

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553-4068

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Contra
Costa
County

DOCKET	
09-AFC-3	
DATE	APR 13 2010
RECD.	APR 26 2010

David J. Twa
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1080



RECEIVED

APR 21 2010

April 13, 2010

Commissioner Jeffrey Byron, Presiding Member
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: Mariposa Energy Project Power Plant Licensing Case (Docket #09-AFC-03)

Dear Mr. Byron,

Contra Costa County would like to thank the California Energy Commission (CEC) for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed Mariposa Energy Power Plant project. The proposed project would be located in Alameda County approximately 2.6 miles southeast of Contra Costa County's Byron Airport.

In the early 1980's Contra Costa County identified the need for a second airport site within its boundaries. Contra Costa County operated a large reliever airport, called Buchanan Field, in Concord. The previously privately operated Byron Airpark was ultimately selected by Contra Costa County as the site for the new Byron Airport. With more than \$21,000,000 of Federal, State and County funding the new Byron Airport was constructed and opened to the public in 1994.

Byron Airport is currently home to more than 100 aircraft ranging in size from ultra-light to medium size corporate jet aircraft. The airfield is also home to the Northern California Soaring Association (gliders) and Bay Area Skydiving (parachute) operations. There are numerous flight training operators in the Bay Area that utilize Byron Airport for flight training purposes. The Airport has approximately 50,000 annual operations.

We believe Byron Airport is, and will continue to develop as, a significant part of the transportation system in Contra Costa County and the region. As a result, we want to ensure, prior to approval, that the proposed Mariposa Energy Power Plant project will not degrade the safety or utility of the Byron Airport.

Ms. Julia Levin, Commissioner
April 13, 2010
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We request that evidence be provided showing that the FAA has cleared the project and does not have concerns about safety associated with over-flight of industrial exhaust plumes and placement of power plants near airports. Further we request evidence that the project:

- Will not interfere with air navigation and will not pose a hazard to aeronautical activities due to its close proximity to the main precision instrument runway (Runway 30) nor hinder future instrument approach upgrades to any runway
- Will not pose a hazard to aeronautical activities due to its close proximity to the established Byron Airport traffic pattern, both downwind leg and 45 degree pattern entrance, for Runways 5 and 23. As well as the departure path for Runway 12;
- The project will not pose a hazard to any of the various aeronautical activities at Byron Airport that include vintage military jet aircraft, corporate jet aircraft, single and twin piston aircraft, light sport aircraft, motorized parasail, ultra-light and skydiving;
- Meets all standards set forth in the Byron Airport Master Plan

We acknowledge that the Byron Municipal Advisory Committee reviewed the project and supported it as a way of attracting local, high wage jobs and increasing local purchasing in Contra Costa County. Thank you for addressing the concerns identified above. We look forward to working with the California Energy Commission as this project moves forward.

Yours Truly,



John Gioia
Chair, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

cc: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Alameda County Board of Supervisors
David Twa, County Administrator
Keith Freitas, Director of Airports
Contra Costa County Airport Land Use Commission
Alameda County Airport Land Use Commission
Aviation Advisory Committee
Byron Municipal Advisory Committee