

Russell CityCalpine Plant.txt

From: Irene Plunkett
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2009 3:23 PM
To: Weyman Lee
Subject: Russell City/Calpine Plant

Dear Mr. Lee:

I am writing to you to express my disapproval for moving forward with plans for the Russell City plant on Depot Road in Hayward, CA.

There is so much wrong with this plan that it is difficult to imagine what could recommend it.

First of all, as a Chabot College faculty member since 1980, I have watched as the campus community has expanded, so that we now have elders as well as infants. We also have, as you know, thousands of students, a large percentage of whom carry inhalers with them at all times. In what world is it a good idea to build such a dirty power plant near a college that serves this diverse group? In addition, such a plant would wipe out, or render completely ineffective, all of our efforts to create a much more eco-friendly campus, supported by Measure B funds.

On another note, I grew up in Hayward. My father—like those of most of my friends—fought in the Second World War, and was part of the generation whose access to the G.I. Bill enabled them to buy homes, and it was the resulting demand for housing that allowed Hayward and the neighboring towns to grow. Though my father has passed, many of this generation—retired and often still living in the same homes they purchased in the 1950's—will certainly be adversely affected by the toxic emissions from this planned plant. This is surely disrespectful and cruel.

Finally, the fact that the power generated by this dirty plant will be directed to the mostly-affluent Peninsula is insulting in the extreme and violates all sense of environmental justice.

I hope you and your Board will pause to consider the many ways in which this is simply a bad idea. Dollars can be generated by other means; healthy human lungs are harder to come by.

Irene L. Plunkett, Ph.D.
Chabot College
Hayward, CA