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DATE MAR 11 2005
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March 11, 2005

Mr. Terrence O'Brien
Deputy Director
California Energy Commission
Systems Assessment & Facilities Siting
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

Per your February 15, 2005, inquiry, the Department of Transportation (Department), Division of Aeronautics, remains committed to our position that the establishment of an additional power plant (e.g. Blythe 2) in the nearby proximity to the end of Blythe Airport's Runway 26 is not conducive to promoting a safe operational flight environment. There have been numerous complaints from pilots about the thermal plumes created from the Blythe 1 power plant.

These plumes create turbulence and may impair the visibility of pilots approaching to land on the aforementioned runway. As a result, pilots must now deviate around these plumes (both visible and perceived) causing them to alter their final approach course and glidepath to the runway. These actions may contribute to an unstabilized approach. Likewise, constructing an additional power plant below the base leg of the established traffic pattern to the same runway could create similar conditions. We see no need to exacerbate an already questionable situation that does not enhance aviation safety. It remains our position that we do not recommend construction of a power plant facility at the proposed location.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. WISWELL, Chief
Division of Aeronautics