

please block the permit for the Russell City Energy Center!.txt
From: Jennifer Eagan
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2009 2:15 PM
To: Weyman Lee
Subject: please block the permit for the Russell City Energy Center!

Dear Mr. Lee

I am writing you in OPPOSITION to the permit for the Russell City Energy Center in Hayward, CA. The Russell City Energy Center plant will emit 1,681,920 tons a year of Green House Gas Emissions. This number will more than double air pollution in the City of Hayward. The placement of this plant is a prime example of environmental racism that I use as an example in my Environmental Ethics course at CSU East Bay. The adverse environmental and health impacts of this plant on Hayward city residents will be disproportionate, unjust, and unfair.

As I'm sure you know, the city of Hayward is significantly more racially diverse and of lower median income than most other Bay Area communities, in addition to housing two colleges, Chabot College and CSU East Bay, which also both serve predominately students of color. Hayward is a community that is among the least well equipped to withstand the effects of these pollutants. Research since the initial approval of the plant in 2001 shows the significant synergistic effects of multiple pollutants on health (not significantly taken into account in the permitting process), and that these are exacerbated by the effects of poverty, poorer diets, lack of exercise, and the inability to escape urban environments. This research was not considered at the time when the City Council (a majority of whom would now vote against the plant) initially considered the proposal.

And for their trouble, the residents of the City of Hayward will bear the burden of pollutants but receive little or no benefits in terms of the energy produced or lower energy costs. The fact that this process was deeply flawed and unfair from the start has been well documented. I understand that now you are considering only the effect of the air pollution, but this cannot be considered in a vacuum. The profile and impact on the residents of the City of Hayward have to be taken into account.

The city motto of Hayward is "No Room for Racism." This motto will no longer remain true if the Russell City Plant is able to go forward. Please block this permit!

Yours Sincerely,

Jennifer Eagan, Ph.D.

Proud Resident of Hayward, CA

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