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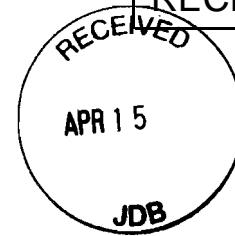
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DATE APR 02 2009

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April 2, 2009

Commissioner James Boyd
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
Fax: 916-653-3478
Email: melliott@energy.state.ca.us



Re: CEC-800-2009-001-PMPD

Dear Commissioner Boyd,

I am writing on behalf of Californians concerned with climate change and electrical generation costs. I am a member of the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club and reside near Fresno, CA.

I support the preliminary decision the California Energy Commission recently issued regarding the Chula Vista Energy Upgrade Project. I agree that the project should be denied. Solar photovoltaic technology may in fact be a more cost effective way to meet the peaking power need. Moreover, the cost of PV is coming down rapidly and will soon replace LNG as the most cost effective source of electrical generation. With this decision, the Commission has set an historic precedent, in that any peaking power project proposed in California will need to demonstrate that it is more cost effective than solar PV.

PV is a viable alternative to peak time fossil fuel generation, especially in an area such as San Diego county, which has ample solar resources. It is most robust during peak need times, when the sun is shining. Unlike a natural gas peaking plant, solar PV does not add to local pollution, does not emit greenhouse gases, and does not kill fish. Its further development will help move the state towards its mandated goals of renewable energy development and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

In addition, the cost of solar PV is now competitive with natural gas generated electricity. A February 2009 study by the Lawrence Berkeley Lab of installed costs of solar photovoltaic (PV) power systems in the U.S. shows that the average cost of these systems declined significantly from 1998 to 2007.

I am heartened to learn that the California Energy Commission is taking steps which will further reduce these costs and help speed the widespread adoption of solar photovoltaics as a viable peak energy source.

Respectfully Yours,


Charles Ashley