



CITY OF COMMERCE

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Mayor Pro Tem

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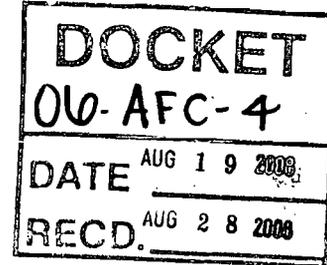
Rosalina G. Lopez
Councilmember

August 19, 2008

Jackalyne Pfannenstiel, Commissioner
Presiding Member

James D. Boyd, Commissioner
Associate Member
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-29
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: **Application for Certification: 06-AFC-4** — *Vernon*



Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Commerce City Council, I write to respectfully urge the Commission rescind the Southeast Region Energy Center's Application for Certification (06-AFC-4). The recent court ruling issued by the Los Angeles County Superior Court fundamentally ruled that local authorities had failed to do the necessary environmental and health analyses and that the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) could not sell the Priority Reserve credits to power plants without a more in depth analysis under California's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

As proposed, the Vernon power plant project is dependent on emission reduction credits to comply with state and federal emission thresholds. Given that the South Coast AQMD must undertake a CEQA review on the use of emission reduction credits for power plant projects, the Vernon project cannot proceed and is at a standstill until the environmental review is completed and considered by the AQMD. This process could well take 18 to 24 months. As such, we would urge that a new application be considered at that time. We believe it is in the best interest of the people who reside in the southeast communities of the Los Angeles basin, that the project be fully reconsidered at that time with all data contained in the application updated and current.

We remain greatly concerned about the environmental justice ramification of the proposed 943-megawatt power plant sponsored by the city of Vernon. The court ruling provides the Commission with the opportunity to rescind the application and explore other renewable energy resource alternatives that would not pose a threat to the health and safety of low-income communities that already have high rates of asthma and other pollution-related diseases.

For these reasons, we urge the Commission to rescind the city of Vernon's application (06-AFC-4). If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (323) 722-4805, at extension 2257.

Sincerely,

Tina Baca Del Rio
Tina Baca Del Rio

Mayor
City of Commerce

cc: Hearing Officer: Gary Fay