

## DOCKETED

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## **Best Alternative for replacing AES Redondo Beach**

I live four miles to the south of the AES Redondo Beach power plant in the Hollywood Riviera and can see the power plant from my back yard. I can also hear it on occasion when wind conditions are right and the plant has a "steam safety" release (which is a rare event).

Power plants like AES Redondo need to be re-built because Southern California needs "in-basin" generating facilities, especially with the shut down of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and need for flexible and quick start generating facilities to accommodate California's evolving electric grid operating conditions. This is not a new power generating resource, but a replacement of an existing generating station that will be smaller and have less adverse impact on the local community than its predecessor. The question is where a replacement plant should be built. The existing location seems to be the best alternative for the following reasons:

- \* Transmission and natural gas supply infrastructure exist to support the re-built plant
- \* The visual impact will not be worse than the existing facilities (in fact, it will be an improvement)
- \* Higher energy efficiency could result in a reduction in air emission concentration
- \* Total air emission volumes could be lower than the existing facility, understanding this will depend on the number of hours the plant operates compared to the existing plant.
- \* Replacement of the existing power plant with new advanced technology will result in less noise than existing facility. There will be less incidences of steam safety releases and associated "rocket going off" noise. Noise mitigation measures can be implemented to further reduce potential noise impacts to the surrounding community.

There was discussion during the February 10, 2014 CEC hearing in Redondo Beach about who regulates the existing AES plant. The CEC did not exist when the SCE made its last modification to the Redondo Beach power plant. If the plant is re-built, the CEC will have regulatory and compliance jurisdiction over the new plant and will be a vehicle for community to voice on-going concern.

The key consideration the CEC needs to define and AES to respond is whether the new plant will:

- \* Be any noisier than the existing plant
- \* Emit greater volumes of health impacting pollutants than the existing power plant
- \* Will any increases over current plant operations be in excess of acceptable standards
- \* What will AES do to mitigate community impacts or to enhance community relations

New generation resources in Southern California will be required to be sited where electric load is focused, which could likely be in similar high density populated areas. The existing power plant site is an already disturbed site. Relocating to a new site could have greater impact to another community. It seems unreasonable for the community surrounding the AES power plant to advocate putting an existing situation on another community. Rather, the focus should be on how to minimize impacts from the proposed re-built plant and maximize mitigation measures.

The existing power plant site is the best location to rebuild AES Redondo Beach. The best outcome would be for AES to work better with the local community to further improve its relationship with the community and for the community

leaders to find common ground with AES to build a better co-existence..