

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Lea Marie Ruiz-Ade [azure@unnerving.org]
Sent: Sunday, April 07, 2013 5:47 PM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: Docket 11-AFC-03 Quail Brush

Categories: Ready to Docket



April 1, 2013

California Energy Commission
Media and Public Communications Office
1516 Ninth Street, MS-29
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Dear Commissioners Weisenmiller, Douglas, Hochschild, and McAllister,

I was surprised and saddened to learn that the proposed Quail Brush Power Plant is still a possibility. I thought this issue was dead, as it should be. Please, vote no on pursuing this endeavor. Do not allow Cogentrix or any other company to build a power plant in this area.

Mission Trails Regional Park, and the adjacent areas of East Elliott and Miramar Marine Corps Air Station are important open space areas. Wildlife depend on this open space for their very survival. The people who live here enjoy this space recreationally. Mission Trails Regional Park and East Elliott are full of natural diversity. There are chapparal, coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, grasslands, riparian woodlands, and aquatic habitats within their boundaries. It is home to many species with shrinking habitats such as coyotes, mule deer, and mountain lions. The San Diego River runs through the park and is the site of the historic Mission Dam. Mission Trails Regional Park, East Elliott, and the surrounding environs are not suitable for a power plant. The damage to the area and to the quality of life of the people who breathe the air here would be severe.

I live in the West Hills neighborhood of Santee. My kitchen window looks out at Mission Trails Park and East Elliott. Every afternoon and evening there is a strong breeze that picks up and blows through the hills from the west. On a good day, I can smell a hint of salt air from our beautiful Pacific Coast beaches. That air carries with it pollen and other air particles from our immediate area. I do not want that breeze to contain emissions from a dirty power plant.

Santee and it's surroundings are a dusty place. It can be hard to keep up with the amount of dust that blows in through our windows. For more than a year after the catastrophic fires of 2003, ash from those fires continued to be brought in on the breeze and to fall on my house and yard. It drifted up against the walls outside like snow. I can only imagine how toxic the breeze and dust blowing through will be if the power plant is allowed to be built. At the initially planned 42% operating capacity, there would be 33.1 TONS of particulates released in the air. How much of that is going to fall on my house

and my neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and schools? What will the afternoon breeze smell like with 44.8 tons of sulphur and 23.95 tons of ammonia in it?

This area was hard hit when property values fell. In fact, I learned that residents of our area are exempt from many programs aimed at helping homeowners stay in their homes because this area has been marked as too risky by the banks. Homeowners near the site of the proposed plant already have strikes against them in the real estate market. The construction of this plant would decrease our already sunken property values by a further 3-7 percent. That would be devastating for those who live here!

I am amazed that anyone would consider putting such a dangerous plant in such a fire sensitive area. Parts of this ecosystem require fire to rejuvenate and reproduce themselves. Fire is not a vague possibility here. It isn't a matter of whether or not we will have brush fires, it is a matter of WHEN we will have brushfires. The situation of a power plant of this design in a high fire risk area is asking for fire to occur. It just doesn't make any sense.

The construction of a power plant in this area is irresponsible. It puts the health and welfare of everyone who lives here at risk. Do not cave in under pressure from out-of-state, and therefore out of range companies such as Cogentrix. Do not make the men, women, and children of Santee breathe and effectively bathe in the toxic waste products of this power plant. Do not destroy the beauty of our open space.

The Santee School Board, Santee Planning Commission, Santee City Council, and San Diego City Council all oppose the new plant. The people who live here oppose the new plant. It, and its pollution should not be forced down our throats by outside interests. Vote against the construction of the proposed Quail Brush power plant and any other plant that should be proposed in the future in this area.

Sincerely,
Lea Marie Ruiz-Ade, M.A.
Santee, CA 92071