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Assembly California Legislature



SHIRLEY HORTON
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October 2, 2008

Ms. Jackalyne Pfannenstiel, Chair
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

DOCKET	
07-AFC-4	
DATE	OCT 0 2 2008
RECD.	OCT 0 6 2008

RE: Chula Vista Energy Upgrade Project (07-AFC-4)

Dear Commissioner Pfannenstiel:

I am writing to convey my support for MMC Energy's proposed Chula Vista Energy Upgrade Project (CVEUP), whose application is undergoing your approval process. This proposal to upgrade the existing Chula Vista Peaker represents a progressive step for the City of Chula Vista.

As you know, the proposal calls for the replacement of existing older and less efficient technology with newer, more efficient, and cleaner technology. The upgraded peaker would increase generating capacity, thus helping us meet the region's ever increasing energy demand without increasing emissions. The choice here is not between siting a new plant or having no plant; rather, it is between improving an existing plant or leaving the old plant intact.

From an energy perspective, San Diego County is a heavily constrained region that is in critical need of additional reliable energy resources. This peaker upgrade presents Chula Vista with the opportunity to supply approximately 60,000 homes with an ample supply of energy when the power grid is at capacity. This peaker's generating capacity protects local homes, businesses, schools, health care centers, and other community resource structures from power interruptions, such as blackouts and brownouts.

I was very pleased to learn that the CVEUP, along with other energy resources in the region, would contribute to the removal of the South Bay Power Plant's Reliability Must-Run Status. While the peaker is not the sole solution, it should not be dismissed as insignificant. One of Chula Vista's highest priorities is removing the large power plant from our bayfront. To the extent the CVEUP helps us achieve that goal; the peaker will indirectly improve the health and environment of our community.

When I was mayor of Chula Vista in 2001, the City, along with the rest of the state of California faced the threat of an energy crisis. That threat remains as long as we fail to take the necessary

steps to address it. Chula Vista must continue to pro-actively ensure its energy future with more efficient and reliable power resources. The CVEUP is a sensible and progressive step in the right direction.

Chula Vista has practiced responsible energy policies and continues to do so under the leadership of Mayor Cheryl Cox and the City Council. I respectfully urge the California Energy Commission to concur with its staff's recommendation and approve MMC Energy's application for its proposed Chula Vista Energy Upgrade Project.

Sincerely,



Shirley Horton
Assembly Member
California State Assembly, 78th District

cc: Commissioner James D. Boyd, Vice Chair
Commissioner Arthur H. Rosenfeld
Commissioner Jeffery Byron
Commissioner Karen Douglas, J.D.
Raoul Renaud, Hearing Officer
Christopher Meyer, Project Manager