

DOCKETED

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Native-led Nonprofit Files to Axe Gas Plant Project on Sacred Lands

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

From: Mitchell.Jann@Energy
To: Tran.Muoi-Lynn@Energy
Cc: Cross.Catherine@Energy
Subject: FW: Native-led Nonprofit Files to Axe Gas Plant Project on Sacred Lands,Calpine Corporation requested to freeze its application process, but this misguided project must end now
Date: Monday, April 09, 2018 3:27:36 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Rutkowski [mailto:r_e_rutkowski@att.net]
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 2:26 PM
To: Cross, Catherine@Energy <Catherine.Cross@energy.ca.gov>; Mitchell, Jann@Energy <jann.mitchell@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Native-led Nonprofit Files to Axe Gas Plant Project on Sacred Lands,Calpine Corporation requested to freeze its application process, but this misguided project must end now

Robert B. Weisenmiller, Ph.D., Chair
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via

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Re: Native-led Nonprofit Files to Axe Gas Plant Project on Sacred Lands,Calpine Corporation requested to freeze its application process, but this misguided project must end now

Dear Chair:

The Wishtoyo Foundation, a Native-led nonprofit dedicated to protecting Chumash lifeways in Southern California, is fighting a gas-fired plant proposed by Texas-based Calpine Corporation. Last week, Calpine Corporation requested to suspend its application to CA's energy regulators in the face of heavy opposition and major energy trends showing that gas plants have no future in California. However, by freezing their application the door may still be open to Calpine picking this project back up in the future if economics and regulations shift their way. Today, the Wishtoyo Foundation filed a response to Calpine's motion arguing that it should foreclose that possibility and end this fossil fuel project once and for all.

Mission Rock is a proposed 275-megawatt project that Calpine wants to build on the banks of the Utom, the Santa Clara River. Winding through Ventura County to the sea, it is one of the last free-flowing rivers in Southern California.

Utom and its ecosystem is within Chumash traditional territory and Chumash people, now and since time immemorial, live in relationship with the river. The pipelines and transmission lines that will be built to connect Calpine's power plant to the gas systems that extend far beyond California's borders will disturb Chumash sacred sites, cultural and natural cultural resources, and harm many plants, animals, and the beauty of the Santa Clara River Valley. All of this is infrastructure that would pollute the environment for decades, as natural gas plants are built to run for four decades or more, and even then may stick around as rotting industrial infrastructure when fossil fuel companies resist removing them.

Terminate Mission Rock and remove all risk of a dirty fossil fuel power plant being built on the banks of Utom, the Santa Clara River, which holds Chumash cultural and natural cultural resources necessary for Chumash lifeways. Ensure Utom is protected now and for future generations.

There is no energy need for the Mission Rock gas plant in the Ventura County community. Strikingly, Calpine's proposal relies on a state energy loophole born in the deregulation era of the 1990s which would allow them to license and then build a plant while the community has no need for its energy.

The Mission Rock gas plant was a terrible idea from day one. End this project once and for all. California should not be in the business of building new gas-fired power plants. Those days are behind us. It's time to close that dirty chapter of our history and embrace our clean energy future,

The California Energy Commission has until March 30, 2018 to take action on the motion.

Yours sincerely,
Robert E. Rutkowski

cc:
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