

September 17, 2007

To Whom It May Concern,


I Sara Ruiz, currently residing in the city of Hayward feel that the proposal to add power plants to the city will affect not only our well being but it will also affect our levels of pollution and our current standard of living. Matt O'Brien's article "Power Providers May Offer Incentives to Retrofit," describes that these proposed power plants might affect us by cutting down our own personal use of home fireplaces stating these contribute to higher population emissions. While it is said that these power plants will be accounting for more than 150 tons of airborne pollutant per year, concluding that both power plants would be operating in the city at their highest capacities, it is furthermore unfair to ask residents to cut down on their use of fireplaces, given that they are not used on a year long basis. I believe there could be a better way to settle this issue in order to satisfy both power plant creators, and residents of local cities.

Before these proposals can move forward with their plans, is it important to consider residents point of view as well. What positive impacts will the creation of these power plants contribute to the city? If these power plants are to be created in the city, why aren't other less polluting methods considered? I believe these power plants will only be impacting residents negatively, while they will bring no prosperity to the cities economy. It is important to also consider other possible locations to these power plants. These power plants should be created away from a city that is highly populated with residents. These power plants should be secluded from areas that can highly become responsible for harming resident's health due to high emission levels in the sky.

Resident's should have a say in whether or not these proposals should be carried on. While no given information in these articles state what resident's will get from these power plant creations, simply that they will be given rebates in energy efficient forms of central heating added to their homes, this simply doesn't seem enough. As to question how these power plants will be run, would this include having resident's paying higher electricity bills, to help cover the amount of energy it takes for these power plants to be run? Will residents pay a higher price than just having the possibility of not using their fireplaces?

I simply believe that it is the creators of these power plants to decide where a good place to put these plants would be, it being that Hayward is definitely not one of those possibilities. Instead of accounting for more emission levels in the city each year, why don't city officials create something that will truly benefit everyone? Why not thinking of creating other schools, recreational parks, or facilities that would help youth become more involved in their communities? We should rethink this proposal, and we should instead figure out ways to truly make this city a better place for everyone.

Respectfully,


Sara Ruiz

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