

County of Riverside



SUPERVISOR MARION ASHLEY
FIFTH DISTRICT

October 3, 2007

The Honorable James D. Boyd
Vice Chair and Presiding Member
Sentinel AFC Committee
California Energy Commission

The Honorable Jackalyn Pfannenstiel
Chairman and Associate Member
Sentinel ARC Committee

Re: CPV Sentinel
AFC-07-AFC-3

Commissioners:

I am writing you to express my support for the CPV Sentinel Standby Power Project. The project is the answer to protecting vulnerable Coachella Valley residents and key public safety services from power blackouts. I urge you to join me supporting CPV Sentinel. In the desert blackouts are life threatening to the elderly and infirmed.

I am pleased to note the permit application was deemed complete by the California Energy Commission (CEC), and that the CEC has initiated its exhaustive twelve month due diligence to evaluate the environmental impacts of the project and allow the public to express its view.

The project location is ideally suited to serve the Coachella Valley when help is needed most. The project site is on land already zoned for an electric power generating facility and is strategically sited adjacent to the existing Devers substation – the key hub through which flows virtually all the electricity supporting the Coachella Valley. The value of this site to our region is that when demand for electricity is highest and power outages may otherwise occur, the CPV Sentinel Standby Power Plant will generate electricity that will first safeguard the local power supply – and route excess power to more distant locations as needed.

CPV Sentinel is a state-of-the-art natural gas powered facility. It generates energy with high efficiency and minimal emissions. Water cooling is essential to the project. The amount of water consumed is minimal, especially when weighed against the energy safeguards the project provides the Coachella Valley. Under its power sales contracts, permits and water supply contracts, CPV Sentinel will be licensed to operate a maximum of 30 percent of any given year. The expected lifetime operating level will be 15 percent of any year. At such operating levels only 550 acre feet of water will be used annually to cool the CPV Sentinel facility – about the same amount used to irrigate a nine-hole golf course. Our valley has over 110 golf courses. CPV Sentinel is a prudent use of water supplies.

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In conclusion, the CPV Sentinel project is a benefit to the Coachella Valley and all of Southern California. The project's value to the local economy, local government and our quality of life cannot be overstated. It is necessary and must be built. CPV Sentinel is an important project to all of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marion Ashley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Marion Ashley
Supervisor, 5th District
Riverside County