

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	15-IEPR-12
Project Title:	Nuclear Power Plants
TN #:	206146
Document Title:	Betsy Ryan Comments With Signatures on AES Power Plant in Redondo Beach
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Patty Paul
Organization:	Betsy Ryan
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	9/18/2015 1:23:53 PM
Docketed Date:	9/18/2015

California Energy Commission Meeting
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Art Rosenfeld Hearing Room
Friday, September 11, 2015
Beginning at 10 a.m.

Thank you for the honor of speaking before you today.
My name is Betsy Ryan and I live in Hermosa Beach.

Although the AES Power Plant is in Redondo Beach, its 50 acre site is across the street from a densely populated area in Hermosa Beach.

Regarding the August 28, 2015 gas leak:

People in Hermosa Beach could smell the gas release from their homes.

The Fire Department was called but the gate was locked and there was no security guard available to let them in.

This is just one of the many instances that has left significant concerns regarding our safety if similar or worse events were to happen.

If AES were allowed to rebuild, it would be the same operators.

There is a risk, fear, and inconvenience.

People left their homes when they smelled the gas.

People were afraid it could explode.

The plant lets out a loud noise when it releases vapors at a pitch that not only disturbs us but also makes our dogs howl.

This new plant also presents a health risk to our residents.

According to the AES application (tables 5.1-17 and 5.1-29) for a new Redondo Beach Power Plant, dangerous particulate emissions may rise from 3.3 to 49.7 tons per year and exceed the State standard for concentration in our air.

This would put our children at a higher risk for asthma.

Exposure to particulate emissions cause twice as many deaths per year in California as breast cancer.

The new plant will generate 1.5 million tons of Greenhouse gases per year.

That's 10 times what the entire city of Hermosa Beach produces per year.

Here is a quote from AES spokesman Eric Pendergraft taken from a *Daily Breeze* article posted 7/22/14:

"New power plants are definitely needed, but there are more locations in the region that can meet those needs," Pendergraft said Tuesday in a nod to AES Long Beach and Huntington Beach plants.

"Subject to a favorable vote, we are focusing our efforts on developing new power plants on our other two sites." Pendergraft said the company has long shown an interest in looking for alternative uses for the Redondo Beach property."

A new power plant in Redondo Beach is not necessary for the stability of the grid.

According to the AES spokesman, more locations in the region can meet those needs.

There are currently power plants in Los Alamitos and Huntington Beach. There has also been the development of solar and community aggregation as we become more environmentally sensitive to the California coastline and nature.

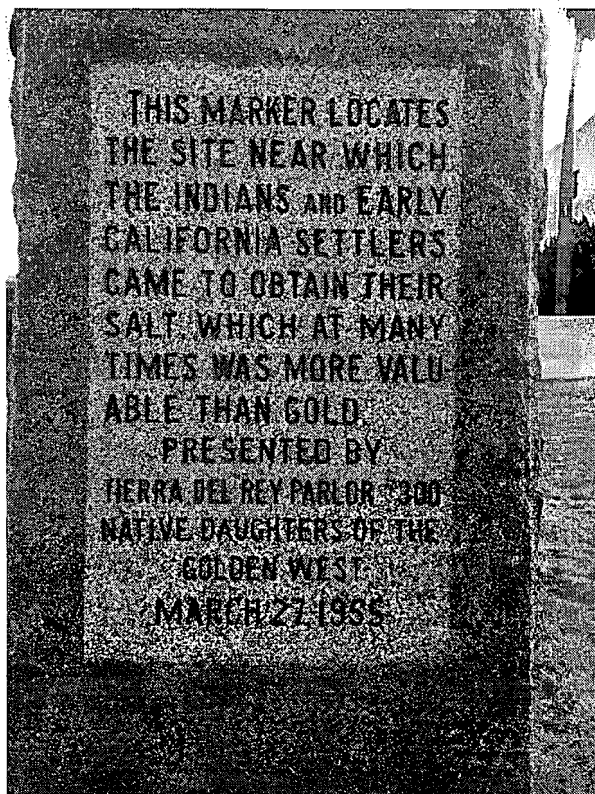
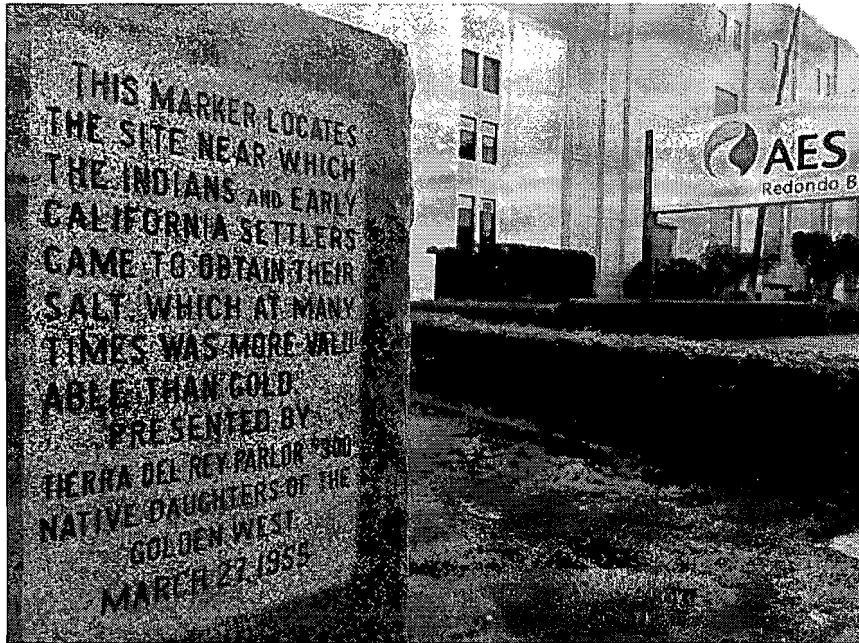
On July 8th, 2015 The California Coastal Commission acknowledged the wetlands on the 50-acre AES site.

These wetlands have ecological value as well as historical value to the Chowigna Native American Indians.

The City of Redondo Beach and the City of Hermosa Beach have both passed resolutions opposing the rebuilding of the AES power plant.

Please do not allow the rebuilding of this plant.

Thank you.



Air pollution, like oil spills, knows no city boundaries.

We are asking the City of Hermosa Beach City Council to pass a resolution opposing a power plant in Redondo Beach.

The proposed new power plant will be located at our border with Redondo Beach on Herondo Drive.

According to the AES application to the California Energy Commission for a new power plant in Redondo Beach, air ^{pollution} ~~quality~~ ^{BP} is going to dramatically increase in Hermosa Beach if approved.

If this Power plant were to be approved, Hermosa Beach will be accepting all of the health risks, environmental impacts and property devaluation but none of the benefits.

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AES Spokesman's admission that a Power Plant is Not Necessary in Redondo Beach

The AES power plant in Redondo Beach could be torn down for good if voters approve a measure to rezone the area for mixed-use and residential development instead. View from the Hermosa Beach pier, Tuesday, July 22, 2014, Hermosa Beach, CA. (Steve McCrank / Staff Photographer)

By Carley Dryden, Daily Breeze

Posted: 07/22/14, 6:37 PM PDT | Updated: on 07/23/2014

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Pictured in the rendering is what the current Redondo Beach Power Plant could become under new AES zoning regulations that will go before voters in the future. Courtesy AES.

AES unveiled plans Tuesday to get rid of its oceanfront Redondo Beach power plant for good if voters approve a measure that would allow mixed-use development, a hotel and park space in its place.

The power company will begin collecting signatures later this week for a March 2015 ballot initiative that, if approved, would shut down the existing plant by 2020 and rezone the site for mixed-use retail and office space, low-density residential units and acres of park land.

"This is groundbreaking," Mayor Steve Aspel said. "This is the only surefire way to get rid of the power plant."

AES, which until now has been pursuing plans to replace the hulking former Southern California Edison Co. structure with a smaller, more efficient plant, must gather signatures from 15 percent of registered voters to place the measure on the ballot.

"In the event that voters don't support our proposed plan, we would continue pursuing the power plant at the Redondo site," said AES spokesman Eric Pendergraft. "It could certainly meet our future needs."

The company submitted plans in November 2012 to construct a new natural-gas, air-cooled facility occupying 13 acres of the 50-acre site. The current facility — which generates 1,310 megawatts, enough to power 2 million homes — was built 60 years ago, although a plant has occupied the property since the 1890s. Because new state regulations ban the use of ocean water to cool steam turbines, the current plant must be retired or rebuilt by 2020.

The power plant, which is situated on the Redondo Beach border with Hermosa Beach, has polarized the community for decades. Critics claim the plant is not only an eyesore along the coast but an air polluter, while the pro-plant faction argues that the facility is vital to provide the densely populated area with reliable power.

However, that might not be the case, even by AES' own recent admission.

"New power plants are definitely needed, but there are more locations in the region that can meet those needs," Pendergraft said Tuesday in a nod to AES' Long Beach and Huntington Beach plants. "Subject to a favorable vote, we are focusing our efforts on developing new power plants on our other two sites."

Pendergraft said the company has long shown an interest in looking for alternative uses for the Redondo Beach property.

"(Uses) that would allow us to be kept whole economically but result in a future vision for the waterfront that doesn't have a power plant on it," he said. "That's what we've come up with with this proposed zoning."

The so-called Harbor Village Initiative would create new zoning and land use designations for the property on Harbor Drive. However, future specific projects would be subject to City Council and state Coastal Commission approval and an environmental review process, he said.

"It would be similar to the CenterCal process," he said. "Measure G (in 2010) was the public vote that established the zoning designation for the pier area. Now, the CenterCal project is the specific development being proposed inside that zoning designation."

The measure would limit overall development on the site to 600 residences, 250 hotel rooms and 85,000 square feet of commercial space, leaving a minimum of 10 acres of open space.

"By removing the old power plant, views of the harbor and coast would be enhanced and surrounding property values would increase," Pendergraft said. "This initiative would give Redondo Beach the opportunity to transform the site into a vibrant part of the waterfront, providing jobs, healthy economic growth and new revenue for city services."

The proposed initiative also would require the creation of a new pedestrian esplanade/public plaza fronting Harbor Drive; continuation of Veterans Parkway, or the greenbelt in neighboring Hermosa Beach, to the coast; a new tree-lined pedestrian promenade along Herondo Street; and four acres of additional open space to be used for a neighborhood park or recreational areas.

"It's a win-win for everybody," Pendergraft said. "We get fairly compensated. The city gets a lot of benefits. The residents get a new waterfront with no power plant that's existed for over a century."

Aspel called the plan a "smart, responsible proposal that provides enormous benefits."

The city already has spent \$450,000 to formally intervene with AES' proposal for a new plant on the property, he said.

"We've been trying to get rid of that power plant for years," he said. "This is going to avoid costly legal battles."

Aspel said the plant's fate now lies in the hands of voters.

"You'll have a choice of having a power plant for the next century, or (a mixed-use development)," he said. "It's a compromise."

About the Author



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