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December 16, 2014

Camille Remy-Obad Compliance Project Manager California Energy Commission 1516 Ninth Street, MS-2000 Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA EMAIL: camille.remy-obad@energy.ca.gov

RE:

Coastal Commission staff comments on El Segundo Power Redevelopment

Project Compliance (00-AFC-14C)

Dear Ms. Remy-Obad:

Thanks very much for inquiring about the Coastal Commission's participation in the above-referenced proceeding. As you know, the Commission provided its 30413(d) report on this project's original AFC proceeding in 2002. Since that time, the project has gone through several significant changes, including retiring its once-through cooling system and reducing its visual effects by lowering the facility's maximum heights, reducing its bulk, and screening or enclosing many of its components.

We have reviewed the relevant Conditions of Compliance in your October 2014 Final Staff Assessment ("FSA") Part A (CEC-700-2014-001-FSA-A), particularly those related to visual resources. As noted in the FSA, the CEC and project proponent have implemented many substantial elements of the visual enhancement conditions the Coastal Commission recommended during its initial AFC review in 2002. Although the site and facility continue to present a "visually degraded area," as identified by both the CEC and Coastal Commission during those original proceedings, the above-referenced project changes and the continued implementation of those visual enhancement conditions result in overall improved visual characteristics. We concur with CEC staff that the proposed visual conditions in the recent FSA will result in continued visual improvements for the project and the site, and will be consistent with the requirement of Coastal Act Section 30251 that permitted developments in visually degraded areas include measures to restore and enhance visual quality.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment in this current AFC proceeding. Please contact me at 415-904-5248 or <u>tluster@coastal.ca.gov</u> if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely

Tom Luster

Energy, Ocean Resources, and Federal Consistency Division