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Sent: Monday, October 15, 2012 2:35 PM

To: Solorio, Eric@Energy

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Subject: CEC record - docket #11-AFC-03 Quali Brush Power Generation Siting Case

I am writing you in response to the ill-conceived idea to place a power plant in the middle of our Mission Trails Regional Park -- what an abomination it would be to degrade the only natural park of its magnitude in the city of San Diego.

As I'm sure you're aware, Mission Trails answers the outdoor needs for many recreationalists: hikers, bicyclists, walkers, rock climbers, school children learning about Kumiyaaay heritage. This regional park also serves as a corridor for wildlife moving through our county -- a great deal of effort (aka the Multiple Species Act and corresponding conservation areas) has gone into protecting swathes of land that allow wildlife to maintain a healthy population in a natural habitat.

A power plant is a completely inappropriate use for Mission Trails Regional Park, and the proposed QBGP is not compatible with many of the City of San Diego's laws, ordinances, regulations and standards.

Every year I volunteer to lead 3rd graders along the San Diego River, introducing them to the beauty of the riparian zones, the plants, the vistas -- for many of them, it's their first time in a natural setting. Mission Trails is the perfect park for this endeavor, since it is close to schools and such a pristine chaparral environment.

I also am a backpack trainer and wilderness trip leader for our San Diego Girl Scout Council. The first class in our progression is a wilderness hiking class that trains girls and adults in outdoor skills -- and features the beautiful hills, creeks and waterfalls of Mission Trails Regional Park. It may not be a wilderness -- like Yosemite's back country -- but it is no less valuable to us San Diegans, since it's all we have got in the way of natural beauty within our city limits.

As southern Californians, we have learned to be flexible when it comes to changing landscapes. Wildfires frequently change the land, and we outdoor people adapt; we learn to appreciate the wildflowers that erupt after the flames, and optimistically watch nature re-assert itself after a cataclysmic event. But there's no merit in wrecking a valuable regional park with a power plant, and no chance for nature to reclaim itself if San Diego's voice rejecting QBGP isn't heard.

I urge you reject this proposal by choosing the No Project Alternative, and to uphold the City of San Diego LORS.

Sincerely,
Valerie Ross
El Cajon, CA 92019