

**From:** Judi Ravetti [<mailto:judi.ravetti@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 10, 2012 10:37 AM  
**To:** Awolowo, Ollie@Energy; Mason, Michi@Energy; Solorio, Eric@Energy  
**Subject:** Quail Brush Generation Project Docket Number 11-AFC-3

California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-31  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Karen Douglas, Commissioner  
Andrew McAllister  
Eric K. Solorio

August 10, 2012

Re: Docket Number 11-AFC-3, Quail Brush Generation Project

Greetings, CEC:

The article, below, was copied from the San Diego Union Tribune dated Tuesday, July 02, 2012.

This is another fact stating why the Quail Brush Plant is not essential in the San Diego area.  
More and more businesses and homes are going off or lessening reliance on SDG&E's grid.

There is no question that this is an unwarranted power plant.  
The harm it will bring the community is far greater than any overstated benefit.  
Please strongly oppose this encumbrance to SDG&E ratepayers, as do thousands of San Diegians.

Regards,  
Judi Ravetti  
7432 Rainswept Lane  
San Diego, CA 92119

Miramar Marine Corps Air Station —  
Written by Nathan Max

Officials at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station want the capability of being **100 percent independent from the city's power grid** in the next five

years so they can effectively be prepared for an emergency, such as the blackout that darkened all of San Diego last year.

It has all started with gas from a nearby landfill.

The base flipped the switch this month on the Miramar Energy Project, a joint venture between the air station, city and Fortistar LLC that enables methane from a neighboring landfill to be converted into renewable energy. The facility will enable Miramar to reduce its use of the city's power grid by 45 percent, and coupled with already existing solar energy projects, will allow the base to account for about half its overall power needs through green energy.

The methane-to-power conversion will provide Miramar with 3.2 megawatts of energy, said Brian Kelley, Southern California regional manager for the Fortistar Methane Group. That's enough to power about 2,000 homes.

"You're taking something completely useless that's an environmental problem, and you're turning it into a resource," said Mick Wasco, Miramar MCAS' energy manager.

The project took about five years to complete, with most of that time being used to hammer out the power purchase agreement. Construction took about a year.

Before the landfill project, Miramar received 97 percent of its power from San Diego Gas & Electric and 3 percent from solar power generated at the air station.

The power purchase agreement with Fortistar is for 15 years, during which time Miramar will receive a fixed amount of power from the landfill for a fixed price. Plans are to enter into negotiations to extend the agreement when the 15-year contract period nears its expiration date.

The Marine Corps funded a \$5.4 million transmission line that was part of the project, and Fortistar paid for the rest. The air station expects to achieve a 9 percent return on its investment over the life of the contract from power savings.

On top of that, the plant will drastically lower the amount of greenhouse gas emissions from the landfill.

"This project alone, you're taking millions of pounds of CO2 and eliminating it from being released into the atmosphere," Kelley said.

The Department of the Navy has been public in its desire to transition toward green energy, having targeted 2016 as the year it wants to roll out an alternative-fueled aircraft carrier group. The Navy plans to demonstrate a "great green fleet" concept this month in which it intends to show that an aircraft carrier, its fighter jets and attending warships can operate for two days on alternative fuels.

At Miramar, the ultimate goal is having the entire base capable of energy independence, Wasco said. During last year's blackout, many facilities lost power and mission capabilities were limited, although all critical

infrastructures had backup power generation, allowing the airfield to remain operational for scheduled flights, Wasco said.

However, if the air station does eventually meet its goal of 100 percent energy capability, the plan is to draw upon all of it only during an emergency.

"That would make Miramar and the Marine Corps truly an emergency response force," Wasco said. "This landfill is the first piece of that mission."