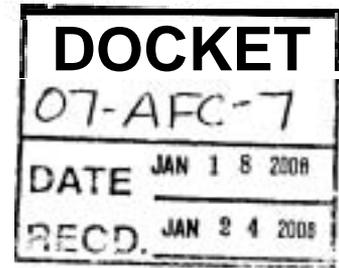


January 18,2008



Ms. Julie Bailey
1334 Northview Street
Selma, California 93662

Dear Ms. Bailey:

Thank you for your letter of January 15,2008 commenting on the proposed Community Power Project and the informational hearing about that project held on January 14th in Parlier. Your letter and this response will be docketed, so that they would become part of the public record in the Energy Commission's decision-making process for this case.

As I mentioned in my brief address at the beginning of the 1/14 hearing, the California Energy Commission (CEC) encourages meaningful public participation in its proceedings. It is the primary function of the Public Adviser's Office of the CEC to provide the information and assistance for such participation.

Last Monday's hearing and site visit were the first public events in our long (at least one year) and thorough review of this "application for certification". These events will be followed by other public hearings and workshops, to be held in the future and noticed in advance, as required by law. At these future events, the Energy Commission's technical experts will review, analyze and discuss the various subjects, concerns, issues and potential impacts regarding this project, including those you raise in your letter. Some of these additional events will likely be held near the project site and at different times—including late afternoon/evening—in order to maximize the opportunities for public participation by interested local residents. The Public Adviser's Office will ensure that these future public events will be properly noticed in advance and will continue to provide—as we have for the 1/14 events-- the information and assistance permitted by our staff and budget limitations to ensure meaningful participation.

Commenting selectively on our outreach efforts for the January 14th hearing, your letter criticizes our use of the Central Valley Guide (which you call a "throw away trash paper") as our choice for publishing our bilingual notice. You suggest that we should have used the Selma Enterprise or the Fresno Bee instead and also suggest that we should have contacted parents through the local schools. As I mentioned at the hearing, we chose the Central Valley Guide to publish our bilingual notice because that paper has by far the highest circulation (16,000) within a 6-mile radius of the proposed site, our primary notification area. By their own admissions, the other local papers and the Fresno Bee do not provide adequate coverage throughout that radius to meet our notification requirements. Also, what is a "throw away trash paper" to you may be the only affordable source of information and the paper of choice to thousands of others--especially the large Hispanic population—living in the area.

In addition, let me point out that your letter failed to acknowledge our other outreach efforts for the 1/14 events which I detailed for the attendees and for the record in my remarks at the hearing:

1. Notification—by letter and attached bilingual notice-- 66 "sensitive receptors", including all schools, libraries, health and community facilities, we identified within 6 miles of the proposed plant site. All these receptors were asked to post the notices for public review and to further publicize the events. The school superintendent was also asked for permission to distribute copies of the notices in schools, to be sent home with the children (an effective way to publicize events in a community), but he denied the request;
2. Notification (by letter and notice) of all elected and key appointed local officials within a 6-mile circle around the proposed site. Additional copies of the notice were provided to City Halls and key businesses in the area for posting on bulletin boards and for distribution from public counters; and
3. A total of 8 radio stations (4 English and 4 Spanish) and 5 TV stations (4 English and 1 Spanish) were provided advance notices about the events and were asked to run public service announcements about the 1/14 events and place the information on their website. Several stations (both English and Spanish) did so and also sent reporters to cover the site visit and hearing.

I hope that you will continue your interest and participation in a fair and meaningful way. The Public Adviser's Office stands ready to assist you and others with information about this application, the Energy Commission's process of reviewing it and opportunities for interested persons to follow and participate in that review.

Sincerely,

Nicholas O. Bartsch, Manager
Public Adviser's Office
California Energy Commission