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Redondo Beach AES Power Plant: Wrong location at the wrong time in history

To whom it may concern:

Redondo Beach has been my home since 1996 and I love living in the Southbay.

There's one caveat, however: The AES power plant in Redondo unnecessarily makes my life a little less happy and a lot less healthful than it would be without a power plant at its current site. Virtually all of my friends and neighbors and most people that come to visit me here are asking the same question: Why on earth is this unsightly power plant right here, sitting on one of the most desirable pieces of real estate in the country?

I see the AES power plant every day and over the past 17 years I have not managed to get used to the sight of this industrial behemoth in the midst of one of Southern California's most densely populated neighborhoods and right on top a piece of land that could otherwise be the crown jewel of the Southbay area. I am also right in the line of exhaust fumes when the power plant operates.

I moved here from Germany and I frequently welcome people visiting me from overseas and from out of town; one of the first impressions that visitors get as they drive south on PCH (from LAX or from the 405 freeway) is the sight of the Redondo Beach power plant and the massive power lines leading up to it. Not surprisingly, one of the most common questions visitors are asking me is: "Why does this ugly power plant have to sit right here on this beautiful coastline?". The best answer I'm able to give is that it probably made sense when the power plant was first built on the site, long before the city was developed. That time is long over, however, and this is the right time to phase out a power plant at this location, which could generate so much more revenues for the city with a different land use - and it would certainly generate more happiness and health among the Southbay residents.

Thank you for considering the phasing out of this power plant.

Best regards,

Stephan Mayer