

October 15, 2012

Eric Solorio
Project Manager
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission (CEC)
1516 Ninth Street, MS-2000
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Energy Commission

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OCT. 17 2012

Dear Mr. Solorio:

On October 16, the CEC will be asked to discuss whether or not the Quail Brush Generation Project (Quail Brush) is required for public convenience and necessity. I strongly believe the project is needed for reliability purposes. I have reached this conclusion based on my years of experience as a renewable energy developer.

The state of California has mandated that San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) and other utilities supply 33 percent renewable energy by 2020. I applaud this goal, and I am confident that SDG&E will be able to reach it. For SDG&E to meet this goal, however, they will need quick start facilities like Quail Brush to ensure reliability. Peaker plants will perform a vital function by filling in when there are dips in renewable energy production. According to the National Renewables Energy Laboratory, solar PV has a capacity factor of about 22.5 percent, and wind has a capacity factor of 36 percent. Quail Brush will help keep the lights on when peak demand occurs during the times when wind and solar stop generating. Quail Brush is contracted to run up to 43 percent of the time to make sure there is grid stability and reliability throughout our entire region.

I believe renewable energy resources such as solar energy will be a huge part of San Diego's future, but many people do not realize that energy demand no longer peaks in the early afternoon when the sun is shining. Peak demand is now occurring in the late afternoon and into the early evening when solar power is no longer available. We need Quail Brush to ensure reliability during those times.

The public status conference you will be holding on October 16 is an essential time to discuss the necessity for the Quail Brush Generation Project. Please use the time to consider this important project and the positive impact it will have on San Diego. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Brit Coupens
San Diego