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BAY AREA AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

September 2, 2009

Weyman Lee, P.E., Senior Air Quality Engineer  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
939 Ellis Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Russell City Energy Center (Hayward, CA)

Dear Mr. Lee and BAAQMD,

I am strongly opposed to building the proposed Russell City Energy Center power plant on the Hayward Shoreline. There are many problems with this concept, but the main one that you are concerned about relates to air quality.

One of your criteria is that the "best technology available" is to be used. Rob Simpson says there are other plants of the same size that pollute one-third as much. It is clear that a proposed plant that pollutes 300% more than other plants of the same size does NOT meet these criteria. On this alone you should TURN DOWN this permit.

I have heard that building this power plant in Hayward will "improve" air quality because it will allow closure of another power plant at Hunter's Point. I would like to point out that the prevailing winds at Hunter's point blow pollutants out over the Bay. However, the prevailing winds in Hayward would blow pollutants directly over populated areas, thereby exposing far more people to toxins from this proposed plant. If you need to close Hunter's Point in favor of a modernized plant, then why don't you allow a replacement power plant to be built on the Hunter's Point site? Why expose millions of East Bay populace to air quality which will in fact be worsened? You should be concerned about this.

Further, your Air Quality report does not address the effect this power plant would have on waterfowl in the area. Did you know that the Hayward Shoreline is part of the West Coast migratory flyway, and is also adjacent to the Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge? This is a crucial area for bird habitat. Birds are sensitive to pollutants like lead, etc, which makes their eggs too fragile to hatch. Do you really think a power plant next to wildlife habitat is appropriate?

Personally, I think the fact that this proposed power plant will interfere with airplane flight paths is the most deadly issue. I lived near the Hayward Airport for 12 years, and let me tell you, those pilots use a lot of leeway...they do not completely follow flight paths or height recommendations. Having more variables—like hot air plumes—affecting them will prove dangerous to pilots and residents below. But I don't think you care about flight paths.

I also don't think a beautiful shoreline that has been 20 years in restoration efforts is the right place for a power plant. And despite Calpine's apparent success in "bribing" people—\$10 million for a new Hayward Library?—I personally don't think bribes and jobs are worth more destruction to the earth.

Unfortunately, I don't believe in this process, either. I don't believe you will attend to public concerns. I believe you will grant this permit and follow Bush's old outdated destructive policies and approve this plant. I will only have the personal satisfaction of knowing that I spoke up against it. Unfortunately, my health and the health of my loved ones will pay the price for your decision. I wish each of you lived in Hayward so you could take your own consequences.

Sincerely,



JULIE MACHADO