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Redondo Beach AES Power Plant

Dear Ms. Kelly,

As we were returning to our home near the waterfront in Redondo Beach yesterday we noticed the AES Power Plant emitting large billows of black smoke in to the air and over the nearby homes and businesses. Our eleven year old grandson was with us and we explained our concerns to him about the health effects of this type of industrial waste in residential neighborhoods, as we watched the smoke rise.

I also shared with our grandson my dream of creating a beautiful soccer complex for our South Bay young people, to take the place of the obsolete power plant. We have had the pleasure of traveling to several soccer parks throughout Southern California and as far north as Santa Ynez for his cousin's games, and have seen amazing multi use planning, especially in Camarillo. There they have a little paradise of ten soccer fields, playgrounds, parks, an elementary school, a Marriott hotel, shops and restaurants, all of which serve the surrounding residents, teams, and visitors to the area. Restaurants can flourish, with all the families and players starving after the games. Our nephew lives around the corner from this complex and will be able to reserve rooms for us at the hotel when they host the next family reunion. I can also envision a Redondo Beach City Great Park where the power lines now stand, all the way up the hill from the ocean to the city boundary. Such a park complex can generate recreation-related business and provide much needed open space for this area. We have traveled extensively and seen delightful improvements across the country and around the world that make life more beautiful and joyful, like Bryant Park, in Mid-town New York City, or Pearl Street in Boulder.

In addition to our concerns about air quality and a better vision for the future of the power plant site, our community is currently planning a Waterfront Revitalization project just across the street from this power plant. We would like to think the quality of life for our citizens and visitors will be greatly enhanced by our new project, but the power plant will continue to present an industrial eyesore in the middle of a millions of dollars prime ocean front setting if it stays. I can see AES participating in this new project and profiting from an enlarged renewal plan to include their holdings.

In this year, 2013, it is no longer reasonable to endure polluting power plants. We can all have solar on our rooftops, shopping centers, parking structures, government buildings, and elsewhere, with a little imagination and willingness to try. Germany leads the world in solar energy. Why can't we?

Thank you so much for taking the time to receive our thoughts on the importance of our future.

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