

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	13-AFC-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Alamitos Energy Center
<b>TN #:</b>	210334-1
<b>Document Title:</b>	Proposed Landscaping Project, 7th Street and Studebaker Road Interchange Area
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	Patty Paul
<b>Organization:</b>	Stan Lintner
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6 February, 2016

REFERENCE: Alamitos Energy Center, Docket No. 13-AFC-01

SUBJECT: Proposed landscaping project, 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Studebaker Road interchange area

BACKGROUND: For 55 years the I-22/7<sup>th</sup> Street transition corridor just North of AGS has lived with the landscape blight that goes with this area having been classified by Caltrans as an Industrial Zone. Residents of Long Beach College Estates, the principal residential neighborhood affected have worked with Long Beach City officials and with Caltrans maintenance people in the past to clean up and improve the appearance of this area with some success but much remains to be done to bring the appearance of this area up to a level that would be considered fitting for a major highway corridor serving a city the size of Long Beach. Some years back Caltrans added minimal landscaping to the median of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and portions of the boundaries on the North side but it is just a beginning. This area, especially the loops adjacent to Studebaker Road is overgrown with ragweed for much of the year. It is sometime bush-hogged by Caltrans but it lies barren the rest of the year.

ARGUMENT:: The remodeled Alamitos Energy Station will have much less of the original "Industrial" look after the AGS rebuilding however the ambient noise level of the new facility could be a concern . The facility will be partially screened by existing trees from view of 7<sup>th</sup> St. These trees however, will not hide the eyesore commercial storage facility from view. This would be a good time for landscaping project that would relieve the blighted appearance of this part of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and bring it up to the standard of the remainder of 7<sup>th</sup> Street from Studebaker Road to Pacific Coast Highway. That includes the area in which Cal State Long Beach and Long Beach Veteran's Hospital are located.

PROPOSAL: . I hereby propose that, as a companion project to the remodeling of Alamitos AGS, certain landscaping be done by Caltrans as follows:

1. Complete the Caltrans landscaping on both sides of 7<sup>th</sup> Street between the bridge at the San Gabriel River and Studebaker Road.
2. Plant a line of trees along the South side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street which would help to reduce ambient noise level of the combustion turbines and screen the AGS and the commercial storage yard from view on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. See photo 6 for an example of a line of existing trees on the South side of the LADWP Haynes Steam Generating Plant which effectively screens this industrial site from view on Westminster Ave.

Stanley W. Lintner

783 Salida Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90815-5017

562-598-0278 [swlintner@charter.net](mailto:swlintner@charter.net)

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