



Lower bills. Livable planet.

February 1, 2013

Governor Jerry Brown  
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San Francisco, CA 94104

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Re: Urgent Request to Oppose Unneeded Gas-Fired Power Plants

Dear Governor Brown,

Please join us in urging the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to approve either of the two proposed decisions in proceeding A.11-05-023 that would stop the construction of the Pio Pico and Quail Brush gas-fired power plants. Both Administrative Law Judge Yacknin and Commissioner Ferron found that San Diego Gas & Electric failed to adequately demonstrate that there was any potential need for the plants until 2018. The Commission should ensure that actual plant approvals correspond to the careful need analyses conducted by the Commission so that customers do not have to pay now for plants that may or may not be useful until later (or never).

The Commission has created a need assessment as part of its planning process and it is imperative for California ratepayers and our environment that we make actual investment decisions consistent with the results of that process. While the specter of rolling blackouts has been raised again and again since the deregulation disaster of 2000-2001, then, as now, there was no shortage of generation. In fact, last summer, despite the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station being offline, peak demand was easily met.

In San Diego, the Pio Pico plant is designed to address a very specific and unlikely set of circumstances; local area need that would only arise if most of the import pathways were down on the hottest day in ten years. The proposal assumes that many of the State's preferred resource programs will fail. While SDG&E customers are being charged millions for Commission-approved, SDG&E-administered demand response and energy efficiency, SDG&E's analysis of the need for these plants assumes minimal results from those programs.

California is already building thousands of megawatts of gas-fired plants, despite having a large reserve margin. There is no danger that the lights will go out if the PUC rejects the Oakley plant (the subject of a recent TURN request for rehearing) or the Pio Pico and Quail Brush plants. The danger is that consumers will be required to pay for an expensive gas-fired plant they don't need now or in the future.

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We respectfully urge you to join us in supporting the proposed decisions and urging the CPUC to reject the attempts by power plant developers to alter the outcome. No amount of lobbying will make this plant a good investment for customers.

TURN shares your vision of a California powered by green energy; approving a new gas-fired plant absent a clear demonstration of need for that plant undermines that vision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark W. Toney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark W. Toney, Ph.D.  
Executive Director