

ANTHONY J RUFFOLO
616 MARLIN LANE
CARLSBAD, CA. 92011
TEL/FAX 760.602.0403

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February 17, 2010

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

Re: Carlsbad Energy Center Project Cert/App

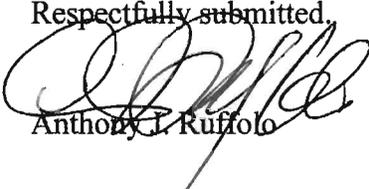
I am a retired Caltrans attorney with 35 years of experience relating to sites adjacent to freeways and railroads that pose hazards to those rights of way from earthquake, explosion, flooding and landslides. I am also a consultant to the City of Carlsbad as the above project relates to the I-5 freeway. I write this letter from the perspective of a homeowner and director on two homeowner associations (San Pacifico) in the area at issue and the effect this plant expansion will have on our property values.

Initially I note that the Connecticut gas fired power plant incident shows that the risk of explosion and fire are not the low risk dangers that the NRG and your expert estimated. That fire also indicated that local fire departments were not merely back ups to the internal design systems of the plant. Such a catastrophe would create havoc to both the adjacent freeway, residential areas and the rail line. The lesson is that such facilities should be constructed in remote locations not in close proximity to intensely developed coastal areas.

And while we are on the subject of coastal development where is the Coastal Commission on this project? Has it completely retreated from its 1990 report that the visual impacts from a similar power plant expansion could not be mitigated and that the visual impact is inconsistent with the Coastal Act? What has changed other than the existing 400 foot stack has become older and uglier?

The coast must be preserved for the people of California and the world. Send this peaker to the desert.

Respectfully submitted,


Anthony J. Ruffolo