

DOCKETED

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From: Christian Shaughnessy <shaughnessychristian@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 8:10 PM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: San Gabriel 07-AFC-02, Committee Order Denying Applicant's Request for Additional Suspension and Granting Energy Commission Staff's Motion to Terminate

Dear Commissioners;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Committee Order Denying Applicant's Request for Additional Suspension and Granting Energy Commission Staff's Motion to Terminate for the proposed San Gabriel Generating Station (07-AFC-02). I fully support the Committee Order Denying Applicant's Request for Additional Suspension.

I live in San Bernardino, California, just 20 miles away from the Etiwanda Station. I have friends and family members who suffer from chronic asthma, lung cancer, and other diseases that are exacerbated from living in one of the worst places in the United States for air pollution. Not only does this air pollution damage our health but it even ruins something as simple as an afternoon jog or a gaze at the night sky by the sheer amount of contamination our air. Like so many other people who grow in impoverished areas, coping with horrendous air pollution, the denial of decent and easy cardiovascular exercise, or not being able to bask in the glory of the night sky are not things I and others chose to grow up with; it was the result of socioeconomic factors affecting our parents and families that were simply out of our control. However, in a time when green energies are becoming more and more efficient and politically palatable, the continued existence of the exceedingly common burden that is air pollution is not inevitable, it is a choice.

My community does not need a new gas plant. San Gabriel is proposed on the site of the current Etiwanda Generating Station. Etiwanda is old, dirty and mostly runs when our region's air is already unsafe to breathe—contributing to our terrible air quality. Our area has some of the worst air quality in the nation. The American Lung Association gave San Bernardino County an F grade for Ozone, Particle Pollution 24-hour, and Particle Pollution Annual, and according to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's environmental justice screening tool, the community around Etiwanda—my community—is one of the most polluted and overburdened in the entire state – ranking in the 91-95% percentile.

After being a neighbor to one gas plant for over 50 years, we have realized we need to replace this plant with reliable, affordable, and local clean energy—not another polluting gas plant. Etiwanda has valuable transmission capacity which should be used for clean energy. At 60 acres, the Etiwanda/San Gabriel site could be used for microgrids, energy storage or other projects that could provide good, green energy jobs and training opportunities for our community.

The San Gabriel application has been suspended for so long that the application is no longer accurate or relevant. For example, in the eight years San Gabriel has lingered at the Energy Commission with a complete application, air quality, water and traffic impacts have changed significantly. Indeed, from April to October 2013, we suffered from 182 dirty air days when smog was at levels believed to endanger public health. Dirty air days increased in 2014 to 193.

We and our community thank Energy Commission staff and Commissioners Douglas and Scott for terminating the application for San Gabriel. If the applicant wishes to pursue a new gas plant in a polluted area, they need to start fresh, with current environmental information, so the Energy Commission can understand and assess its impacts accurately and our community can participate in the process.

Sincerely,

Christian Thomas Shaughnessy

