

## DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Blaise Gauba*  
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## **AES Power Plant in Redondo Beach, CA**

California Energy Commission  
Chairman Weisenmiller and Commissioners  
1516 Ninth St.  
Sacramento, CA 95814

AES Southland (AES) has filed an application with the California Energy Commission (CEC) to build a new 496-megawatt (MW) power plant on their 50-acre site in Redondo Beach. The existing plant is 50 years old, inefficient and rarely operates. It must be retired by 2020 as agreed to by AES and mandated by the State Water Resources Control Board per new State regulations banning once-through-cooled power plants. For the reasons stated below, I strongly oppose AES' application and the building of a new power plant in this densely populated coastal community.

Attached please find an independent energy analyst report commissioned by the City of Redondo Beach demonstrating that the additional 496 MW of capacity applied for by AES is not required for grid reliability through 2022 - as far into the future that the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) projects capacity needs. This scenario and its conclusions include the recent CAISO data and analysis with the San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station (SONGS) permanently retired.

Secondly, according to the air quality projections in the AES application submitted to the CEC, dangerous air pollutants are going to significantly increase in the South Bay due to the increased run rates outlined. According to the AES application, particulate matter emissions will increase 5-15 times depending on how often the new power plant operates. As you may know, exposure to particulate emissions kills twice as many people every year in California than breast cancer, and is linked to an increase in autism, as well as other adverse health effects. Other criteria pollutants that are out of compliance in the South Coast Air Basin will also significantly increase.

The attached study also demonstrates that locating a new power plant in Redondo Beach will result in more air pollution to the region than if new capacity is located closer to where the greatest needs are. According to the study, the outage of SONGS drives increased power needs in Orange County. Serving this need from Redondo will require higher overall power outputs to compensate for line loss, and this, in turn, equates to more air pollution. So, not only is power generation not required at Redondo, building it at this location is inefficient and will increase overall air pollution versus alternative locations such as Huntington Beach or Los Alamitos.

Third, according to the power flow analysis in the attached report, the existing substation and power-lines that run approximately 5 miles from AES Redondo to just east of the 405 freeway can be permanently retired if power generation at this site is retired. Page 23 of the report states:

“... a relatively simple transmission system reconfiguration at La Fresa substation will allow the existing Redondo Beach 230 kV substation, and all four transmission lines between the existing Redondo Beach 230 kV substation and the existing La Fresa substation, to be removed. The removal of these facilities presents a unique opportunity to restore the entire Redondo Beach power plant site, as well as the existing transmission corridor between the Redondo Beach 230 kV substation and the La Fresa substation, to beneficial public use. Such restoration offers the potential for significant environmental benefits.”

Furthermore, the California Environmental Quality Act requires the investigation of alternative solutions when significant environmental impacts are unavoidable. Locating any new power plant closer to the actual power needs created by the SONGS retirement represents a significant decrease in environmental impact due to the reduced air pollution introduced into the South Coast Air Basin. Permanently retiring AES Redondo Beach will also eliminate the economic blighting impacts of the power lines and a new power plant.

AES has already submitted an application to replace their Huntington Beach plant and have indicated they plan to rebuild

2,000MW at their Los Alamitos facility. Both these sites are better located to serve the projected need for power with SONGS retired, and both represent less environmental impacts to the region. There are better economic and ecological options to efficiently maintain grid reliability than repowering AES Redondo Beach.

Lastly, there is sufficient conventional flexible generation capacity existing and planned to integrate renewable energy generation in this region. From the report:

“...no generation capacity at the Redondo Beach Station location is required to integrate intermittent renewable resources.”

I, therefore, call on the CEC to deny the AES application to build a new plant in Redondo Beach because the power is not needed at this site, and just as importantly, more ecological and economic alternatives are readily available.

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Hi Ms. Kelly,

I just wanted to add my own personal opinion to the above attached letter to the CEC commissioners. I have lived on and off in the South Bay area of the Santa Monica Bay, both in Redondo Beach as well as other South Bay cities since 1983 when I first moved to Southern California to live the California lifestyle. Whatever that may be. And, that being said, I would like to say that I have kids who attend Redondo Beach High School which is literally just down wind of the AES power plant.

I just wanted to say that it is quite clear that after all the studies, Redondo Beach and the surrounding cities, communities as well as Southern California as a whole, does not need another power plant. If anything, we need to start phasing out these polluting power plants, whether they are burning fossil fuels such as petroleum (sheer idiocy if you ask me) as well as the other very dirty (not clean) fossil fuel known as coal. And then there is of course, the highly dangerous and insidious industry of short lifespan nuclear power plants which endanger the very existence of all life on this planet as we know it.

I hope that the CEC will take the comments and opinions of concerned citizens with regards to the totally unnecessary AES Redondo Beach Power Plant very seriously in their deliberations and hope that they choose to keep Redondo Beach and the surrounding communities free and safe from air born toxic pollutants out of our lungs, our children's lungs and out of the lungs of future generations. I do not want another power plant built upwind of where I live here in West Torrance.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

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