

Docket Optical System - CEC record-Docket #11-AFC-03 Quail Brush Power Generation Siting Case - opposed

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Subject: CEC record-Docket #11-AFC-03 Quail Brush Power Generation Siting Case - opposed
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Please add me to the list of concerned citizens who oppose the proposed Quail Brush Generation Plant. My three main concerns and additional note are the following:

1. Environmental Health – Santee, the community nearest and downwind of the 11-tower/11 engine plant, is already heavily affected by pollution, as Santee citizens are downwind from the freeways I-5, 805, 15, Hwy 163 and Route 52 ; daily the offshore smog settles into our valley. From San Diego city's highest peak Cowles Mountain, I commonly look down and see the smog in our valley, even on some windy, wintery days. On the many days that the inland valleys of San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD)'s Air Quality Index (AQI) are listed as "unhealthy for sensitive populations," my respiration is compromised. This is compounded for people who have more severe asthma, the elderly, and young people. Even with mitigation, the increased CO, VOCs, Sulfur, particulate matter, and ammonia will aggravate these environmental health problems. The siting of this plant is inappropriate, especially for those of us who suffer from illnesses aggravated by air pollution.

In relation to this, the proposed Quail Brush Generation Plant must be evaluated at 100% usage, not 43% usage. Even the plant's application states the 43% usage will increase as need demands.

2. Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) – Recreational

This beautiful urban park, with its dramatic gorge, rugged hills, waterfalls, and awesome vistas, is so impressive that it is commonly mistaken for a national park. Our city San Diego can take pride that we are one of few cities providing a local natural respite and healthy balance for the urban community. Mission Trails is very popular everyday and especially on weekends as families, scout troops, birdwatchers, mountain bikers, rock climbers, hikers, and people like you and me getting out for some fresh air and exercise enjoy the park. Here youth learn about the natural and cultural heritage of their community. From the Grasslands Area, the Equestrian Staging Area, the very popular Kumeyaay Campground and Lake, and from trails all around Oak Canyon, Kway Paay, etc., the expansive views provide needed relief and inspiration to city dwellers. People come to this park from other cities and

states and marvel at the views. The MTRP website states it is “one of the three gems of San Diego – along with Balboa Park and Mission Bay.” I agree and so do the dozens of park users I’ve talked to about this. Simply put: Don’t build an industrial power plant by a natural/recreational park; it doesn’t make sense.

3. Mission Trails Regional Park – Natural

In addition to its educational and recreational uses, MTRP’s mission states it is “in partnership with the City of San Diego to preserve and protect the natural environment.” The Park’s Master Plan correctly identifies the “vast majority of East Elliott Community Plan Area” (site location) as “identified for preservation as part of the Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) process” and recommends “a network of multi-use trails are envisioned within East Elliott over time.” Nowhere in the Plan do we read about a re-zoning to industrial for a power plant location. Of course not, this is contrary to the Master Plan, the MTRP Mission, and the City of San Diego’s own MSCP. As it is integral to wildlife preservation, via open space and wildlife corridors, and for rare plants and animals, including but not exclusively, federally endangered species, the plant site and nearby open spaces must remain in their natural state.

Additional Note: Our energy supply has been consistent and efficient. I have been living in San Diego for several decades and do not recall blackouts caused by overload; growth may be projected, but in fact may or may not actually occur. Granted, I am not an energy supply expert. On the other hand, I’m concerned that investor-owned utilities may consider shareholder profits and convenience over environmental health and community concerns. I urge the CEC to implement the No Project Alternative which considers conservation strategies.

Sandy Kuntz
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