

**Docket Optical System - Community Power 07-AFC-7, Op-Ed from the 3/18/08 edition of the Hanford Sentinel.htm**

**From:** Che McFarlin  
**To:** Docket Optical System  
**Date:** 3/19/2008 4:14 PM  
**Subject:** Community Power 07-AFC-7, Op-Ed from the 3/18/08 edition of the Hanford Sentinel.htm  
**Attachments:** hanlogo.jpg

Please docket the attached op-ed for the Community Power Project 07-AFC-7. This is an op-ed from the 3/18/08 edition of the Hanford Sentinel.

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## Please, save the children

<b>DOCKET</b>	
07-AFC-7	
<b>DATE</b>	MAR 19 2008
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Editor: After the sad report on the Kings River Conservation District's proposed Selma Power Plant in the Selma Enterprise (3/12/2008), I have to say something.

It seems that many city residents have reversed their decision to participate in the plan; Fresno, Tulare and Selma, projected home of the plant. Good thinking! Perhaps it is future liability being avoided. Here's why.

A KRCD legal fellow quoted in the same article offered that the proposed plant will actually "take out more pollution than putting in." Not true. A 565-MW base load (base load defined as the minimum level of demand on an electrical supply system over 24 hours: the load that exists 24 hours a day) power plant will "put in" 2.8 million tons, tons, of CO2 per year, based on a U.S. Government EPA report stating the average CO2 emissions for a gas-fired plant are 1,135 pounds of CO2 per megawatt-hour -- with 23,000 people within one-half mile of the proposed site! Yearly CO2 emissions will be 1,135 X 565 X 24 X 365/2000; ask any local middle school student to do the math while the child can still breathe. How is this possible? The intent is only to limit "visible" air pollution. CO2 is invisible. Slick, huh? It means the residents won't be able to see why they can't breathe. Remember that CO2 is the "primary" greenhouse gas, being 82 percent of total GHG pollution in a 2001 study. Let's focus on the real problem.

Operational profits were touted to provide a slight savings to customer's electric service bill. How can profits be guaranteed when the plant will have to buy natural gas on the very volatile world market? Already in this decade, natural gas prices have risen 230 percent in one four-year period! 2 percent per year price increase is also built into the KRCD multi-tiered rate plan! Will there be a low-income rate plans? Selma and Parlier residents will be buying more asthma medications and the money has to come from somewhere! This seems to be a price structure that is totally un-regulated unlike today's public utility system.

My bottom line is simple. I am against 2.8 million tons of CO2 yearly emissions less than one mile from a grade school and 23,000 Selma/Parlier residents within a half-mile because many of the children already have breathing problems. KRCD, are you prepared to stand in front of a school



that can't breathe and remind them you are buying pollution credits? This isn't about money; it's about saving the children.

Mike McClelland

Hanford

(March 18, 2008)

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