



California Energy Commission

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TN # 67832

OCT. 17 2012

October 15, 2012

Mr. Eric Solorio
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-2000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Solorio:

CONNECT would like to express its support for the Quail Brush peaker plant being proposed by Cogentrix for the City of San Diego. The public Status Conference that you will be holding on October 16 is a perfect opportunity to acknowledge the real facts about why this infrastructure is needed given the planned discussion of public convenience and necessity.

CONNECT is a regional organization that supports the creation of innovative technology and life sciences products in San Diego County by providing resources to inventors and entrepreneurs. We have assisted in the formation and development of more than 3,000 companies since 1985.

Our organization has a strong track record of supporting infrastructure projects that enhance the overall reliability of SDG&E's electric grid. As San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station remains shut down with no concrete plan for repowering and with old generation facilities such as the 60-year-old Encina Power Plant poised to retire, Quail Brush will be the missing puzzle piece to the region's future. Quail Brush is much more efficient than the older technology that is used in Encina. Encina has start up lead times that exceed 12 hours whereas Quail Brush can start in 10 minutes. Quail Brush will provide the much needed reliability that San Diego residents and businesses need. San Diego's existing businesses and start-up ventures depend on reliable electricity to power their operations and continue growing. As a result, our region's economic prosperity hinges on the approval of additional peaker plants such as Quail Brush.

We also support Quail Brush because it will help us ensure reliability as we make the transition toward renewable energy. Natural gas-fired peaker plants are the cleanest, most effective way to provide local businesses and homes with electricity when wind and solar resources are not available. As California utilities shift to provide 33 percent renewable power by 2020, we need facilities that can keep our energy supply consistent. If we value renewable energy, we need to value back-up generation projects.

On behalf of CONNECT, I urge the Commission to give serious consideration to the Quail Brush project and ensure it goes to a vote as expeditiously as possible. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "CSaltman".

Camille Saltman
President