12/3/10

DOCKET
09-AFC-4
DATE 12/03/10
RECD. 12/06/10

Commissioner James Boyd
Commissioner Robert Weisenmiller
California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Oakley Generating Station - 09-AFC-4

Dear Commissioners Boyd and Weisenmiller:

I started my involvement with educational issues in Oakley as a parent volunteer for both the Vintage Parkway and Delta Vista PTA's and School Site Council. Getting involved with our schools led to my involvement with the Measure H Campaign Committee, a 2004 school bond, which passed with almost 70% of the vote. I recently completed a 5 year term as President of the Oakley Union Elementary School District (OUESD), which serves K through 8th grade. Our history in East Contra Costa County runs deep as our first public school dates back to 1862 when Sarah Sellers, one of Oakley's first settlers opened the original Iron House School. In 2006 the district opened its first new school in over 15 years naming it Iron House as tribute to our past. In addition to Iron House the district operates 4 other K-5 schools and two 6-8 middle schools.

Like most school districts throughout California, OUESD is struggling to keep its fiscal house in order, but I firmly believe once the housing market and economy turn around the district will experience immediate and expansive growth, for that, it will need sufficient property tax revenue. The district could conceivably double in size over the next 8 to 10 years. Plans are in the works to build 5 additional elementary schools and two additional middle schools. In fact, in 2007-08 the district was successful in obtaining special funding from the State of California to purchase a 10 acre elementary school site and a 25 acre middle school site.

The prospect of the Oakley Generating Station breaking ground next year and operating in 2014 has been viewed as great news by our parents and district officials. The additional revenue the power plant would generate for our 4,700 students (and accompanying certificated and classified staff) would help maintain the positive educational environment we believe is necessary for our children to succeed.

Our community is built on families. In fact, demographically, we are one of the youngest cities in the state. **As a longtime advocate of children and educators in our community, I urge you to expeditiously approve the Oakley Generating Station.**

Sincerely,

Lauri Winters,
Past President, Board of Trustees, Oakley Union Elementary School District