

**DOCKETED**  
**11-AFC-3**

TN # 66052

JUL 02 2012

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**Sent:** Saturday, June 30, 2012 10:18 AM

**To:** Solorio, Eric@Energy; Hamblin, Mark@Energy

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**Subject:** Additional Photo Survey of Visual Impacts: Mission Trails Day, and Applicant Viewpoint 2 Grasslands Area

Dear Mr. Solorio and Mr. Hamblin,  
Please add the attached document to the docket.

Mr. Hamblin, the document is for your additional consideration when reviewing the visual impacts section of the Application.

Thank you.  
Steve Blanchard

# Memorandum

**To:** California Energy Commission  
CEC Docket No. 11-AFC-03, Quail Brush Power Generation Siting Case.  
**Attention:** Mark Hamblin and Eric Solorio

**From:** Steve Blanchard, Santee resident

**Date:** 6/30/12

**Subject:** **Additional Photo Survey of Visual Impacts: Mission Trails Day, and Applicant Viewpoint 2 Grasslands Area**

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This document presents an additional photo survey that expands on my previous survey submitted to the CEC and dated 4/22/12; this photo survey:

- Illustrates the negative impact that the plant will have on the popular "Mission Trails Day", the most recent of which was held in May 2012.
- Builds on the previous survey by further showing that Viewpoint 2 of the Application misrepresents the grasslands area of Mission Trails Regional Park, and should be rejected by the CEC.

## Mission Trails Day

One of the primary locations for Mission Trails Day activities was the equestrian staging area, located a mere ¼ mile from the proposed power plant. The theme of Mission Trails Day was "Connecting Children With Nature". The attached "passport" flyer lists the activities at the equestrian staging area. Among the various nature-related booths, there were nature walks, pony rides, and a climbing wall.

The attached photos of Mission Trails Day activities highlight the incompatibility of a power plant at this location. A power plant is inconsistent with teaching children about nature, and is anticipated have significant negative impacts on future activities at the MTRP equestrian staging area. It is important to understand that this proposed power plant would be located adjacent to one of the largest urban parks in the U.S, and one of the three jewels in San Diego's park system, the other two being Mission Bay and Balboa Park.

## Applicant Viewpoint 2 and the Grasslands Area, Additional Survey

The attached map depicts that the proposed plant would be clearly visible from most of the grasslands area. In contrast, Viewpoint 2 represents a small portion of the grasslands where the power plant would be mostly or entirely blocked by a small hill (and some vegetation), as shown by my attached photo with a simulated power plant. The applicant re-emphasises this point in their response to Sunset Greens HOA Intervenor Data Requests (dated June 12, 2012), where they state that the only area listed as having low visibility is the grasslands section of MTRP due to screened foreground views of the Project from local topography and vegetation. However, in a scientific/technical evaluation, the conclusion is valid only if the input to the evaluation is valid. In this case, the input (the unrepresentative photo) is flawed and therefore the conclusion is flawed.

The remaining attached photos show views that are representative of the majority of the grasslands area. In fact, these other areas are more heavily used by the public as they are closer to parking areas and access points. Along with the Mission Trails Day photos (which are at the far eastern edge of the grasslands area), these photos are clear evidence that the negative visual impact is much more substantial than "insignificant" as concluded in the Application.

Therefore, the CEC should consider rejecting the visual assessment (also given the misrepresentation by Viewpoint 7, as illustrated in my previous memo to the CEC), with a request for appropriate revisions to the visual assessment section of the Application.

# ATTACHMENTS

Grasslands Area, MTRP, Proposed Quail Brush Power Plant Visibility



# Additional Photo Survey Map of Locations



Mission Trails Day May 2012, Equestrian Area, with Simulated Quail Brush Power Plant



Photo 2740: There would be a bird's eye view of the power plant from the climbing wall

Mission Trails Day May 2012, Equestrian Area, with Simulated Quail Brush Power Plant



Photo 2743: Pony rides: there would be a clear view of the power plant

Mission Trails Day May 2012, Equestrian Area, with Simulated Quail Brush Power Plant



Simulated power plant 1/4 mile north east of Mission Trails Day activities



Additional Grasslands Area Photo Survey, MTRP



Photo 4429-VP2 (applicant viewpoint 2): with simulated power plant in upper left, only tops of stacks would be visible as most of the plant would be blocked by a hill. Viewpoint 2 is unrepresentative of the majority of grasslands viewpoints.

Additional Grasslands Area Photo Survey, MTRP



Photo 4423: Representative grasslands viewpoint across riparian habitat, with simulated power plant

Additional Grasslands Area Photo Survey, MTRP



Photo 4426: Representative grasslands viewpoint across riparian habitat, with simulated power plant

Additional Grasslands Area Photo Survey, MTRP



Photo 4427: Representative grasslands viewpoint, with simulated power plant

Additional Grasslands Area Photo Survey, MTRP



Photo 4431: Representative grasslands viewpoint, just south of viewpoint 2, with simulated power plant