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Comment Received From: James Vollaro

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Reject the Puente Project

Mr. Hearing Officer and California Energy Commissioners,

New information about renewable energy alternatives including solar power and energy storage demonstrates that the gas-fired Puente Project will not be needed.

Low-income Oxnard residents already suffering from high asthma rates currently breathe the exhaust from three fossil-fuel power plants. Approving a 4th plant would be a great social injustice.

The grossly polluting Puente Power Plant would be constructed atop a rare 2-acre coastal wetland that is surrounded by ancient and environmentally sensitive coastal dunes and unique plants and wildlife. Initially undisclosed by the developer, biologists just recently discovered numerous protected species living on and around the proposed site. Protected peregrine falcons are nesting, feeding, and raising young on the site, as are great horned owls. Federally-threatened snowy plovers and endangered California least terns nest in critical habitat on three sides of the site.

This power plant is not needed for public safety or grid reliability. An industrial facility of this nature should never be built on the coast where sea level rise will eventually submerge it. Please deny this ill-conceived project as we Californians look to a brighter fossil free future.

Sincerely,

James Vollaro