

February 17th, 2010

Thank for your openness toward the public and the opportunity to comment on the proposed Carlsbad Power Plant addition. I am opposed to the proposition. I feel that the project presents more drawbacks and dangers than benefits to my city of Carlsbad.

One of the most obvious drawbacks to me is the huge eyesore that this addition to the already massive power plant will bring. The tall smokestack and great gray box of the power plant can be seen from anywhere on the beach in Carlsbad and from all places around it – and this is before the proposed addition. The power plant, when complete with its addition, will dominate the coastal landscape and obscure the view of what so many people come here to visit – the ocean. An argument in favor of the proposition is that the building and maintaining of the future plant will create jobs – but what about real-estate? And tourism? Our property values will decrease and less tourists will visit “Carlsbad Village...” – or, rather, “Carlsbad *Power Plant* by the Sea.”

Not only is the proposed plant's position on the beach a visual blight, but it is also terribly dangerous. On February 9th of this past month, 5 men were killed and 12 injured in a gas explosion while building a power plant similar to our proposed plant, in Middletown, Connecticut. Only 50 men were present in the area. Imagine for a moment if something similar happened to our proposed plant – we definitely have many more than 50 people near the plant at a given moment. If you live in Carlsbad, you know how many people spend their time along the beach and lagoon everyday; you know how many people drive on the I-5 freeway everyday (which, when it is completely widened and the proposed plant is completed, will run only a couple feet next to it); you know how many people take the train on the rails adjacent the plant; and you can see every minute how many families' houses, businesses, schools, and churches surround it. I can't imagine how devastating an explosion like the one in Middletown, Conn. would be to all of us.

Is this dangerous, if not precarious, position for the proposed plant necessary? The power this plant makes today does not even require for it to be situated on the beach. We all know how our beaches and lagoons are important ecosystems for several endangered and protected wildlife species. The gases and particulates released from the plant will not only be dangerous to the health of our community, but also to the fragile ecosystems that surround the plant. If the beach and lagoon were contaminated, we would all see the bodies of poisoned seabirds and other aquatic animals washed up on our shores. The beaches and the lagoon would have to be closed and detoxified – not only would that be obviously terrible to our health, but it would also be a long, expensive battle for the city on top of

decreasing real-estate and tourism. The building of what is obviously a bigger, wider, and more powerful plant seems to me just a bigger, wider, and more powerful accident waiting to happen.

I just don't see the reason for such a risk on behalf of the Carlsbad residents – especially for something that won't necessarily provide power for Carlsbad. What benefit does this plant bring me? Less tax on power? I wonder how much *less* we would be paying if instead of our already obsolete plant, we had built a plant that would use renewable energy, perhaps wind or tidal power from the coast. We need to get off of our old, dangerous technology and move forward in the direction of a clean, green 21st century. I don't see why such an ugly proposition has to be here, where it will affect me and my community mostly negatively, while only giving back some dirty energy.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Mallory". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Joseph Mallory