

Energy - Docket Optical System

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Sent: Monday, February 25, 2013 3:51 PM
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Subject: Support ALJ Yacknin's decision to reject A1105023

Categories: Ready to Docket

Please uphold Administrative Law Judge Yacknin's preliminary decision to reject SDG&E's application A1105023 for the Quail Brush, Pio Pico, and Escondido gas plants. The proposed fossil fuel plants use inefficient and polluting technology for power that is not needed. Now is the time to move California towards achievement of its sustainable clean energy goals, as stated by Governor Brown. We are already on a successful path of energy efficiency, conservation, and local solar—just like the state mandated loading order requires before adding more dirty energy plants—let's stay on the right path.

SDG&E is attempting to force the retirement of fully functional local power plants to create a need for the new peaking units in order to create additional profit at the expense of San Diego ratepayers. These plants include NRG's 964 MW Encina Power Plant (Carlsbad), and nearly 200 MW of existing NRG peaker gas turbines. Encina can retrofit cooling towers to meet OTC requirements at 1/10th the cost of a new peaker plant. The 200 MW of NRG peaker gas turbines can be kept available if SDG&E simply extends the lease, as SDG&E is the property owner—but SDG&E is only interested in more profiting from higher utility rates from San Diego rate payers who already pay some of the highest rates in the country.

Peaking power plants create massive profit for SDG&E who sells the natural gas to the electrical generation plant owner, then purchases the power and sells it at additional profit to its ratepayers. The initial capital cost of Quail Brush would be \$150 million. The amortized cost over 20 years, in current dollars, would be ~\$600 million according to the California Energy Commission. Pio Pico would cost over \$1 billion over 20 years. The cost of building these unneeded plants would be paid by ratepayers through increased utility rates.

Local rooftop and parking lot solar combined with energy efficiency and a smart grid is the obvious alternative to new peaking power generation. San Diego County has a rooftop and parking lot solar potential of approximately 7,000 MW, far more than the peak demand in SDG&E territory. Right now there is solar on 15,000 rooftops and parking lots in our county, making us number one in the nation. By 2020 we will have ten times as much local solar power because of rapidly falling manufacturing costs and the boom in leasing rooftop systems.

In addition, the state of California estimates about 150 permanent jobs are created for each 100 MW of local solar added (Air Resources Board, June 2010) to the power grid. Solar power generation is good for both the economy and the environment, while peaking power plants will pollute the

environment while only helping SDG&E and its stockholders. Quail Brush and Pio Pico would create less than 25 permanent jobs, nowhere near the permanent job growth of rooftop and parking lot solar.

I am joining with thousands of local residents, Democrat Assembly Member Marty Block, Republican Assembly Member Brian Jones, San Diego Mayor Bob Filner, the San Diego City Council, Santee Mayor Randy Voepel, the Santee City Council and countless others in asking you to reject SDG&E's application for proposed unneeded projects.

Uphold the decision of the Administrative Law Judge Yacknon, we don't want to turn back from expanding our local clean energy economy while improving the quality of life for all San Diegans.

Sincerely,
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