

February 3, 2009

Brian Bateman  
Director of Engineering  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
939 Ellis Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Re: Russel City Energy Center

Dear Mr. Bateman,

My name is Minane Jameson and I'm on the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District board (HARD); I'm a trustee on the Hayward Area Shoreline Protection Agency (HASPA); and I'm also a concerned resident living in south Hayward.

I write this letter to you as a long time resident of Hayward and with the people I represent in mind. I feel very strongly that the Russel City Energy Center should be further examined and hopefully cancelled as its effects will be detrimental to this area on a number of levels.

As you know, this power plant will produce excessive amounts of air pollution and green house gases. These pollutants will be harmful to the people residing nearby and who come to the shoreline for exercise or to find solitude. There is also an amazing amount of wildlife that makes its home on the shoreline, or uses it as a resting point during migration. The hot air plumes and pollutants coming from the smoke stacks will most likely cause problems for these animals. The endangered species living on the shoreline may not be able to handle the exposure to these pollutants making survival more difficult. HARD operates the Interpretive Center not far from where the plant will be built. The naturalists there give educational tours to over 2500 young students from all over the bay each year. These naturalists also offer weekend programs and occasionally overnight camping trips. These programs are not only important educational opportunities for all ages, these popular programs generate the income needed to support our center and the great people who work there. Will schools and program users reduce their visits to the shoreline because of potential health risks, noise levels, and an overall reduction in the quality of the experience because of the Russel City Energy Center? We won't know until it's too late.

Another serious concern for me is the visual impact of this power plant as viewed from the shoreline and highway 92, which is a major gateway into Hayward. Aside from health risks, I'm certain that it will discourage visits from the public as it will be quite an eyesore for those coming to the shoreline to experience the natural beauty of this area. I also feel certain that it will hamper the city of Hayward's efforts to make this area more desirable and livable. I can't imagine seeing anything less welcoming than this power plant as I drive east over the San Mateo Bridge. If I were thinking of purchasing a house in Hayward, I know I would think again.

I hope you will consider the negative impacts of this project very carefully; once it's built there's no turning back.

Sincerely,

Minane Jameson