a particular tree in the
13 area where I grew up which never flowered and never
14 produced seeds until the energy crisis came along
15 and everyone turned off the lights at night. All of
16 a sudden these trees were flowering, which made it
17 very obvious to me that we require day and night for
18 our wildlife and for our own lives.

19 The loss of groundwater, as a farmer, is
20 important to me. We farmers are facing the threat
21 of water restrictions with the drought. And this is
22 an agricultural area. And for us as farmers to
23 survive, we depend on that water. So having
24 Limoneira not put their water back into the
25 groundwater and into the basin is of significant

1 concern to those of us in agriculture.

2 People have mentioned the airport and the
3 towers. I had a helicopter clip the power line over
4 my orchard. He fortunately did not crash, but it's
5 a very real issue that especially helicopters might
6 strike these power lines and towers. So I'm
7 concerned about that having -- I used to have
8 nightmares about it, having seen it firsthand. It
9 also resulted in a fire in my orchard. So the fact
10 that these strikes, plane strikes or helicopter
11 clippings, could produce a fire is significant,
12 especially with the hillsides being so dry most of
13 the time, not just in this particular time.

14 I don't want to waste time going through
15 stuff that people have reinforced over and over, so
16 I'm skipping through.

17 As far as environmental justice, I think
18 that the biggest issue is this town already has had
19 a jail imposed on us. We've already had a landfill
20 imposed on us. We're already suffering the side
21 effects of those two institutions, I guess you'd
22 call them. We don't need a third one. Okay? It's
23 not just a matter of what this plant will do to the
24 community. It's the fact that this is the third
25 thing that's going to have a major impact on us.

1 In the Calpine documents, sections 5.10.1,
2 Effected Environment, and 5.10.2, Environmental
3 Analysis, they play down this impact by quoting
4 statistics for all of Ventura County for pretty much
5 everything, except education. The promise of
6 funding for education is not them being generous,
7 it's required by law. Briggs School has one amount,
8 the high school has a different amount per, I
9 believe it's square foot of covered building space.
10 I'm not sure of the exact terminology. But that's a
11 legal requirement. That's not a gift from anybody.

12 They also state that the tax revenues in
13 Santa Paula comprised approximately 26 percent of
14 the City of Santa Paula's general fund reserves.
15 Mr. Weinberg stated at the meeting in March when he
16 addressed the city council, and again tonight, that
17 this plant will generate \$3 million per year in
18 annual property taxes. Those taxes are not going to
19 go to the City of Santa Paula, they're going to go
20 to the County of Ventura. The property is not
21 within city limits, it's in the county.

22 And people have mentioned Senate Bill 350
23 which mandates 50 percent of retail electricity
24 sales will come from renewable energy resources.
25 It's time for us to take that seriously and move

1 forward with it, not go backwards.

2 Thank you for your time.

3 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

4 So for the next two speakers, we'd like to
5 get the translators.

6 Luce Maria Espinosa, followed by Maria
7 Roman.

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh, Maria left?
9 Okay.

10 MS. ROMAN: Good evening. I have a few
11 questions for the people that want to build this
12 plant.

13 Do you have children? Do you have parents?
14 Would you bring them to here where you want to build
15 a plant? Won't you answer me? Okay.

16 My other question. The people here are
17 people that work in the fields. And they have
18 enough with the pesticides they have to work with.
19 And now you're going to add to that what will come
20 out, what will impact them from the plant, the
21 pollution it's going to emit, all that?

22 Another question. You said that you were
23 going to bring 170 jobs over the course of 23
24 months, 16 permanent jobs. How many people are
25 going to get sick, 16 jobs, 170 for 23 months, and

1 that against all the people that are going to get
2 sick?

3 We don't want the plant, please. We want
4 that our children and grandchildren grow up healthy,
5 that they're old people.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Gracias.

8 I also have another speaker, Maria Ramirez.
9 Maria Ramirez? Okay.

10 Concha Maraza.

11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Off mic.) She already
12 spoke.

13 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: She already spoke. I
14 think I might have some duplicate cards in here.

15 Audrey Vincent?

16 MS. RAMIREZ: Good evening. I am a resident
17 here in Santa Paula. And I only have one question
18 about the Calpine-Limoneira project. Why is it that
19 there's no open spaces? How is that you chose,
20 literally in front -- to put it in front of a
21 school, next to a house where our field workers work
22 and the school where our children go, next to the
23 river? Instead of trying to preserve it, which is
24 what all of us want, how is that you made the
25 decision that this plant would be located here?

1 Thank you. I'll leave you with that
2 question.

3 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Gracias.

4 Gabriel Guillen. Oh, I did call Audrey.
5 I'm sorry. Followed by Gabriel Guillen.

6 MS. VINCENT: Thank you very much,
7 Commissioners. Thank you for coming back. And I
8 thank the mayor for arranging a larger facility for
9 all of us.

10 Much has been spoken about environmental
11 justice. And I wrote you in April about my concerns
12 about environmental justice issues here. And what I
13 want to do tonight, while I still very much care and
14 care deeply about those issues, I want to expand my
15 concern to the non-human life in the Santa Clara
16 River Watershed and River.

17 And I want to thank you, I suppose it's
18 Calpine I need to thank about this, for bringing our
19 attention to this hidden treasure that we have in
20 this part of the world, and the huge watershed that
21 the Santa Clara River is. It's 1,600 miles, pulling
22 from four mountain ranges. It pulls from the San
23 Gabriels, Castaic, Santa Susana (phonetic), and
24 Sierra Madre. And as has been said, this is the
25 last free-flowing river in Southern California.

1 Now I have innumeraed rich biodiversity in
2 the river somewhat in this statement, and I won't go
3 into that.

4 What I want to say is we need to look
5 differently at this river. Thank you, Nature
6 Conservancy and Sierra Club, for pointing out the
7 rich resource that is here, and for the Nature
8 Conservancy who has been quietly buying up property
9 all along the river with the vision of creating a
10 parkway, a parkway leading from the state line --
11 not the -- I'm sorry, the county line to the ocean,
12 a parkway meaning not a highway but a complex of
13 hiking trails, biking trails, and view positions for
14 Auduboners and different points of interest all
15 along the way. That is their vision. And thanks to
16 you, Calpine, some of us are really thinking
17 seriously about this, and I just think it's
18 marvelous.

19 In this community, as you have heard this
20 evening, there are very few of us who have
21 discretionary income for travel. This is right
22 here. Families could go down, I mean, ten minutes
23 from town, once this is created, and recreate all
24 day and learn about this river and all the life that
25 it provides. Now this is no small thing, because

1 there are communities that benefit, economically
2 benefit from restoration and preservation by
3 inviting Auduboners in who come in. I know
4 Auduboners, they like to have a good time, as well
5 as watching birds.

6 I just want to read you this statement from
7 their website, not the Audubon website but from a
8 website showing the economic benefits, all right, by
9 improving habitat and making the preserve more
10 accessible. "The restoration attracted many birders
11 who would not otherwise have visited the county" --
12 this is in Southern New Jersey, Cape May (phonetic)
13 County -- "who would not otherwise have visited the
14 county and played a key role in over \$200 in per
15 year in new spending."

16 I mean, I'm sorry that the council is not
17 here to hear this, because this is how we need to
18 think about this flood plain and what it offers this
19 town. This is the kind of clean energy we need.
20 Thank you, Calpine, for bringing that to our
21 attention.

22 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

23 Gabriel Guillen, followed by Jim Proctor.

24 MR. BUILLEN: Good evening. My name is
25 Gabriel Guillen. And as a public health nurse and a

1 city resident who actually lives within 2.5 miles of
2 the proposed site, and actually with two children in
3 the Briggs School District, I have to voice my
4 opposition to this project.

5 We have already heard about environmental
6 justice tonight. But I want to ask you, look
7 around, how many county supervisors do you actually
8 see tonight? Zero. If this project was actually in
9 Camarillo, you would actually have every single
10 county supervisor present. Is this environmental
11 justice?

12 Unfortunately, Santa Paula has not been
13 represented equally in our county when it comes to
14 services, social justice and health equity. This
15 project adds to the inequities already present in
16 our city. Here are also some obvious concerns that
17 others have shared and have voiced already.

18 Number one is actually safety. How many
19 times have we actually heard about the flood plain
20 and the 100-year storm? But if you actually add
21 during the last five years, Santa Paula has actually
22 been found with an active earthquake fault. That's
23 actually a recipe for disaster, especially for city
24 residents.

25 The possibilities for a catastrophe are very

1 high, especially when you add the amount of natural
2 gas that is going to be required to run five turbine
3 engines.

4 Also, when you consider the location of this
5 facility being the west of the city, same location
6 where we already had an explosion in the last few
7 years and where, unfortunately, even its own
8 firefighters are unable to return to work today, and
9 where we also lost one of the two fire engines that
10 we have. Do we have actually enough equipment to
11 actually be able to attend to another catastrophe?
12 That's a good question to ponder.

13 Also, when you add 20 fully loaded semi
14 truck containers full of batteries, lithium
15 batteries, please consider the resources required
16 for a catastrophe. We don't have that many fire
17 resources in our city. We don't actually have any
18 nearby.

19 This would also affect the public health,
20 especially of the childhood. We already have some
21 of the highest childhood obesity rates in the
22 county. So you're also adding the impact, the
23 environmental impact that you would actually have on
24 our city affecting the childhood obesity rates.
25 You're also not considering that Santa Paula is one

1 of the cities in the county that has the highest
2 amount of pesticides, pesticides that have already
3 been proven that they actually cause cancer and they
4 cause diabetes. And unfortunately, if you look at
5 the diabetes rates in Santa Paula are higher than
6 the proposed Healthy 2020 objectives.

7 So do we trust Calpine's safety record? Do
8 we trust the faith in our safety officials, which in
9 the past have actually shown what has actually
10 happened, like in Porter Ranch, or even here locally
11 when we actually had the explosion of one semi truck
12 container. Imagine 20 lithium batteries -- semi
13 truck containers filled with lithium batteries.
14 This is actually not adding the harmful emission so
15 the oxides of the plant, oxides that would actually
16 travel for miles. If pesticides can actually linger
17 for a three-mile radius, imagine the oxides produced
18 by this plant.

19 So the question is: Do we even need a
20 peaker plant? I mean, most of the peaker plants are
21 actually being closed, so why build another one?
22 Why build it in Santa Paula? There is already great
23 advances in solar technology. And we should not be
24 producing another plant that is actually running on
25 fossil fuels. We really need, actually, a green

1 plant that would actually not emit Co2s and oxides
2 into the air.

3 We need a really green plant that actually
4 will not pollute also our city with noise, with the
5 noise of five jet engines. When actually you travel
6 in the city, you can actually even hear the Cessna
7 engines. The Cessnas are actually small planes. We
8 don't have that much air traffic. So actually, if
9 you add five jet engines I think this is going to
10 affect everyone.

11 I think I want to actually ask the
12 Commissioners tonight that you and I have actually
13 been entrusted to take care of all the people that
14 cannot voice their concerns, especially the
15 children, the seniors, the disabled. Their health
16 is actually in your hands. And also Calpine
17 estimates that \$1 million is going to go to the
18 local schools. I believe that it's going to take
19 much more than \$1 million a year to be able to take
20 care of the health issues that it would actually
21 bring to our city. Only those people that would
22 actually profit from this project will say positive
23 things regarding this project.

24 I'm sorry, but me and my family are not for
25 sale. We don't need Calpine in Santa Paula or the

1 effects that it would actually bring into our
2 families. The benefits will not outweigh the health
3 issues you would actually bring.

4 So I want to ask the audience, those that
5 actually in favor of selling our city or our
6 children's health, raise your hand. As you see, the
7 three people that would actually benefit from this
8 project have even already left. Probably they don't
9 even live in this city.

10 So in the spirit of environmental justice, I
11 have a proposal for Calpine. Either you bring us
12 truly green energy or please actually do
13 environmental justice and move this project to
14 Ventura, Camarillo, Simi Valley, or even Santa
15 Barbara. I'm sure you would actually find 16
16 employees that are willing to work for you there.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

19 Jim Proctor, followed by Maria Arenas.

20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Off mic.) She had to
21 leave.

22 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: She had to leave?
23 Okay.

24 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Jim had to leave.

25 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Jim had to leave.

1 Jim had to leave. Thank you.

2 Maria Arenas, did she already speak? I
3 think we have some duplicate cards. I think that's
4 what's happening.

5 Ron Whitehurst, followed by Martin
6 Rodriguez.

7 MR. WHITEHURST: Hello. My name is Ron
8 Whitehurst, that's W-H-I-T-E-H-U-R-S-T. I'm here
9 representing the Ventura County Climate Hub. We're
10 a group of organizations that come together to
11 promote renewable energy, push back against fossil
12 fuels, grow food locally, and build community for
13 resiliency.

14 This project only makes sense in terms of
15 corporate cronyism between Calpine, Limoneira and
16 Edison and the ISO.

17 Right now solar energy is cheaper than
18 natural gas produced electricity, so this doesn't
19 make sense economically, throw in some batteries and
20 you've got coverage of when the sun doesn't shine or
21 when you have higher levels of need.

22 This will producing lots of carbon dioxide,
23 and some oxides of nitrogen that are greenhouse gas
24 concern as far as the climate is concerned. Right
25 now our climate -- our carbon budget is already

1 spent. We need to leave the fossil fuel in the
2 ground. The more that we spend, the more that we
3 burn, we're going to further push our climate to
4 catastrophic events that threaten the health and
5 welfare of our kids and our grandkids.

6 So right now we're working on community
7 choice energy with Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San
8 Luis Obispo County. And this is where we will
9 purchase our electricity from, sources, preferably
10 renewable sources, so that we don't want your fossil
11 fuel energy. We will not be customers for it.

12 But who will be? With the expanded ISO
13 region the purchasers in Nevada and other states
14 that are currently using coal for fuel will be
15 interested in this relatively cheap fuel. So you
16 will be burning natural gas here and polluting the
17 homes of these poor people here to supply people in
18 another state. I think this is not appropriate.

19 And this is another -- the big concern as
20 far as environmental justice. So as a White male,
21 I'm calling you out on racial prejudice, that
22 putting -- siting a fossil fuel plant in this
23 community is outrageous. Why not put it in Thousand
24 Oaks? Of course not. In Thousand Oaks they have a
25 sewage treatment plant that supplies all of its own

1 electricity and more. If Edison would connect to it
2 they would produce 120 percent of what they use.
3 And it's mostly solar, but some biogas from
4 processing the waste material that they get.

5 So I urge you to reject this proposal. It's
6 absurd. It's not needed. And it's an incredible
7 burden on this community.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

10 Martin Rodriguez. Martin Rodriguez,
11 followed by John Morelli. Martin Rodriguez? All
12 right.

13 John Morelli, followed by Sylvia Limas. I
14 might not have read that right.

15 Go ahead.

16 MR. MORELLI: Okay. My name is John
17 Morelli,

18 J-O-H-N M-O-R-E-L-L-I. I'm a resident here in Santa
19 Paula. I've tried to look at this like positively,
20 as well, and like best case scenario. And even best
21 case scenario, I don't believe this is a very good
22 idea.

23 Looking at the application or proposal, I
24 forget which subsection of it is, but it's part of
25 section five where it's talking about the water use.

1 According to that it's going to use 67.21 acre feet.

2 And since I don't think many of us know what the
3 heck an acre foot is, I just let Google translate
4 that into 83 million liters or 22 million gallons
5 per year. And that's what's expected, how it's
6 expected to run.

7 On top of that, it's also going to have some
8 sort of methane leak which as far as, you know, as
9 far as I know, methane is a component in natural gas
10 which is a lot more of a contributing factor to
11 greenhouse gases or to the greenhouse gas effect
12 than the carbon is.

13 So the reason I think even best case
14 scenario this is a bad idea is that we have seen
15 that things are just getting warmer and warmer. And
16 so this, whatever you think it's going to be, the
17 rate it's going to be used at, as the environment
18 gets warmer it's going to increase the need for
19 these peak power, you know, peak afternoon power
20 usage in the summer. So it's going to be using a
21 lot more than those 22 million gallons. And it's
22 going to be pumping more of, you know, whatever
23 the -- I don't know if methane is part of the actual
24 emission, I think it's more carbon.

25 And the other thing, too, is that even if

1 you're within these negligible amounts of carbon or
2 methane, a whole lot of little bits of carbon and
3 methane in our state, in our country, and in the
4 world, all adding up, just continues to fuel the
5 greenhouse gas effect. So it's just going to get
6 worse and worse and this thing will need to be used
7 more and more, and they'll need to make more of
8 these peak power plants because we'll have more peak
9 energy usage in the summertime afternoon.

10 So I didn't put that as well as I meant to
11 but, yeah, that's what I've got to say.

12 Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

14 Sylvia Limas? Sylvia? Okay.

15 Doug Jackson, followed by Mike Lozano.

16 MR. D. JACKSON: Good evening, everybody.

17 Thank you for listening to all the comments.

18 I really have to commend the citizens of
19 Santa Paula on their really very nice logic and
20 their concern. Their heart's in the right place. I
21 always believe you always want to try to do the
22 right thing. And sometimes doing the right thing is
23 not simple, it's really hard to do, but I think that
24 if anybody's been listening tonight, there isn't any
25 doubt where people stand on this.

1 I come recently -- I grew up here in Santa
2 Paula. I think that's my kindergarten teacher right
3 over there. And I left and I was out of Santa Paula
4 a long time, and I actually just came back. I do
5 have a house here in Santa Paula. And I do have
6 concerns about all of this and what's best for the
7 community.

8 So most recently I've been living overseas.
9 I've been living in an island nation in the South
10 Pacific. And I can tell you, you talk about social
11 justice, we've been kind of discussing this in terms
12 of Santa Paula, but what this project is, it's
13 another example of really the impact this is having
14 globally. I can tell you that I'm living in a
15 country right now where the islands, there are
16 islands that have disappeared. I was there in 1973
17 to 1977. So this is 2016 and there are islands that
18 are gone. And there's some -- there's different
19 thoughts about that because, you know, the peoples
20 of the Pacific and around the world, they don't --
21 you know, luckily you have the people here of Santa
22 Paula talk about what it's like. But those people
23 overseas, you talk about the Paris talks and what
24 happened in Copenhagen, none of that conversation
25 ever gets to this.

1 And so this is really an example of
2 something that you could do, if you really want to
3 do the right thing is that you wouldn't allow
4 something like this. No one in Santa Paula -- well,
5 excuse me, I know Mr. Cobos, really respect him,
6 and I think there should be projects for
7 construction and that needs to be done, but I think
8 this is the wrong one. And so if you really want to
9 do the right thing, I would say follow the
10 electricity lines that you're saying that you're
11 going to have down on the south side of 126. Go
12 down the 126 to the 118, follow the 118 over to
13 Thousand Oaks or Moorpark where they want this
14 electricity and put it there. And you can have
15 people from Santa Paula go work over there.

16 To Santa Paula, this is not good for Santa
17 Paula. So I know I really respect all the work
18 you've done. But really, I don't think that, in
19 spirit of Santa Paula, this is what we need.

20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

22 Mike Lozano, followed by Kathy Bremer.

23 Mike Lozano?

24 Kathy Bremer?

25 MS. BREMER: (Off mic.) I wasn't speaking.

1 I just had a question, which I got clarified.

2 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh, okay.

3 Absolutely. Thank you.

4 Francisco Pereira?

5 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Off mic.) He had to
6 leave.

7 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: He had to leave? All
8 right.

9 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He had great remarks.

10 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Well, he can submit
11 them in writing into the record and we'll get them.
12 That would be --

13 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Indiscernible.)

14 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. Thank
15 you. Thank you.

16 Josefina Zamisa. Are you here, Josefina
17 Zamisa?

18 And translation please.

19 MS. ZUNIGA: Good evening. My name is
20 Josefina Zuniga. I'm a mother of three children. I
21 have the need to be here today because my children,
22 I have a special needs child. He's suffering
23 because of pollution. My daughters also have
24 allergies. I work at a packing business that's
25 across from where you want to build this polluting

1 factory, so this affects me and my children very
2 much, and I think to the whole community, as well.

3 I feel very offended because my community
4 once again is being discriminated. I think we're
5 being discriminated without knowing that what you're
6 doing, wanting to build this plant here in Santa
7 Paula, you know the working people like us, the
8 people that are the most discriminated against. It
9 isn't enough that they're suffering very small
10 salaries, the ones that harvest here locally, you
11 still want to contaminate them further. We're not
12 going to be able to eat healthy food. We're not
13 going to be able to work satisfied with the
14 pollution we're going to have. We're not going to
15 be able to have parks free of pollution. And now
16 you also want to pollute our rivers? We are in big
17 disagreement about you locating this factory here
18 because it won't benefit us in any way for it to be
19 here.

20 No matter how pretty you make it sound, it's
21 not good because -- very bad because it's like you
22 want to buy us with money, and we don't care about
23 the money. We want to live healthy. We have
24 children that go to school. We have senior
25 citizens, people with disabilities that cannot

1 defend themselves. Some of them cannot speak, but
2 some of us come here to speak for them.

3 I think that this plant, since it doesn't
4 benefit us, it should also not damage or hurt us. I
5 think that you should take it to some community that
6 will benefit. If it's going to be Santa Barbara,
7 Thousand Oaks, why don't you take it there for them
8 to have it there? They want it, they can have it
9 there, for them to have the radiation, the shakes
10 and the noise it's going to bring us, for them to
11 also have a polluted environment to see how it's
12 going to affect their community.

13 We don't want to have any more accidents
14 here in Santa Paula. There was already an explosion
15 where you want to locate the factory -- well, this
16 thing. And you're still going to come here and
17 pollute even further?

18 There's also been accidents with the planes.
19 And placing these things here are going to cause
20 even more accidents.

21 The people that are here today, we don't
22 want this plant here. Take it Santa Barbara or
23 Thousand Oaks where they need it.

24 Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Gracias. All right.

1 Tom Koff, Matthew Jackson, followed by
2 Maggie Cervantes.

3 MR. M. JACKSON: Hello. My name is Matthew
4 Jackson. And I was born here in Santa Paula, going
5 on 60 years ago, 1956. I've lived in this valley
6 probably 30 years of that time. I've seen this
7 valley change a lot, especially in the past maybe 20
8 years, the climate here, the amount of pollution.
9 It's way hotter now. I don't know if any of you
10 were here this morning or in the past few days and
11 tried to go out for maybe a run or something, you
12 might have got a little short of breath. We have a
13 massive wildfire up the valley here. And I believe
14 that this is all fueled by climate change, and I can
15 see it, I can sense it, I can feel it.

16 I've been in the construction trades for
17 over 30 years. I've worked outside. I've worked in
18 agriculture trades while I was in high school. I'm
19 there again now. On some days it's very hard to go
20 outside to work. I can't imagine being on a roof
21 working these days.

22 I got to hand it to the younger folks. I
23 hope they hang in there. And I don't see it getting
24 any better. And it's not like this place isn't
25 polluted already.

1 I've been working in an avocado orchard off
2 Foothill here this last spring and summer. The
3 amount of pesticides being pumped into these
4 orchards around here is amazing because of this
5 fruit cyllid (phonetic) or whatever the deal is.

6 The predominant winds blow up the valley
7 here from the ocean. Santa Paula takes the brunt of
8 that pollution, insecticides. And, you know, in the
9 past few years I'm just amazed at the amount of
10 cancer. I have friends that have died. I have
11 friends now that have cancer, several in this town.
12 It's amazing.

13 I know for a fact that if you go out running
14 in pollution like that you'd probably get heart
15 problems. I'm sure the heart surgeons are doing
16 pretty well these days.

17 I'm against this project just because it's
18 just another little brick in the wall. It's just
19 another little piece of pollution that comes up the
20 valley. I don't, you know, I don't want this
21 project anywhere. I wouldn't wish it on anybody. I
22 wouldn't wish any of these polluting, insecticides,
23 on any community anywhere. I don't care if it's
24 Santa Barbara, Thailand, Africa. You know, this is
25 outrageous.

1 You know, I'm all for organic farming. And
2 by the way, where's the water? What's the deal with
3 the water here, man? This sounds like a shady deal,
4 you know, these guys getting water through Limoneira
5 that's been earmarked for agriculture. What's with
6 that? I want to know.

7 So just for the record, I'm against this.
8 And we should not permit this here.

9 And on top of that, natural gas is more --
10 more than likely it's been fracked. You know, they
11 don't even -- they can't even tell you what
12 chemicals they pump into the ground, into the
13 aquifer, near aquifers to frack out this gas. These
14 extractive industries, they throw money at the
15 government to block knowledge like that. You know,
16 what's with that? You know, this is shameful, man.
17 So anyway, just for the record, I think this is
18 pretty shamy (phonetic), and also pretty shady.

19 I appreciate you guys being here to look
20 over -- this oversight. And, you know, I hope you
21 vote against this project. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

23 Maggie Cervantes? Maggie Cervantes?

24 Manuel Minjares?

25 Liz Hernandez?

1 Maria Ramirez?

2 Marcos Garcia? Come forward, please.

3 And followed by Sara Brucker.

4 MR. GARCIA: Thank you. You brought
5 somebody for the vertically challenged.

6 So my name is Marcos Garcia and I'm actually
7 a transplant from Long Beach. Moved to Santa Paula
8 back in the fourth grade, and decided to stay when I
9 met my beautiful wife in high school. I had my
10 family here, and ended up going into the service,
11 spent some time in the Middle East, and decided to
12 use my money to go to school.

13 And as I would commute to UCSB and come
14 back, the school of -- for UCSB School of
15 Engineering, there's this one chilleria (phonetic)
16 that everybody talks about, the chili plant. And if
17 you catch them at a very good time, like say ten
18 o'clock at night when I would come in from studies,
19 you could see the smoke stack rise. And it would
20 catch it just right and it would feel like the gas
21 chamber in basic training. So if you could just
22 imagine the smell, the hit, and you're driving and
23 you're trying to swerve away, not trying to crash,
24 now you have a smokestack coming up from pollutants
25 or any of the other things that have been describe

1 in these -- from these different folks in Santa
2 Paula. If it hits you just right you might get a
3 little bit of smell of ammonia, a little bit of
4 smell of that, a little bit of smell of that, how
5 does that effect the human body? And I did that for
6 five years as I commuted from UCSB back to Santa
7 Paula.

8 So now you look at our valuable resource
9 which is Santa Paula, we have our community, we have
10 our valley. But most importantly, for me, it's my
11 family and my children. They will have to commute
12 possibly from UCSB to Santa Paula because I'm going
13 to make them do it because school is expensive, and
14 they will have to make the same trek and the same
15 commute.

16 So what I think about is the biggest
17 resource which is my kids and my family. What will
18 happen to them? What will they smell driving down
19 the 126?

20 I'd like to actually have them stand up,
21 because they actually braved the situation to allow
22 me to speak. And they're here at 10:30 at night.
23 They're actually all home-schooled students.

24 Oh, you too, mama. You got to stand up,
25 too.

1 They're all home-schooled students, and they
2 actually have to tutor tomorrow, and they actually
3 work tutoring. They have an awesome brain. They're
4 very intelligent kids. I'm really proud of those
5 kids and my family. So what I say is no to this
6 project because I'm thinking of them.

7 Thank you very much.

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

9 Marcos Garcia Razo?

10 Oh, I'm sorry, did I call -- I called you,
11 but it's okay.

12 Go ahead. Come on forward.

13 If you don't mind waiting, that would be
14 great.

15 MR. GARCIA RAZO: My name is Marcus Garcia
16 Razo. And as a kid -- sorry -- as my dad said, I
17 tutor a bunch of kids. And I see the future that
18 they have ahead of them. I would like to think that
19 they will be able to live their lives comfortable
20 and without ailment. With this project, what
21 they're proposing, it will release a lot of
22 pollutants into the air, and I don't want to see
23 them suffer or them to be sick. What I want is for
24 them to live their life out and for them to be happy
25 and healthy.

1 So I say no to this project, and I hope you
2 do, as well.

3 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

4 And, Sara, let me ask you to wait just one
5 more.

6 Alexandra Garcia Razo?

7 MR. GARCIA: Thank you to the vertically
8 challenged adjustor here.

9 MS. GARCIA RAZO: Hi. I'm Alexandra Garcia
10 Razo. And I would like to say no to this project
11 because my family and I have a plan to grow up and
12 to help the kids of Santa Paula become great and
13 better people. And I really hope that the kids in
14 Santa Paula can have a great life without pollution.
15 And I think that this project will not help the
16 kids. And I really just don't want this to happen
17 because I love Santa Paula, and this is where I
18 would like to spend my life.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. All
21 right.

22 Thank you for your patience. Sara Brucker,
23 if you could come forward.

24 MS. BRUCKER: So I'm Sara Brucker. I'm a
25 mother and I'm a second-generation Santa Paula

1 resident. And I just want to say, tonight I'm so
2 proud of my community, and I'm so proud of the young
3 people that have had the courage to stand up here
4 and speak from their heart and speak their minds,
5 because those are the true owners of the legacy of
6 your decision on this issue. They are the forced
7 owners of that legacy.

8 So thank you. I appreciate it.
9 Commissioner Douglas, you've been very attentive.

10 Commissioner Scott, thank you for listening
11 to our young people.

12 Environmental justice, everyone's been
13 talking about it. It's something very dear to my
14 heart, but I feel like we've done a good job of
15 discussing that issue with it and our concerns with
16 it, but I did want to talk about it. This siting
17 that you guys have chosen is within a mile of the
18 Todd Road Jail Facility. It's within a mile of it.
19 And the Todd Road Jail Facility houses 870 inmates
20 currently. And with the passage of AB 109
21 realignment, we've relocated our prison population
22 to our county jails, and 870 inmates are currently
23 there. And I haven't seen anything within the
24 documents or in any of the comments about how we're
25 to deal with, if there is some sort of leak, if

1 there is some sort of disaster, some explosion. And
2 I know that's not anticipated, but it wasn't
3 anticipated with the wastewater explosion. It
4 wasn't anticipated in Porter Ranch.

5 But if that happens, what sort of safeguards
6 do we have? What sort of financial backing do we
7 have to make sure that the people of Santa Paula are
8 safe? Because we're talking about people that have
9 violated their parole. They're in our county jails.
10 They're in our Todd Road Facility. We're talking
11 about people who are awaiting trial on murder
12 charges, rapists, pedophiles. If we have to
13 evacuate that facility, how are we going to have
14 enough law enforcement to facilitate that? We've
15 got gang members that are -- we have a
16 classification department at the Todd Road Facility
17 that makes sure that rival gang members are kept
18 apart.

19 And with our justice system, there's a
20 social contract. If we as a society have determined
21 that we want to take these people out of the
22 community, that we want to house them, we have the
23 responsibility of making sure that their health and
24 that their safety is -- that they're safe. And at
25 the Todd Road Facility, again, 870 people there that

1 are going to be exposed that are within one mile of
2 this proposed plant.

3 And all of the women -- this to me is a
4 women's issue in a way -- all of the women inmates
5 in the County of Ventura are held at the Todd Road
6 Jail Facility. Our main jail at the Community
7 Government Center doesn't have the facilities for
8 women inmates to be held there. All of our women
9 inmates are held within one mile of this facility.
10 So when we talk about the environmental justice
11 issues, it's not just the citizens of Santa Paula
12 that I believe the Commission has an obligation to,
13 it's also the people that we've chosen to
14 incarcerate. It's the people that we've chosen to
15 take out of society. And so I hope that you
16 consider with environmental justice the impact that
17 it will have, the disproportionate impact that it
18 will have on our women inmate population.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

21 Let me ask at this point, I have read
22 through names on cards. I think probably people
23 have gone home. But is there anybody here who is
24 expecting their name to be read who has not heard
25 your name? I know that Rosemary has got one.

1 So that being the case, why don't we go
2 ahead and go to Rosemary to read the public comment
3 that she's got.

4 MS. AVALOS: This is from a gentleman,
5 Lawrent Heugkebaent. And he raised concerns, like
6 basically like the others, as well. But his
7 concerns consist of a bad history with Santa Clara
8 Wastewater Company's explosion in the area in 2014.

9 And secondly, the methane and ammonia, that
10 it makes a highly toxic hydrogen cyanide.

11 And his third concern, battery storage is
12 lead and sulfuric acid. What's the plan if the
13 flood takes the containers down the river during the
14 flood? And they live on a 100-year flood plain.
15 And there's been a flood more than once in 100
16 years.

17 And his fourth concern is the earthquake
18 survival plan, is there one? There's the San
19 Cayetano and the Oak Ridge Faults that he was
20 concerned about.

21 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

22 At this point we're going to go to the WebEx
23 and the phones. Are there public comments on WebEx?

24 Can we open the lines, Paul?

25 It sounds like the lines are open. Can

1 folks speak up if you're making comment from phone
2 or WebEx? All right.

3 Hearing none, let me ask one more time in
4 the room, anyone else who has not had a chance to
5 comment yet, your name didn't get read, didn't fill
6 out a card and now you don't want to miss your
7 chance, anybody? All right.

8 Well, I just want to -- oh, there is
9 somebody. Please come forward.

10 MR. LOPEZ: Hello. My name is Julian Lopez.
11 I've lived here all my life, the family I've lived
12 in. It's difficult seeing that the fact that
13 they're choosing to build this plan here.

14 My mother went through too much through her
15 life since she's been a single mother with all of my
16 brothers and sisters, trying to struggle to barely
17 survive in the community we live in, low paying.
18 It's complicated. And with all the health problems
19 we already have within my family.

20 And putting a power plant that causes
21 pollution, major, it's going to affect anyone,
22 including my family. And I know those people who do
23 agree with this. Yes, they're being paid, but
24 there's just -- it's only to help them, not everyone
25 else who -- like, okay, the people who feel like

1 they can help build. But those who don't, like all
2 the low paying and all the low knowledge they have,
3 not many people can do that. So it's difficult
4 trying to get pay from this. So there's too many
5 complications that make this difficult.

6 And that's why I say, I don't like this idea
7 of it being here. And I love my city. I love it.
8 I've lived here all my life. And I plan to have all
9 the -- I plan to continue to live here, and even the
10 generations after me, and all the other generations
11 after from all other families, and I'm worried for
12 that. So that's why I say, no.

13 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Thanks
14 for your comments.

15 Is there anybody else who'd like to speak?
16 Come on forward.

17 MR. MARQUEZ: Hello. Greetings. Daniel
18 Marquez. I had no idea what I was going to say when
19 I came up here, but I had to come up anyway. I like
20 to do things that are uncomfortable for me.

21 You know, I'm a very strange person. I'm
22 one of those -- in this community, I'd have to say
23 I'm just one of those -- just the odd one out. I've
24 always been the black sheep in my family. And I
25 work with children. I'm a break dancer, Kung Fu

1 master, Tai Chi master, I do gymnastics, vegan. I
2 almost died when I was three years old. My life is
3 crazy.

4 Anyway, to do this would be utter madness.
5 It's crazy. This town has enough problems. There's
6 already drug use. There's already violence.
7 There's so much chaos. There's children out there
8 doing drugs. They're drinking. They're partying,
9 having sex, just as children. It's -- this is --
10 there's already enough chaos all over the world. I
11 mean, to add this to this city would be just
12 ridiculous.

13 I mean, we already have the pesticides.
14 Like everyone, like people have been saying, there's
15 pesticides everywhere. There's chem trails. The
16 water is already polluted. Everybody's eating this
17 garbage.

18 I mean, we need to more like Ojai, for
19 example, across the way, nothing but, you know,
20 healthy restaurants. Everyone is going green, solar
21 panels everywhere.

22 I mean, this area, it's a jewel. I mean,
23 this -- I mean, everyone in this town could be a
24 millionaire if we all worked together. I mean,
25 there's just so much potential in this area.

1 There's just so much wealth that could be, you know,
2 be put together. I mean, there's just no
3 leadership, there's no -- there's nothing happening.
4 I mean, it's disgraceful to me that this is what's
5 put on the table for us. This is what's offered is
6 we're going to pollute your air, enjoy. A million
7 dollars? I mean, \$1 million divided by ten people
8 is \$100,000. Another ten people, that's \$50,000
9 apiece. I mean, it's nothing. This is ridiculous.
10 I mean, we need to go forward. We need to progress.
11 That's it.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you for your
13 comments.

14 I'll ask again, anybody else who didn't --
15 come on forward.

16 MS. GRANDE: Hi. I'll be quick. My name is
17 Tiffany Grande. I actually live in Fillmore. And I
18 know Manuel Minjares, one of our city council
19 members was here but had to leave a little early, so
20 I just wanted to say a few things.

21 And I actually didn't know anything about
22 this until about a week ago. I have asthma, and I
23 actually don't have my inhaler tonight, so I've been
24 struggling through a little bit.

25 But as far as the community that is just

1 downstream, down river, I am concerned, even though
2 it may just be a few days or, you know, not a full-
3 time plant, just the extra contaminants that are
4 going to be in the air, as a lot of people have
5 said, going along with the pesticides. So I just
6 really consider -- ask that you consider, you know,
7 maybe looking at some alternatives, either locations
8 or some other type of power plant, some way to have
9 a different alternative for some energy. And just
10 think about the larger community as a whole, because
11 there's a lot of people in Fillmore that I don't
12 think knew anything about this. So thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

14 Any additional comments? Anybody else who
15 didn't fill out a blue card but is now inspired and
16 motivated to speak? All right.

17 Well, I just want to thank all of you,
18 everybody who's come tonight, everybody who's spoken
19 to us tonight. Hearing from the public is an
20 absolutely essentially part of the process that the
21 Energy Commission runs when we review and consider
22 these applications. You will be seeing a lot more
23 of us over the next, you know, or so. And
24 particularly in the next months, you'll be seeing
25 the staff because they'll be conducting the

1 environmental analysis and the analysis of the
2 proposed project.

3 I want to encourage all of you to engage in
4 that process and to pay attention to that process.
5 We've certainly heard a lot from the community
6 tonight. It's been very important and helpful to
7 all of us to do that. Thank you for your time. I
8 know that it's tough to take time out of personal
9 life and family life to come here to events like
10 this, and especially to stay late into the night.
11 So we certainly see and acknowledge that, as well.

12 And Commissioner Scott, closing comments?

13 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Thank you. I did. I
14 just wanted to echo mostly what Commissioner Douglas
15 has just said to you all. I really appreciate the
16 thoughtful engaged participation this evening. And
17 I just wanted to echo her sentiments and her thanks
18 to you, as well.

19 All right. So with that, then thank you
20 again, and we're adjourned.

21 (Whereupon the Environmental Scoping Meeting and
22 Informational Hearing of the Mission Rock Energy Center
23 adjourned at 10:46 p.m.)

24
25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of December, 2016.



MARTHA L. NELSON

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

December 22, 2016