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Oppose NRG Puente Power Project (p3)

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

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RE: Puente Power Plant Mandalay Beach, Oxnard

This is a statement of opposition to the proposed Puente Power Project (P3) to be situated at 393 North Harbor Boulevard, Oxnard, California 93035.

The first concern is the continued use of fossil fuels for electrical generation. Humans have been engaged in planetary engineering since the inception of the industrial revolution in the early 19th century. We have been pumping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and have been overloading the carbon cycle so that CO₂ concentrations have risen in exponential relation. Climate has changed as a result. California has just experienced a 1200 year drought, large areas of the western United States have experienced forest fires, low lying areas of the globe have experienced flooding due to storms, tides and sea level rise. Population disruption through refugee flight from central Africa to Europe and from Syria to other countries worldwide has had a genesis in climate. Ocean surface temperatures have increased leading not only to more powerful storms but also coral bleaching which could result in ecosystem collapse. Greenland glaciers are rapidly melting as is sea ice at the North Pole and icebergs the size of states break off the Antarctic ice sheet. Methane gas bubbles from the ocean depths as methane ice phase changes due to temperature increase. Parts of the Siberian tundra are erupting as near surface methane ice phase changes to gas. Methane is known to have a greenhouse effect 80% greater than carbon dioxide and global levels have risen in an echo of the carbon dioxide curve as measured in ice core samples. Unknown consequences arising from chaotic dynamics of Earth systems has been an argument made against planetary engineering. Yet we continue to engage in similar activity without any plan.

The Ventura County Planning Commission recently approved additional oil well activity near Oxnard. A checklist dated December 1986 as a Mitigated Negative Declaration was submitted in the planning documents. Natural gas operations can generate significant emissions. Newer technologies can allow near zero emissions. No detailed description of the glycol desiccation process was provided. Atmospheric emissions know no jurisdictional boundaries. If older technology is used by the operator Oxnard might likely experience decreased air quality. Natural gas is cleaner than coal but still emits some pollutants. Oxnard residents can only guess that increased oil field activity along with the pecker plant is likely to further degrade air quality. No studies have been proposed to qualify the chemicals, the quantity emitted, interaction with the environment and duration of activity of emissions from these operations.

The use of renewables should be a first option. Cost has been cited as a barrier. It has long been debated that our current economic models do not consider the costs of environmental degradation, impaired health status and other negative factors related to industrial activity. These long term consequences should be considered as part of total costs.

Our current and future children and grandchildren will ask why we could not wean ourselves from our fossil fuel addiction when they have inherited a compromised world.

Thank you:
Jon Huycke