



Rudy Ramirez  
Councilman

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*Raoul Renaud*

<b>DOCKET</b>	
<b>07-AFC-4</b>	
DATE	DEC 11 2007
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December 11, 2007

Honorable Chairman Jackalyne Pfannenstiel  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioner Pfannenstiel:

Recently, the first public hearing concerning the proposed Chula Vista Energy Upgrade Project was held in Chula Vista. As the only member of the Chula Vista City Council living in the Southwest portion of the city, I am writing today to express my deep concerns over this project and voice my strong objections to the current proposal. This new power plant is not just a simple expansion; it is a new plant more than twice the size of the original, with the potential to emit significantly more pollution. I am deeply concerned about many of the issues raised by this new power plant proposal and its impacts on community health.

Southwest Chula Vista is very close to my heart. This is the portion of the city where I live and am raising my family. In addition to being a City Councilman, I am also a small business owner. I understand the need for stable and secure energy for our city, but I also know that we do not have to sacrifice our community health for energy projects such as this. We have other choices and there are viable alternatives.

The power plant's application leaves many questions unanswered. Unfortunately, it does not appear that all the alternative locations and technologies have been fully evaluated. In addition, the health impacts on the nearby community must be fully evaluated. The increase in property taxes and electricity are important considerations, but we cannot put such concerns ahead of the health and well-being of our residents.


Furthermore, I have serious concerns regarding the environmental justice impacts of this project. The residents living within one mile of the project are 81% people of color and almost 16% living below the federal poverty level. Residences are only a few hundred feet away and there is an elementary school close by. Our community is looking to the CEC to protect our residents' health.

I am also very concerned about the precedent this project would set and its policy implications. Before my election to the city council, I was on the steering committee for the recent update of the Chula Vista General Plan. Therefore, I particularly object to the fact that this power plant violates many of the policies adopted in the general plan. With many of my neighbors and constituents, we worked hard to set these important policies to ensure that residences and schools would not be threatened by close proximity of heavy industrial uses like power plants. I am very disappointed to see that the proposed MMC peaker plant undermines these important city policies.

I request that my office be kept apprised of progress of this proposal. I also request that all future meetings offer Spanish-English translation and that they are held in Southwest Chula Vista during hours when local residents can attend.

For the reasons described above, I am opposed to permitting this power plant as it is presently submitted. Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Rudy Ramirez  
Councilman