

Thursday December 3, 2010

To: Commissioner James Boyd
California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA. 95814

From: Mrs. Regina Wilkerson, R.N. (retired)
1713 Domaine Way
Oakley, CA. 94561-3026

DOCKET	
09-AFC-4	
DATE	12/03/10
RECD.	12/06/10

Re: The Oakley Generating Station

Dear Commissioner Boyd; I am a 22 year resident of Oakley, a parishioner at St. Anthony Church, one of the petitioners that helped Oakley become a city starting in 1989; which became a reality in 1999, and an active and supportive member in my community. I have growing concerns regarding the Oakley Power Plant Project and I have heard rumors that the project is not certain to gain regulatory approval. The consequences of not gaining regulatory approval would have a negative impact on my neighbors, community, and my parishioners. St. Anthony Church provides the community a first hand look at the economic hardships many families in our community have been facing for several years. The situation has grown much worse during this current recession. The fact of the matter is that Oakley has more than a few homeless residents, many with families and small children. We, at St. Anthony Church, for many years have provided food service, clothing and lodging to needy families in the surrounding communities of Knightsen, Bethel Island and Brentwood by way of our Food Pantry, Brown Bag, People Helping People and Loaves and Fishes programs; in addition to serving our own Oakley residents. As a Registered Nurse of 40 years, retired for 14 years, I have no personal agenda in this matter of the Oakley Power Plant, but only the welfare of my community at large.

The real estate, mortgage and banking crisis has had a devastating impact on the City of Oakley. Foreclosures and the accompanying blight can be seen in all of our subdivisions. As a community that cares, we do our best to help combat the blight. Our City Council recently adopted an ordinance in an attempt to curb the blight left as a result of abandoned properties, and several community groups are trying to address this problem by organizing cleanup committees.

I feel compelled to share this information with you so that you will be informed as to how much our community is on the edge. Our city budget, while acceptable today, is on the edge. Public safety services, acceptable today, but on the edge. Property tax revenues in Oakley from retail sales and industry is minimal with little hope of improvement due to the encroachments in Antioch and Brentwood. The Oakley Power Plant Project is a ray of hope for our community.

The jobs and economic benefits associated with the Oakley Generating Station are very real to us; not theory, not a campaign promise, but real. The property tax revenue Oakley would see as a result of the project is very real. The sales tax revenue we would see is very real. The Oakley City Council and the power plant proponents have already signed a Community Benefit Agreement; awaiting project approval to start nurturing the non-profit, faith based community that so often supports our residents in need and on the edge of survival.

Commissioner Boyd, you have the power to help our community sustain itself, something that most citizens desire. Please support the necessary regulatory approval documents needed to bring much needed jobs and revenue to Oakley.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs.

Regina Wilkerson