

DOCKETED

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From: MQ2 []

Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 1:56 PM

To: Solorio, Eric@Energy

Cc: CA52DHima@mail.house.gov; anthonyyoung@sandiego.gov; CarlDeMaio@sandiego.gov; JerrySanders@sandiego.gov; kevinfaulconer@sandiego.gov; martiemerald@sandiego.gov; SherrLightner@sandiego.gov; toddgloria@sandiego.gov; davidalvarez@sandiego.gov; loriezapf@sandiego.gov; JDale@ci.santee.ca.us; JMinto@ci.santee.ca.us; JRyan@ci.santee.ca.us; RVoepel@ci.santee.ca.us; RMcNelis@ci.santee.ca.us; dianne.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov; Senator.Kehoe@sen.ca.gov; susan.davis@mail.house.gov; senator@boxer.senate.gov; senator@feinstein.senate.gov; assemblymember.jones@assembly.ca.gov; gail.ramer@asm.ca.gov

Subject: CEC record-Docket #11-AFC-03 Quail Brush Power Generation Siting Case

June 19, 2012

Attn: Eric Solorio, Project Manager
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
ESolorio@energy.state.ca.us

RE: CEC record-Docket #11-AFC-03 Quail Brush Power Generation Siting Case

Dear Mr. Solorio:

Giddy. Proud. Welcome. Excited. Home. This is how my husband and I felt upon purchasing our first house in Santee, California last December. We moved our sons, ages one and three, into our wonderful new home and we love it. We love walking to Santee Lakes. We love our big backyard facing the western hills. We love feeling the strong easterly breeze on our faces as watch our babies play in their new backyard.

Emotionally devastated. Betrayed. Terrified. This is how we feel now, only months later, due to the horrendous plan to place a power plant in our neighborhood, in the same hills we see from our yard. Is this how a person who lives in the United States should be expected to feel, every day of their lives? Is this the meaning behind "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" in our country?

I feel like a terrible mother for placing my very young children in the direct air flow that may soon carry devastating toxins. I cannot get them out – we have a new 30-year mortgage. We feel trapped and conned. What seemed like such a wonderful place for our kids to grow up is now threatening to be severely dangerous to their health and to ours. It's like a waking nightmare.

A fossil fuel power plant up wind of my babies' home will poison them on an hourly basis. As proposed, the power plant will emit nearly 57 tons of carbon monoxide and 33 tons of particulate matter into the air, among other pollutants. The toxins will be carried by that easterly wind directly into our home. This pollution will double if it runs at full capacity. It has been argued that the plant will not run at full capacity but that is a story designed to encourage Santee residents to remain passive. When the Cogentrix/ Goldman Sachs stockholders behind this power plant demand more profit, on it will go. And let me be clear: even at half capacity or less, poisoning my babies is UNACCEPTABLE.

The stress of the threat of it is nearly intolerable. I can only imagine the horror of living with it: spending thousands on air filters, rarely opening windows or allowing my children outside to play or swim. Avoiding Santee Lakes and Mission Trails Regional Park. Driving to another city to play outside. What a travesty.

The proposed site of this power plant (and expanded dump) is currently not zoned to be industrial. It needs to stay that way. Zoning is the foundation of responsible building as well as preserving. If it can be changed when pressured, what is the point of zoning at all? There is a regional park, a high school, and homes within feet of the property in question. It would be criminal to put a power plant here.

After a years-long search for an affordable house in a safe neighborhood of San Diego, my husband and I finally found our home in Santee. One reason we chose it was the proximity to guaranteed open space. The fresh air. The sound of coyotes in the hills. Not the potential 205 tons of airborne pollution flowing into our windows; not the drone of massive power plant engines, not the sight of eleven 100-foot-tall smoke stacks spewing waste. I can guarantee you, we would NOT have purchased our home had we known of this power plant threat. Tragically, east San Diego county home prices will certainly plummet beyond belief, including ours.

Do not be pressured by this big corporation. Do not accept their whitewashed scenarios at face value. Do not act out of fear of bullying litigation. Be decent. Be humane. Do what is right. Protect the people of Santee. Save my family.

Respectfully,

The Quezadas:
Santee, CA 92071