

April 13, 2009

James D. Boyd, Vice Chair & Presiding Committee Member
Raoul Renaud, Hearing Officer
California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 98514

DOCKET

07-AFC-4

DATE APR 13 2009

RECD. APR 20 2009

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

Dear Commissioners:

We the undersigned strongly urge you to consider the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) and Final Staff Assessment (FSA) recommendations for approval of the certification of the Chula Vista Energy Upgrade Project (CVEUP) application and the present and future energy needs of this region when making your final determination. We believe that this project is an important step in meeting our energy needs in a responsible manner from the perspectives of reliability and a reduced impact upon the environment.

We have an antiquated baseline power plant obstructing and polluting our beautiful Bayfront that everyone has agreed needs to be taken down. Unfortunately the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) has designated the South Bay Power Plant (SBPP) with reliability-must run (RMR) status. Unless the City comes up with the additional megawatts (MW) necessary to replace the SBPP it will continue to run indefinitely. We also have an inefficient peaker with 70's technology in Southwest Chula Vista that provides needed backup energy when the energy grid is at peak capacity to keep the lights on in our homes and businesses. Fortunately, MMC is proposing to replace this antiquated peaker with new state-of-the art technology that will run much cleaner and efficient while provide additional capacity to meet the City's growing demand while also earn credits towards the removal of the SBPP.

The opposition would have everyone think that this is a *new siting* of a major toxic power plant that is being placed next to homes and schools when it's simply not true. These projects even when they are replacements of older, dirtier facilities can be very challenging to permit because anyone from the public can say anything they want without any accountability to the facts. All of the governmental agencies that have the responsibility to protect the welfare of the citizens and our environment have provided clearances for this project such as the California Energy Commission (CEC) Staff, San Diego Air Pollution Control District (APCD), and the Chula Vista Elementary School District (CVESD). The California Union for Reliable Energy (CURE) also gave its support.

This CVEUP offers great economic benefits to the City at a time when businesses are shutting down and people are losing their homes. In addition to its \$80 million capital investment the peaker will generate over \$10 million in tax increments that will be dedicated to fund four projects in Southwest Chula Vista worth \$13.2 million. These projects (corridor enhancement, drainage improvement, Community Park, and community connectivity) were specifically selected by the Southwest Community during public workshops and meetings.

We the people of South County strongly urge the approval of the CVEUP by your commission.

Sincerely,

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