

## Docket Optical System - 11-AFC-3 Quail Brush Power Generation siting case

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**To:** <esolorio@energy.state.ca.us>  
**Date:** 2/29/2012 8:48 PM  
**Subject:** 11-AFC-3 Quail Brush Power Generation siting case

<b>DOCKET</b>	
<b>11-AFC-3</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	FEB 29 2012
<b>RECD.</b>	MAR 08 2012

This email is in regards to 11-AFC-3 Quail Brush Power Generation siting case.

I recently heard about the proposed Quail Brush Generation Plant that Cogentrix is trying to build in Santee. This project would cause significant harm to both the community of Santee and the open-space preserves of Mission Trails Regional Park and Sycamore Canyon.

I moved to Santee about five years ago because it is a pleasant, quiet town and to have this "peaker" plant installed just down the road is infuriating to me! If this power plant is installed as proposed, it will be located just 1500 feet outside our city limits and the exhaust will travel eastward over a high school football field, a little league ball field, and into homes in the surrounding area that house young children and elderly people, plus some with respiratory problems as well. It is way too dangerous, directly across the street from a public park and a school, in which these people and others would be subjected to the toxins released from the smoke stacks. Additionally, it would be literally right across the freeway from Mission Trails Regional Park, the largest open space preserve available to the citizens in our county. This has a significant amount of miles of hiking, biking, and horse riding trails that are used by numerous residents and tourists each and every day. It is a true natural treasure to the people who live in and visit San Diego, it should be cherished. It's just plain immoral to put these people and animals in jeopardy.

In addition to the toxins and pollutants that will come from these smokestacks, I am extremely troubled about the noise that will be radiating outward from the power plant. I've seen the chart designating the area for the noise levels of 65-70 dB (A) and greater. I have personal experience with audiograms (hearing tests) and appropriate noise levels and this is just not an acceptable level for people to be exposed to long term. Environmental noise regulations usually specify a maximum outdoor noise level of 60 to 65 dB (A). This would definitely cause long term damage to the ear drum, which means permanent hearing loss. Once you lose your hearing, it's permanent, you can't get it back. It will be a nuisance for the neighboring homes because so many residents rely on the

quiet for using natural ventilation to cool their homes. With houses, schools and people in the park, plus the animals for that matter this close, it's just not acceptable to put them at risk for this. Additionally, I have read that selected studies have shown that approximately 35 to 40% of workers in office settings find noise levels from 55 to 60 dB (A) to be extremely irritating, and this is below the stated noise level for the power plant. I've also read that noise can have a detrimental effect on animals, increasing the risk of death by changing the delicate balance in predator or prey detection and avoidance, and interfering the use of the sounds in communication especially in relation to reproduction and in navigation. I'm also very concerned with the risk involved for the habitat of the endangered or threatened birds the California gnatcatcher, Least Bell's vireo, and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, plus the endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly. Please allow our community to preserve their habitat to allow them some possibility of recovery.

Water conservation has been a top priority for Southern California due to periodic droughts. Padre Dam Municipal Water District encourages its customers to become more water efficient and reduce water use. Yet this power plant wants to abuse what little water our community actually has to cool its big engines. It's not being resourceful for our community for the power plant to use so much of our water. Our region relies on imported water, as it is approximately eighty percent of the water supply for San Diego County is imported from the Bay-Delta in Northern California and from the Colorado River, over 240 miles away. We do not need this power plant using up the precious water we have.

The proposed production rate is tenuous at best. Cogentrix, the company spear heading this project has stated a 43 percent rate while admitting that 58 percent is most probable. It would be appreciated if the commission would consider that this plant will probably run at 100 percent in an effort to recoup the \$150 million investment they would be making.

Lastly, with the vast open spaces that make up the majority of the county of San Diego, why can't Cogentrix find a more appropriate and less devastating location to build their power plant? There certainly must be a location that would not cause such detriment to the residents of San Diego County. There is a grass roots citizen involvement growing as more and more citizens are finding out about this project and are getting more and more concerned, and are willing to put up a fight. On Docket 11-AFC-3 dated November 30, 2011 the City of San Diego notes that there are land use issues,

noise level issues, visual quality issues, socioeconomic issues, AIR QUALITY and other global issues, hazardous materials, not to mention archeological area resources, local biology, waste management and most important Water resources. We the citizens of Santee are tired of being San Diego's dumping ground for projects that adversely affect our quality of life. I beg of you as a concerned resident of San Diego county, deny Cogentrix's request to build the Quail Brush Power Plant next to Santee. This is not a project that this community wants or needs. Please consider a **\*\*No Project Alternative** that considers conservation strategies. **\*\***

Very Respectfully,

Elizabeth Frice

A Very Concerned Santee citizen