

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	20-BUSMTG-02
Project Title:	Public Comment on California Energy Commission Business Meetings
TN #:	231940
Document Title:	Claire Ann Warshaw Comments - 2020_02_04 Diesel Emergency Backup Generators
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Claire Ann Warshaw
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	2/4/2020 6:31:58 PM
Docketed Date:	2/5/2020

*Comment Received From: Claire Ann Warshaw
Submitted On: 2/4/2020
Docket Number: 20-BUSMTG-02*

2020_02_04 Diesel Emergency Backup Generators

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Commissioners Scott, Douglas and Monahan
State of California
Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Diesel Emergency Backup Generators

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for reviewing, discussing, editing and making difficult decisions regarding exemptions to the proposed Laurelwood Data Center's Backup Diesel Generator installations in California's Santa Clara County (Docket No. 19-SPPE-01, Order No. 20-0204-1). Thank you to the commissioners who today also thanked Intervenor Robert Sarvey for his contributions to opposing arguments.

As a layperson, not familiar with data center construction and operations, yet somewhat aware of California's pollutants and noise problems, it has been alarming to realize how many data centers are being constructed and seem concentrated in the Silicon Valley area. I might guess that most Silicon Valley residents are unaware of the details of adding new diesel backup generation to many nearby projects. Very few Californians have the time, energy and desire to invest personal "third party" perspectives in work outside their own lives. Few publicly present risky personal calculations and analysis. Generally, it seems people seem to trust our systems.

California once had a stellar reputation of being a beautiful and relaxing state; perhaps our conditions contributed to growing population density. I noticed on a 2019 train trip that Santa Clara County appears more industrial than it had been when I worked in the area back in the eighties. This was unexpected after reading about many Silicon Valley high technology and clean energy investments.

Construction investors seem to find a pattern. They have a reputation for wanting their work done yesterday; time sometimes alters their original budget projections badly. The unwanted challenge seems to be to try to stop a large economical investment. It is not clear, from my standpoint, whether data centers will compete and some eventually will fail. What has seemed obvious, is that the wireless industry, of which data centers have perhaps distantly associated themselves with, due to similar high technology values, is hugely economic. Some have compared wireless communication companies to the pharmaceutical industry, due to their power and modern value. Because of this, I am extremely thankful the commission is reviewing

projects extensively, and allowing intervention and public comment; this permission might continue to give Californians belief in our state government's fully vetted decisions. That is one way of thinking about this project and similar others.

California seems to be encountering new unplanned discussion territory. Oddly, after many recent discussions of global warming, we have construction investors, designers and managers planning to put in new diesel emergency backup generators, seemingly concentrated in one microenvironment. I might guess that in this time period, the design request is somewhat a reaction to recent Pacific Gas and Electric Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). I also might guess that the new diesel emergency backup design type is a human exhaustion concession, due to lack of more reliable clean energy backup generator possibilities, and a constant desire for convenience. Engineered systems have known diesel engine design and its parameters.

Typically, it seems also that human memories of how bad an emergency can be, e.g., a large earthquake, plus how noisy and polluting a single diesel generator can be, are short. Recent PSPS shutoffs made many residents mad and tired too, which contributed to residential diesel generator purchasing, according to the local news. Having Governor Newsom as a Commissioner, as Commissioner Scott perhaps mistakenly inferred, might be an excellent idea right now. PSPS days may disappear, yet new diesel construction and adoption by commercial and residential customers might last many years. Something needs to change quickly, if California wants to regain its ability to have environmental beauty and health.

The other way to look at this situation is extremely common. That is, let the new diesel construction happen without sharing this news with more general audiences. Let noise and pollution increase gradually. Allow the construction monies to continue to concentrate and power up certain areas and people. Let the many new data centers test their equipment and see what happens. Maybe nearby residents will not complain due to their employment in the nearby facilities and/or apathy. Maybe one county can handle these kinds of pollution problems better than others. Maybe the situation will reach an extreme and cause improved changing ways. Whatever happens, if more diesel backup emergency generation is adopted, I will attest that it is likely that California will likely become more air and noise polluted than before. Increased pollution has not seemed necessary. I might hope local permitting jurisdictions and young Santa Clara residents realize their power in writing and speaking up.

Thank you for highly encouraging young researchers to invent new sustainable, clean and reliable energy backup generation as quickly as possible. Thank you for encouraging existing system operators to adapt to clean energy parameters. Thank you for understanding and helping to understand people and how their behaviors are contributing to California's pollution spectrum.

Thank you for taking your work seriously.

Sincerely,

Claire Warshaw
P. O. Box 277612

Sacramento, CA 95827
claire.warshaw@gmail.com

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Commissioners Scott, Douglas and Monahan

State of California

Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission

1516 Ninth Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Diesel Emergency Backup Generators

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for reviewing, discussing, editing and making difficult decisions regarding exemptions to the proposed Laurelwood Data Center's Backup Diesel Generator installations in California's Santa Clara County (Docket No. 19-SPPE-01, Order No. 20-0204-1). Thank you to the commissioners who today also thanked Intervenor Robert Sarvey for his contributions to opposing arguments.

As a layperson, not familiar with data center construction and operations, yet somewhat aware of California's pollutants and noise problems, it has been alarming to realize how many data centers are being constructed and seem concentrated in the Silicon Valley area. I might guess that most Silicon Valley residents are unaware of the details of adding new diesel backup generation to many nearby projects. Very few Californians have the time, energy and desire to invest personal "third party" perspectives in work outside their own lives. Few publicly present risky personal calculations and analysis. Generally, it seems people seem to trust our systems.

California once had a stellar reputation of being a beautiful and relaxing state; perhaps our conditions contributed to growing population density. I noticed on a 2019 train trip that Santa Clara County appears more industrial than it had been when I worked in the area back in the eighties. This was unexpected after reading about many Silicon Valley high technology and clean energy investments.

Construction investors seem to find a pattern. They have a reputation for wanting their work done yesterday; time sometimes alters their original budget projections badly. The unwanted challenge seems to be to try to stop a large economical investment. It is not clear, from my standpoint, whether data centers will compete and some eventually will fail. What has seemed obvious, is that the wireless industry, of which data centers have perhaps distantly associated themselves with, due to similar high technology values, is hugely economic. Some have compared wireless communication companies to the pharmaceutical industry, due to their power and modern value. Because of this, I am extremely thankful the commission is reviewing projects extensively, and allowing intervention and public comment; this permission might continue to give Californians belief in our state government's fully vetted decisions. That is one way of thinking about this project and similar others.

California seems to be encountering new unplanned discussion territory. Oddly, after many recent discussions of global warming, we have construction investors, designers and managers planning to put in new diesel emergency backup generators, seemingly concentrated in one microenvironment. I might guess that in this time period, the design request is somewhat a reaction to recent Pacific Gas and Electric Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). I also might guess that the new diesel emergency backup design type is a human exhaustion concession, due to lack of more reliable clean energy backup generator possibilities, and a constant desire for convenience. Engineered systems have known diesel engine design and its parameters.

Typically, it seems also that human memories of how bad an emergency can be, e.g., a large earthquake, plus how noisy and polluting a single diesel generator can be, are short. Recent PSPS shutoffs made many residents mad and tired too, which contributed to residential diesel generator purchasing, according to the local news. Having Governor Newsom as a Commissioner, as Commissioner Scott perhaps mistakenly inferred, might be an excellent idea right now. PSPS days may disappear, yet new diesel construction and adoption by commercial and residential customers might last many years. Something needs to change quickly, if California wants to regain its ability to have environmental beauty and health.

The other way to look at this situation is extremely common. That is, let the new diesel construction happen without sharing this news with more general audiences. Let noise and pollution increase gradually. Allow the construction monies to continue to concentrate and power up certain areas and people. Let the many new data centers test their equipment and see what happens. Maybe nearby residents will not complain due to their employment in the nearby facilities and/or apathy. Maybe one county can handle these kinds of pollution problems better than others. Maybe the situation will reach an extreme and cause improved changing ways. Whatever happens, if more diesel backup emergency generation is adopted, I will attest that it is likely that California will likely become more air and noise polluted than before. Increased pollution has not seemed necessary. I might hope local permitting jurisdictions and young Santa Clara residents realize their power in writing and speaking up.

Thank you for highly encouraging young researchers to invent new sustainable, clean and reliable energy backup generation as quickly as possible. Thank you for encouraging existing system operators to adapt to clean energy parameters. Thank you for understanding and helping to understand people and how their behaviors are contributing to California's pollution spectrum.

Thank you for taking your work seriously.

Sincerely,

Claire Warshaw

P. O. Box 277612

Sacramento, CA 95827

claire.warshaw@gmail.com

