

DOCKET
07-AFC-6

February 17, 2010

Docket No.07-AFC-6

Energy Commission Docket Unit
Docket No. 07-AFC-6
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814

DATE FEB 17 2010

RECD. FEB 22 2010

Dear Energy Commission Officer:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments on the proposed Carlsbad Energy Center Project. I am a high school student at Carlsbad Seaside Academy and take great interest in participating in the actions of local government and concerns. I have attended three of the power plant meetings. I would like to invite you on a journey. Imagine...

It is the dark before the dawn. Beneath the blue water of the sea, a leopard shark glides over the jagged rocky reef. Hundreds of hermit crabs scuttle about in their portable homes, sticking to the crevasses and crannies of the stones that have been shaped by the caressing of the ocean waves for eons. A school of smooth silver bullet-like fish, curve and duck around and through currents, avoiding as best they can, the predators that would make them breakfast. The light gray blow hole of a dolphin breaks the glassy water outside the line up of surf. Soon other dolphins follow suit. On locating the school of fish, they give in to the hunt, rippling water's surface. Hollow waves crash on the shore, letting fly swatches of cottony white foam. The last push of a wave sweeps sand out and around the feet of the first dawn patrol surfers, who are eager to start their session at south Tamarack Beach. Behind these wet-suit-clad figures low orange sand stone bluffs, dotted with weathered and ragged dark green shrubbery, rise up to the clear grand horizon of dawn. The magnificent yellow sun breaks over the purple peaks of the distant mountains and into the golden sky. Such begins a new day in Carlsbad.

This is the future I want.

During the course of the 16 years I have resided in Carlsbad, I have lived under the shadow of the Encina Power Station in the small neighborhood of Terramar. Every day I see its immense gray box and towering stack countless times. It can be viewed from my bedroom, the kitchen, the living room, the dining room, the back yard and the front yard. The Encina Power Station is a constant companion in my life that is not at all pleasant.

When at first I heard of the proposal for a new "smaller" power plant that would replace the Encina Power Station, and led about to the ultimate demolishing of the old unit, I have to admit I rejoiced at the thought of the old power plant being disposed of, but did not wish for yet another to go in. The proposal went forward under a glamorous deception. The majority of people supported it for they envisioned a smaller power plant that was away from the beautiful coastal vista and ran with state-of-the art-technology. They were falsely lead.

NRG said that the Carlsbad Energy Center Project would be smaller than the Encina Power Station. This thought appealed to many people who, like me, were tired of looking at the rusty old plant. The definition of "small" changed over time. The new power plant is, as it is easy to see from NRG own

planning documents, four to five times wider than the Encina Power Station. The Carlsbad Energy Center Project is smaller in the sense that it is lower, though not as low as NRG originally said due to "complications" with the original height i.e. it didn't send the pollutants it emits high enough up in the air. The 32-acre new plant on the northeast section of the 95-acre property, though shorter in stature, its breadth will obstruct views from properties on the inside and outside of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon. With the future widening of I-5 there is no possible way to cover up the eyesore of this structure. The Carlsbad Energy Center project on top of the existing Encina Power Station and power lines will cause the property value of all surrounding land to drop significantly. NRG is using this site merely for its convenience and is not overly concerned with the effect it will have on the surrounding land.

There was a key factor that persuaded people to even consider the Carlsbad Energy Center Project. This ploy was to say that the Encina Power Station would be retired once the new station was up and running. The fact of the vague statement was interpreted as "the old power plant will be taken out." This blinding thought is laced with loopholes, for there was no date limit on the statement. In other words it might be ten or fifty years hence before the Encina Power Station is torn down, and when it is, it has been disclosed that it will be replaced by yet another power plant. Many people dislike the old station, yet many people see it as an icon. Icon or not it will not be going away any time soon. This is still another way NRG pulled the wool over the public's eyes.

Four years ago, when Hummers were all the rage and you were considered weird if you reused grocery bags, I wrote a report on Global Warming. Here is an excerpt from that document:

Just what is global warming? Is it merely the mercury in a thermometer rising a few more degrees worldwide? Or, is it a plight we are only now beginning to address? Already, events have been set in motion as a result of human impact on Earth. Without intervention average world temperatures will rise at least ten degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century. Sea levels will climb inexorably, and rain fall patterns will change drastically, flooding areas where once there was little precipitation, while conversely creating inhospitable and desolate desert environments where greenery and organisms once dwelt... We might not be able to undo the damage we have already done but, with joint effort and some simple sacrifices by the citizen and governments of the world this catastrophe can be prevented from continuing at the alarming rate it is currently at. Indubitably, science has now concluded that Earth's climate is changing quickly. We have the ability to change the way we live for the better, and it is change that will protect and preserve what tomorrow might bring.

In December of 2009 the North County Times featured an article from the Associated Press titled:

EPA FINDS EMISSIONS ENDANGER HEALTH

Going farther back a report in 2007 stated:

GLOBAL WARMING VERY LIKELY (90%) HUMANS' FAULT.

According to a report by the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, who support the project, the existing boilers of Units 1-3 would be retired creating, "substantial environmental benefits, including permanent air emission reductions." Is it not true that the Carlsbad Energy Center Project will, though more efficient than the 50-year-old Encina Power Station, create more pollution than the existing plant currently emits, because it will be run for more time? We are killing the Earth, and through the Earth, every living thing on this planet including ourselves.

One of the greatest advertisements NRG is using for the Carlsbad Energy Center Project is that it is state-of-the-art-technology. Just what is state-of-the-art, and compared to what? If the new plant is compared to the old power plant, certainly it is cutting edge, but if it is compared to the efficient renewable energy sources of wind and solar, then it is *practically stone age* in comparison. In this day and age, with the future of our planet at stake because of our own pollution, we cannot afford to have something that is already old school technology to be built. If the Carlsbad Energy Center Project goes through, your children, and their children, and their children's children will be stuck with an obsolete power plant, just like we are stuck with the Encina Power Station. Times are changing and we must move forward. More energy is needed for the future, but the future needs a planet too. Doing what is right is not always easy. People are slowly adapting to ways of life that are less dependent on nonrenewable resources. They are buying solar panels, electric cars, and energy efficient appliances. I am currently installing solar panels so that my family will not need to depend on energy that may or may not be coming from nonrenewable sources. The people of the world see what needs to be done to save ourselves and future generations. A polluting nonrenewable energy plant such as the proposed is a step back, and step toward a future on an inhospitable dead Earth.

The citizens of Carlsbad are very interested in their city and actively take part in trying to help Carlsbad continue to progress, preserve and meet the demands of its 104,652 residents. To help connect the needs of the people, to the local government, the City of Carlsbad a program titled Envision Carlsbad was created. Over the course of 18 months more than 7,000 community members participated in Envision Carlsbad through workshops, a survey, interviews, and a citizen's committee. These methods of input resulted in the creation of a community vision report that is highlighted as follows.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO CARLSBAD IS:

- Maintaining its small town feel and beach community character, and building on the city's culture of civic engagement, volunteer-ism and philanthropy
- Protecting and enhancing open space and agricultural heritage
- Promoting active lifestyles with access to trails, parks, beaches, and other recreation opportunities.
- Strengthening Carlsbad's strong and diverse economy and its position as an employment hub in North County San Diego.
- Increasing travel options through enhanced walking, bicycling, and public transportation systems
- Building on the city's sustainability initiatives to emerge as a leader in green development and sustainability
- Emphasizing and promoting the arts, history, and cultural resources
- Supporting quality comprehensive education opportunities, providing housing and community services for a changing population, and maintaining a high standard for citywide public safety.
- Revitalizing neighborhoods and enhancing citywide community design and livability.

Note that this list does not say "we want another power plant." What I believe to be the most relevant point I shall restate here: "Building of the city's sustainability initiatives to emerge as a leader in green development and sustainability." This proves that the citizens of Carlsbad wish to endorse green, as in renewable, energy, which the Carlsbad Energy Center Project is not.

The location of the Proposed Carlsbad Energy Center Project is not safe in the case of an accident or

sabotage. It is directly between three major transportation routs:

- a regularly used railroad track
- a eight lane freeway that is slated to become 20 lanes in the next decade.
- Highway 101- also known as Carlsbad Boulevard

Within a two mile radius of the proposed project is:

- The ocean
- The Encina Power Station
- The neighborhood of Terramar
- Cannon park- used for special events
- The Tomato Fields State park
- Tamarack beach- Carlsbad beaches were named the sixth most beautiful in the United States
- The Carlsbad Premium Outlets- a major shopping center
- The Flower Fields- a taste of old fashioned fun
- The Strawberry Fields
- A golf course
- The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery center
- Legoland
- Over 15 Restaurants
- 10 hotels- including the Sheraton Resort, which would have a wonderful view of the Carlsbad Energy Center Project
- 60 office buildings
- 20 car lots
- 8 gas stations
- Kelly Elementary
- Jefferson Elementary
- A Sewage and reclaimed water station
- Costco
- Vons
- An apartment complex
- Multiple track home developments
- Tamarack residences
- Inner Agua Hedionda lagoon residences
- Future desalinization plant
- Regular airline traffic

Clearly there is a lot going on in a very small circle. In this sphere of activity the Carlsbad Energy Center Project is smack in the middle, like a giant steel and concrete skeleton tree in a thriving forest of life and happiness. So much goes on around NRG's land. One slip-up or terrorist attack, at the new power plant, and the results would easily be tragic. Such a event would be costly in lives, which if not affected by the fiery blast would most certainly be endangered by the aftermath of pollution and toxins released into the atmosphere, and it would be costly in damage repair such as: repaving of the freeway, rebuilding of The West Restaurant, Bistro, and hotel; repairing the Encina Power plant; relaying railroad tracks; and paying for lawsuits from affected residences and those who were injured or killed

in the disaster.

Progress, is essentially not always a bad thing, for it can achieve the balance of nature and mankind. But, when the lust for monetary gain is sought through progress it only tips us further towards a future fringed with unhealthy if not unlivable levels of atmospheric pollution. We are at a time where every choice closely affects everything around us. One mistake and many suffer. The fight between nature and man is nearly over and man is slaughtering nature, but without nature, without life, what will man have? Vividly, I envision a small child playing on a pristine Carlsbad beach, numerous years from now, laughing in the sparkling waves, breathing clean air and marveling at nature in all its forms. Hoping one day this vision will become a reality, I will continue to consume less, support natural products and processes, volunteer, and believe in nature in all its forms.

I do not support the Carlsbad Energy Center Project.

I'd like to invite you on one final journey...

There is no dark before the dawn. The light pollution from the city makes every hour of the night seem like a eerie twilight. Below the smooth sickly green-brown water of the sea, all is silent. The rocks of the reef stand like tombstones in polluted water. In pockets and crevasses tiny abandoned shells gather, along with the carcasses of other former reef inhabitants. A lone dull-scaled fish swims lazily along, wandering. Its fins are frayed and decaying like old Victorian lace. The reef is dead. A ghost reef. A ghost ocean. No dolphins come to play, they stick to the slightly less polluted water off shore. Cream unnatural foam is swept on and off the beach by crumbling waves. Several surfers sit high in the sand amongst litter and pebbles, tossing the stones into the foam and at abandoned beer cans. They dare not to surf for fear of their health. Beside them a crooked neon yellow sign reads:

CAUTION

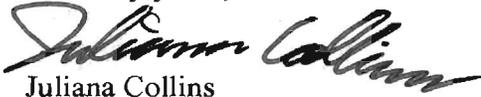
Do Not Enter Water

Toxicity Level Dangerous

Behind the sad group and over the stained sandstone cliffs, it is a glorious sun rise...or at least it would be if the sun were not blotted out by two steel and concrete boxes. From one box rises a single smoke stack, from the other two. The silhouette of these hideous and revolting creations is black against the dark red sky of dawn. From the apexes of the towers, deep gray transparent clouds spew apocalyptic pollution into the Earth's dying atmosphere. Such is a new day in Carlsbad.

**You have the power.
Will this be your legacy?**

Sincerely yours,



Juliana Collins

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