

DOCKETED
11-AFC-03**Energy - Docket Optical System**

From: Theresa McCarthy [theresamcc@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2013 12:54 PM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: 11-AFC-03 – Oppose Quail Brush Power Plant.

TN # 69440

FEB. 08 2013

Categories: Ready to Docket

CEC Docket: Please add my letter below and the Commentary to the Case Docket of 11-AFC-03/Quail Brush. Thank you.

From: theresamcc@msn.com
To: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov
Subject: CPUC Case A1105023 - Public Comment
Date: Fri, 8 Feb 2013 12:48:15 -0800

February 8, 2013

Subject: Support CPUC Proposed Decision A1105023 and Prevent GHG Emissions from un-needed power plants and ratepayer rip-off in San Diego County

CPUC Commissioners,

I join the more than 8,000 Californians that have contacted the CPUC to support the Proposed Decision regarding three un-needed power plants in San Diego County.

The Proposed Decision, if adopted, can prevent the emission of over 900,000 annual tons of greenhouse gases by denying purchase power tolling agreements. The most significant of these plants are Pio Pico, estimated to release 685,000 annual tons of GHGs and Quail Brush with over 200 annual tons.

Just this morning an impressive Commentary was published at the main local newspaper. It is copied below in it's entirety and available at this link: <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/feb/08/tp-more-fossil-fuel-power-plants-unnecessary/?page=2#article-copy>

The public would be saddled with at least \$1.2 billion in construction and finance costs for Pio Pico and Quail Brush in exchange for only 23 permanent jobs.

In stark contrast, [a San Diego Energy District plan](#) to accelerate the adoption of distributed roof top solar can create thousands of clean energy jobs that keep funds circulating locally.

The energy industry is lobbying heavily to get the CPUC Proposed Decision reversed. So, we are asking you to protect the public interest by formally supporting the Proposed Decision at the CPUC.

Sincerely,
--Theresa McCarthy

Cc: Gov. Brown and CEC Docket 11-AFC-03

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Feb 7, 2013 Commentary at San Diego Union Tribune:

MORE FOSSIL-FUEL POWER PLANTS UNNECESSARY

By Nicole Capretz 12:01 a.m.Feb. 8, 2013Updated4:40 p.m.Feb. 7, 2013

Last week, we watched the implosion of the South Bay Power Plant – just one day after the California Public Utilities Commission heard public comments on two new SDG&E-proposed fossil fuel power plants in San Diego.

We’re playing a game of Whack-a-Mole with our regional energy policy at ratepayers’ expense. Though the demolition of the South Bay Power Plant is striking, we can’t let SDG&E continue to turn a blind eye to the reasons why we don’t need that plant anymore.

Reliance on fossil fuels has led to an Orwellian-esque era where each year is becoming the hottest on record and we are suffering through a series of costly and deadly weather events. In San Diego, Scripps Institution of Oceanography warns us to expect hotter and more humid midsummer heat waves that are worse than many inland areas while freshwater in the Southwest is becoming scarcer and our oceans are rising faster than expected.

So why is SDG&E proposing to build unneeded fossil-fuel power plants using the expensive, dirty and outdated centralized power plant model when we’re barely scratching the surface of our clean energy and smart- grid potential?

San Diego deserves better than this.

On top of the harmful impacts to public health and our climate from the greenhouse gases, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide that would be emitted by these two power plants, the nearly \$1.6 billion price tag of the power plants would be passed on to ratepayers over the next 20 years, according to the California Energy Commission.

Perhaps what’s most perplexing about SDG&E’s proposal, though, is that the energy from these plants is not even needed, according to both the administrative law judge and the lead California public utilities commissioner for the proceeding. Both have issued proposed decisions denying the plants due to lack of need.

Even without San Onofre coming back online, SDG&E has ample power reserves to “keep the lights on.” On the hottest day of the year last September, SDG&E had approximately 24 percent more energy than was needed. Further, the state agency that manages our energy grid, the California Independent System Operator, said the way to address the San Onofre shutdown was through fixes to our transmission lines, not construction of new power plants.

Our regional leadership must embrace a strategy that prioritizes building a better future for our children by integrating demand management strategies, conservation, local clean-energy generation and energy storage into a smart, modern grid that benefits all communities in San Diego.

In fact, San Diego is on the cutting edge in this arena already. SDG&E proudly announced smart-grid breakthroughs just last week that will allow it to prevent blackouts and integrate renewable resources

seamlessly. UCSD has its own nationally recognized microgrid – an on-site energy generation, distribution and management network that balances renewable energy, electric vehicles, storage and demand management. The microgrid is connected to SDG&E’s grid but can disconnect and operate independently in “islanded mode” as needed, such as during the SDG&E blackout of September 2011, giving UCSD energy independence and security. Our local military bases are also investing in this new smart-grid/microgrid approach to maximize the security and reliability of their energy needs. Naval Base Coronado and the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar are both pursuing these new solutions/grid independence.

Environmental Health Coalition knows from our recent educational efforts within the local communities that small changes to our daily habits can result in drastic reduction in energy use.

With a newly elected Mayor Bob Filner in the city of San Diego and other progressive elected officials who have pledged to pave a new pathway for our energy future, we are excited to build a new energy paradigm as part of San Diego’s innovation economy. We look forward to working with our partners in local government, labor, the business community, the military and our educational institutions to create local, family-wage, career-track jobs while reducing our carbon footprint and protecting the health of every San Diego family.

It’s time we put a stop to the Whack-A-Mole approach to energy. We must demand more from our energy utility so that it produces big new solutions to the big challenges we face.

Capretz, a City Heights resident, is Green Energy/Green Jobs campaign director for Environmental Health Coalition.

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