

Mr. Eric Solorio  
Project Manager  
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection (STEP) Division  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-2000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

October 12, 2012



Dear Mr. Solorio:

I am a resident of eastern San Diego County, where much of the region's significant renewable energy potential is concentrated. These resources are being developed in order to help meet California's Renewables Portfolio Standard goal, and I believe the transition toward cleaner power will provide numerous benefits to local residents. However, the intermittent nature of wind and solar requires that SDG&E have a more reliable energy supply on hand to meet customers' needs during peak demand. The Quail Brush peaker plant being proposed for San Diego will serve that purpose and is, therefore, needed for public convenience and necessity. It is also a superior option to the alternatives put forward thus far, including rooftop solar. I hope you will take my comments into account during the Status Conference next week.

It is reasonable to expect that wind and solar power will be available approximately 25 to 35 percent of the time, but there is no guarantee that those times will overlap with the hours when people use the most electricity. In fact, rooftop solar peak production is decidedly different from peak demand – early afternoon versus 6 to 8 p.m. when residents arrive at home and start using their appliances. Without Quail Brush and similar high-efficiency peaker plants to start up quickly in these instances, there could be insufficient electricity available to serve all SDG&E customers when demand is particularly high. That will seriously destabilize the reliability on which the public all depends, which means Quail Brush is clearly needed.

Quail Brush and two other new peaker plants will also help facilitate the closure of older plants that operate inefficiently and produce higher emissions. These facilities can take as much as half a day to “ramp up” and must be left on even when they're not needed if demand is likely to be high the following day. Quail Brush will possess quick-start technology that can be up and running within 10 minutes. As a result, the facility will be better equipped to ensure reliability as efficiently as possible and with fewer emissions. This flexibility will be needed as SDG&E comes closer to meeting its Renewables Portfolio Standard and as the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, which provides San Diego with 440 megawatts of power, continues to be shut down for an unknown period of time.

Reliability is a critical issue to me and millions of other San Diego County residents. It should be given serious attention during the Status Conference and throughout the Quail Brush review process. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Randy Lenac  
Campo, CA