



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Air District approves first step toward Contra Costa power plant permit

SAN FRANCISCO - Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District issued a Preliminary Determination of Compliance for the Marsh Landing Generating Station, a proposed power generation facility that would be located in Contra Costa County near the city of Antioch.

"This is the first step in the public review process for this proposed permit," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "The project proposes to use cleaner, more efficient technology in place of older equipment, which would benefit air quality."

The proposed Marsh Landing facility would be a 760-megawatt natural gas fired merchant power plant that would replace the older Contra Costa Power Plant, built in 1964, with modern, cleaner operating generating equipment. The proposed project, which will be owned and operated by a subsidiary of the Mirant Corporation, is a simple-cycle "peaker" power plant that will be used to meet demand for electrical power during short-term peaks in demand. Peaking power plants run during periods of high demand for electricity, most often during the summertime when air conditioning use is highest. The project utilizes simple-cycle turbines that are designed as a firm supply of power when renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power might not be available.

The Air District's Preliminary Determination of Compliance describes how the proposed facility would comply with applicable air quality regulatory requirements and proposes permit conditions to ensure compliance including Best Available Control Technology. The Air District will review and consider all comments received from the public before deciding whether to issue a Final Determination of Compliance for the proposed project. The California Energy Commission will use the Air District's Final Determination of Compliance in conducting an environmental review and determining whether to issue a license for the project.

The Preliminary Determination of Compliance, proposed permit conditions and key supporting documents are available on the District's website at www.baaqmd.gov. All documents and materials are also available for public inspection at District Headquarters, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA, 94109. Copies of any of these documents and further information about the project can also be obtained by calling or writing Brian K. Lusher, Senior Air Quality Engineer, BAAQMD, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA, 94109, (415) 749-4623, blusher@baaqmd.gov. Para obtener información en español, comuníquese con Brenda Cabral en la sede del Distrito, (415) 749-4686, bcabral@baaqmd.gov.

The District invites all interested parties to comment on any aspect of the proposed Preliminary Determination of Compliance. Written comments should be sent to Brian K. Lusher, Senior Air Quality Engineer, at the address above, and must be received by April 30, 2010.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area.

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