

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Nate Pidduck

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Santa Clara River is volatile and fragile

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

I am writing to express my concern for the proposed MREC just days after FEMA updated their regulations for building in flood-prone areas. The following is from The Wall Street Journal:

“The FEMA regulations provide three options for construction projects using federal funds in flood-prone areas: build two feet above the 100-year floodplain level for standard projects, or 3 feet above for “critical action” projects such as hospitals or nursing homes; build to the 500-year floodplain; or use the best available scientific models which often combine flood records with other factors like sea-level rise data.”

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/fema-proposes-rules-that-push-rebuilding-after-floods-to-higher-ground-1471897537>

I would think a gas fired power plant as proposed by Calpine would fall under a category equal to or higher than “hospitals or nursing homes” that fall under the “critical action” category. I strongly urge the CEC to heed FEMA’s direction and deny the Mission Rock Road site located WITHIN the 100 year floodplain as a future site for a power plant.

While I don’t live near the proposed site or the Santa Clara River I do live along two other creeks in Santa Paula Canyon, Santa Paula Creek and Mud Creek, that flow into the Santa Clara River. Just in my lifetime (I am 38 years old) I have witnessed several severe storm and flooding events associated with all 3 of these rivers. I have seen, heard the amazing volume of water that can flow during storms. I have felt the ground shake as boulders the size of small cars roll down both Mud Creek and Santa Paula Creek. I have watched both fish ladders located in Santa Paula Creek destroyed by these rocks and the sheer volume of water that flows during storm events. Both ladders were designed to withstand such events as 100 year floods, but they did not. I have watched large swathes of land located along all 3 of these rivers fall into the rivers. Sometimes it was farmland, sometimes critical roadways and critical bridges, while other times the runway at the Santa Paula Airport. All of these these roadways, bridges, fish ladders, airports were designed and built to survive such storm events, but they did not. I see it irresponsible of the CEC to approve a power plant to be located in such a volatile and fragile Southern California river location.

I mentioned “in my lifetime” which is important because the same river flooding also occurred during my parents’ lifetime, and their parents’ lifetime, and their parents’ lifetime here in Santa Paula and Saticoy. It has been severe and it has been deadly. Storm swollen rivers that kill people, destroy homes, and wipe out property is unfortunately nothing new to our communities residents and the residents of our historic past.

I do not believe a hospital or a nursing home would be approved at this location. I cannot believe a power plant is being considered. Please listen to FEMA and listen to the community's residents when they say not to build critical infrastructure within the 100 year floodplain along the Santa Clara River.

Sincerely,

Nate Pidduck

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