

DOCKETED

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OTC plant at Ormond Beach

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



COUNTY OF VENTURA
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Fifth District

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August 9, 2023

David Hochschild, Chair
California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

To the California Energy Commission:

I am contacting you today to ask that you reject the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) proposal to contract with the once-through cooling (OTC) plant at Ormond Beach in Oxnard for three additional years. As someone who lives in and represents the district where Ormond Beach is located, I know firsthand the negative impacts to our health, resources, and environment.

As a Councilmember in the City of Oxnard in 2020, I supported the extension of operation of the plant in Ormond Beach as it allowed the City to establish an independent trust fund to dismantle the power plant upon its closure. Additional extensions will not only cause distrust from the public who opposed the extension approved by the City Council in 2020, but also continue to put the lives of Oxnard residents, the environment, and our entire community at risk.

I hope you will consider investing in clean energy alternatives such as community solar and storage, zero-emission microgrids, and energy efficiency. If there are options for the \$1.2 billion of the Strategic Reliability Reserve, I encourage you to support projects that will help vulnerable communities transition to clean energy resources and bring them environmental justice.

We must prioritize the health of our environment and people, particularly those in the underserved communities near Ormond Beach. I respectfully request the Commission work towards solutions and provisions that will allow for the retirement of the OTC plant at Ormond Beach, rather than approving more extensions, so that the City can begin the dismantling process for the benefit of our people in Ventura County and our environment.

Sincerely,

Vianey Lopez
Supervisor, Fifth District