

DOCKETED

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Document Title:	Declaration of Thomas Priestley in Support of Project Owner's Opening Testimony
Description:	Declaration of Thomas Priestley in Support of Project Owner's Opening Testimony (Visual Resources)
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**Declaration of
THOMAS PRIESTLEY, PH.D.
Huntington Beach Energy Project
(12-AFC-02C)**

I, **Thomas Priestley, Ph.D.**, declare as follows:

1. I am presently employed by CH2M Hill, Inc., under contract with AES Huntington Beach Energy, LLC to provide environmental consulting services for the Huntington Beach Energy Project (“HBEP”).
2. A copy of my professional qualifications and experience is attached hereto as **Attachment A** and incorporated by reference herein.
3. I prepared or caused to be prepared information related to **Visual Resources** and other general topics, as identified below, in support of the Petition to Amend for HBEP. Such information was either provided by me to consultants for incorporation of such data into documents or was based on my independent analysis of data from reliable documents and sources, as well as my professional experience and knowledge. Specifically, I prepared or caused to be prepared the following:
 - a. Petition to Amend, Section 5.13 (Visual Resources) and the related Appendices (TN# 206087), docketed September 9, 2015
 - b. Objections to Certain Data Responses Contained in CEC Staff’s Data Requests Set One (#A1-A74) (TN# 206807), docketed December 1, 2015
 - c. Data Responses, Set 1 (Responses to Data Requests 1-74) (TN# 206858), docketed December 7, 2015
 - d. Project Owner’s Follow-Up to Data Request Workshop 12.14.15 (TN# 207011), docketed December 14, 2015
 - e. Project Owner’s Response to City of Huntington Beach Comments on PTA (TN# 210262), docketed February 10, 2016
 - f. Letter Regarding Response to Conservancy (TN# 211411), docketed May 9, 2016
 - g. Project Owner’s Comments on the Preliminary Staff Assessment (TN# 212379), docketed July 21, 2016
4. It is my professional opinion that the information provided to the California Energy Commission related to the HBEP’s Petition to Amend proceeding is valid and accurate with respect to the issues addressed herein.
5. I am personally familiar with the facts and conclusions related in the testimony presented by me and, if called as a witness, could testify competently thereto.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated: 10/20/16

Thomas J. Priestley
Thomas Priestley, Ph. D.



Thomas Priestley, Ph.D., AICP/ASL

Visual Resources Specialist, Senior Environmental Planner

Education

Ph.D., Environmental Planning, Department of Landscape Architecture, UC Berkeley, 1988

M.C.P., City Planning, Department of City and Regional Planning, UC Berkeley, 1976

M.L.A., Environmental Planning, Department of Landscape Architecture, UC Berkeley, 1974

B.U.P., Urban Planning, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois, 1969

Professional Registrations

American Institute of Certified Planners (Certified Planner No. 008919)

American Planning Association

American Society of Landscape Architects

Distinguishing Qualifications

- Over 30 years of professional experience as a professional urban/environmental planner, university professor, and researcher
- Visual assessment specialist with involvement in over 100 visual assessment efforts
- Skilled in scoping aesthetic and urban design issues and in developing and implementing the appropriate analyses
- Experienced in the preparation of analyses that meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- Broad knowledge of methods used for siting electric generation, transmission, and substation facilities and mitigating their land use and aesthetic effects
- Has conducted widely cited research on the perceptions and property value impacts of electric transmission lines and has consulted on electric facility property value issues

Relevant Experience

Dr. Priestley has more than 30 years of professional experience in urban and environmental planning and visual resource assessment. He is known nationwide for his expertise in evaluating aesthetic, land use, property value, and public acceptance issues related to electric energy projects. His experience includes projecting community land use development trends to determine facility needs and optimal location; assessing land use and visual effects of proposed infrastructure facilities; conducting studies of public perceptions of project visual effects; evaluating the property value effects of electric transmission lines; and evaluating the shadow flicker effects of wind power projects. Through his project experience and research conducted for utility clients, Dr. Priestley has developed expertise in methods used for siting electric generation, transmission, and substation facilities and mitigating their land use, aesthetic, and other environmental effects. As editor or co-author, he has made major contributions to Edison Electric Institute (EEI) publications related to understanding and evaluating the environmental effects of electric facilities.

Representative Projects

Task Lead and Expert Witness; Various Clients; Visual Resource Impact Analyses of Gas-fired Power Plants, Various Locations, California. Evaluated potential visual resources impacts of more than 20 gas-fired power plants proposed for a variety of urban and rural settings in California. Identified visual issues, designed the analysis strategies, contributed to development of architectural and landscape treatments, prepared visual resources analyses for the AFCs for submittal to the CEC, reviewed and critiqued relevant sections of the

Thomas Priestley, Ph.D., AICP/ASL

Energy Commission's analyses of the projects, and evaluated the visual issues associated with CEC-proposed alternative sites. As an expert witness on visual resources, prepared written testimony and provided oral testimony in hearings before the CEC.

Task Lead; Calpine; Power Plant Fatal Flaw Analyses; Various California Locations. Conducted initial scoping of visual issues of candidates sites for the development of combined cycle power plants. Identified visual resource constraints on the use of the sites for a power plant and recommended siting and design measures to reduce visual impacts.

Task Lead and Expert Witness; Mid American Energy; Salton Sea Geothermal Unit 6; Imperial County, California. Assisted with the licensing of a 185-MW geothermal power plant, associated steam wells, and 31 miles of transmission line proposed for a site adjacent to the Salton Sea and the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. Conducted supplemental aesthetic analyses to respond to requests for additional information by the CEC, reviewed and critiqued the CEC Preliminary and Final Staff Assessments, and provided testimony at project workshops.

Senior Consultant and Expert Witness; Solar Reserve; Rice Solar Energy Project; Riverside County, California. Senior reviewer for the Application for Certification (AFC) visual resource analysis prepared by CH2M HILL's visual resources staff for a solar thermal project proposed by for development on 3,325 acres of privately owned land on the site of the former Rice Army Airfield in the Mojave Desert region of eastern Riverside County. Provided expert testimony before the California Energy Commission (CEC), leading to a determination by the CEC that the aesthetic impacts of the project would be less than significant.

Senior Consultant and Expert Witness; Bright Source Energy; Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System; San Bernardino County, California. Senior reviewer for the AFC visual resource analysis prepared for a solar thermal project proposed by for development on 3,400 acres of federal land managed by BLM that are located in the desert region of eastern San Bernardino County, approximately 5 miles southwest of Primm, Nevada. Prepared detailed studies of impacts of project on views from nearby Wilderness and National Monument lands and provided expert witness testimony on the visual resources issues before the CEC.

Task Lead; Southern California Edison (SCE); Tehachapi Renewables Transmission Project; Southern California. Technical lead for the analysis the visual impacts of a proposed 190-mile, 500-kV transmission line. The route traversed a diverse and complex set of landscapes that include open lands in the Antelope Valley, National Forest lands in the San Gabriel Mountains valued for their recreational and scenic importance, and highly developed urban areas in the San Gabriel Valley. Designed the analysis strategy that was implemented by a team of five CH2M HILL visual resource specialists, who were supported by CH2M HILL planners and GIS, visual simulation, graphics, and report production staff.

Task Lead; Dominion Energy; Visual Impact of Cooling Tower Alternatives for the Manchester Street Generating Station; Providence, Rhode Island. Evaluated the visual impacts of alternative cooling tower options considered for a large combined cycle gas-fired power plant located at a visually prominent site on the Providence waterfront. Scoped the issues, directed the preparation of analytic maps, identified and photo documented critical viewpoints, and directed the production of visual simulations depicting the three alternative cooling tower structures and the steam plumes associated with them. Evaluated the visual impacts of the alternatives on the critical viewpoints, and prepared a report documenting the analysis for submission to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.