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Assembly California Legislature



MARY HAYASHI
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

Public Statement

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
SUBCOMMITTEE No. 4 on
STATE ADMINISTRATION
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
HEALTH
REVENUE AND TAXATION
SELECT COMMITTEES:
BIOTECHNOLOGY
CHAIR, COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Dear Commissioners Byron and Geesman, Ms. Gefter, CEC Staff, Interveners and residents of Hayward:

It was my hope to be with you today in person at this very important evidentiary hearing to discuss the construction of second power plant proposed within the city of Hayward. Unfortunately, I was called to Sacramento during this legislative special session to vote on a new healthcare reform package; another critical issue facing the constituents of my district.

As I have previously stated, I am urging the California Energy Commission to reject Tierra Energy's application to build the Eastshore Energy Plant in Hayward for many reasons.

Most important is the plant's close proximity to homes, schools and businesses and its potential affects on human health, air quality, and our environment in general. Within a mile of the Eastshore Energy Plant are three colleges with a combined student population of more than 16,000 students. Within a mile of the power plant are single and multi-family homes with a population of approximately 8,000 residents. Within a mile of the power plant is Eden Gardens Elementary School educating 540 kindergarten to six grade children. If approved, the power plant is permitted to release 54 tons of nitrogen oxides, 84 tons of carbon monoxide, 64 tons of particulate matter known as PM10 and 6 tons of sulfur dioxide on an annual basis.

These emissions will create enormous environmental problems and adversely impact the region's air quality resulting in higher rates of respiratory ailments such as asthma among our seniors and children. According to the California Department of Health Services, more than 37,000 Californians sought hospital care due to asthma in the year 2000. Those most affected were children under age 5, women, and seniors. The 2007 Asthma Disparities Summit held in Berkeley reported that low-income communities and communities of color experienced disparities in asthma prevalence, hospitalizations, and deaths. Reasons given were access to health care, differences in asthma medication, and the environmental injustice their communities face.

The neighborhoods immediately affected by Eastshore are lower income, Minority - Majority communities who need greater access to health care.

Secondly, the city of Hayward has done its fair share by recently approving an energy plant several miles away from the proposed Eastshore Power Plant. The residents of Hayward - and the surrounding communities - have done their fair share in shouldering the burden of California's energy demands.

I urge the CEC to reject Tierra Energy's application to build the Eastshore Energy Plant in Hayward.

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