California Energy Commission
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From: Steve Blanchard [mailto:sblanchard8082@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 9:58 PM
To: Solorio, Eric@Energy; Hamblin, Mark@Energy
Cc: planningcommission@sandiego.gov; JerrySanders@sandiego.gov; CA52DHima@mail.house.gov; anthonyyoung@sandiego.gov; CarlDeMaio@sandiego.gov; kevinfaulconer@sandiego.gov; martiemerald@sandiego.gov; SherriLightner@sandiego.gov; toddgloria@sandiego.gov; davidalvarez@sandiego.gov; loriezapf@sandiego.gov; JDale@ci.santee.ca.us; JMinto@ci.santee.ca.us; JRyan@ci.santee.ca.us; RVoepel@ci.santee.ca.us; RMcNelis@ci.santee.ca.us; dianne.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov; Senator.Kehoe@sen.ca.gov; susan.davis@mail.house.gov; senator@boxer.senate.gov; senator@feinstein.senate.gov; assemblymember.jones@assembly.ca.gov; gail.ramer@asm.ca.gov
Subject: Scenic Photos of Mission Trails Park, CEC Docket No. 11-AFC-03, Quail Brush Power Generation Siting Case.

Dear Mr. Solorio and Mr. Hamblin,
Please add the attached document to the docket.

Thank you.
Steve Blanchard

Memorandum

To: California Energy Commission
CEC Docket No. 11-AFC-03, Quail Brush Power Generation Siting Case.
Attention: Mark Hamblin and Eric Solorio

From: Steve Blanchard, Santee resident

Date: 7/14/12

Subject: **Photos Showing the Beauty of Mission Trails Park Near the Proposed Power Plant**

The County of San Diego, Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements, Visual Resources (dated July 30, 2007, and prepared by the County Department of Planning and Land Use), highlights the importance of the scenic resources to the County:

> "Scenic vistas, scenic resources, and community character and quality are resources that are valued in San Diego County. They are important to the quality of life enjoyed here and to tourism, one of the leading industries."
>
> "San Diego County is a visually diverse place with a dramatic coastline, mountains, and desert. The County's sunny weather allows people to spend much of their time outside throughout the year. For that reason, people come from all over the world at all times of the year to partake of the County's resources. The County is rich in natural open space, unique topographic resources, scenic highways, scenic vistas, and other diverse aesthetic resources. These natural features contribute greatly to the overall quality of the existing visual setting."

The Application for the proposed power plant states (underline added for emphasis) "Land within 1 mile of the Project is <u>primarily used for industrial purposes, particularly the Sycamore Landfill</u>, or for informal recreation." (Section 4.5.1.1, page 4.5-2). However, the applicant's maps (e.g., Figures 2.1-3, 4.2-1, 4.2.2, and 4.5-2) show that the entire area south, west, and east of the plant location (with the exception of existing power line alignment) is open space or residential development, and that the landfill occupies a relatively smaller proportion of the land to the north within the 1 mile radius.

In addition, for the various viewpoints (with the exception of the Kumeyaay campground and lake), the applicant mostly characterizes the vegetation as "natural desert scrub land", and "open desert terrain", even for grasslands viewpoint 2. However, the MTRP habitat map (http://www.mtrp.org/field_guide.asp) characterizes the areas at MTRP within 1 mile of the proposed plant as primarily grassland and riparian, with some sage scrub. In addition, the applicant fails to consider seasonal variations in vegetation, particularly during the winter and spring.

The attached photos taken in the northeastern portion of MTRP (including the grasslands area) show the scenic beauty of that portion of the park. It is obvious that characterization of the area as primarily desert scrub/desert terrain of primarily industrial use is incorrect, and the photos indicate that seasonal variations must be considered. The photo locations are within about 0.6 to 1.25 miles of the proposed plant location, and at many of the locations a park user would have direct views of the plant (although not necessarily in the direction of the photo). These photos document that a power plant would be incompatible with such a valuable scenic resource to San Diego, particularly in the context of the County of San Diego visual resource guidelines.

Scenic Beauty, Northeastern Portion of Mission Trails Regional Park

Grasslands Area

Scenic Beauty, Northeastern Portion of Mission Trails Regional Park

Grasslands Area

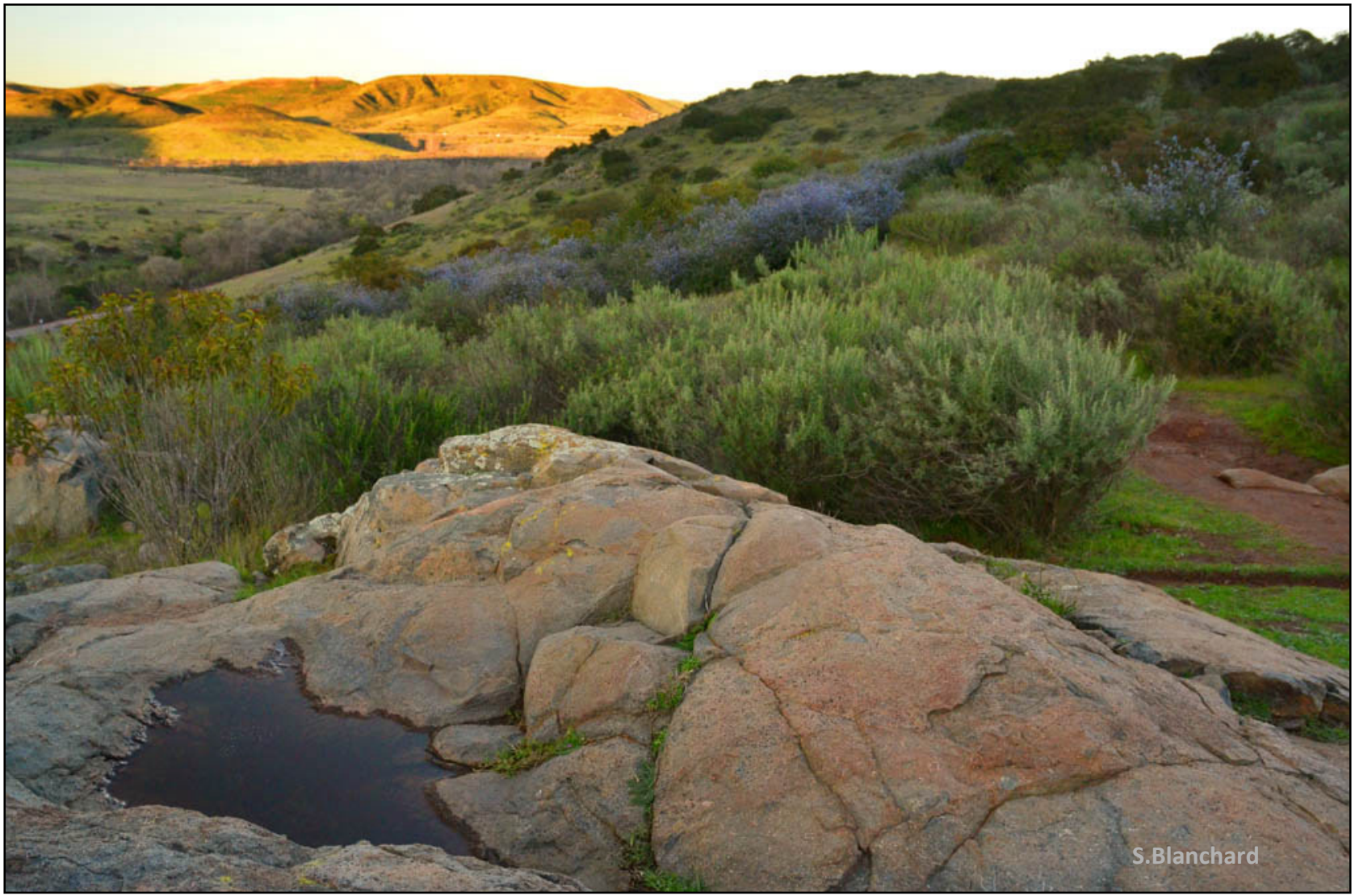
Scenic Beauty, Northeastern Portion of Mission Trails Regional Park

Grasslands Area

Scenic Beauty, Northeastern Portion of Mission Trails Regional Park

Oak Canyon Trail

Scenic Beauty, Northeastern Portion of Mission Trails Regional Park



Kwaay Paay Trail

Scenic Beauty, Northeastern Portion of Mission Trails Regional Park

Kwaay Paay Trail

Scenic Beauty, Northeastern Portion of Mission Trails Regional Park

Oak Canyon Creek

Scenic Beauty, Northeastern Portion of Mission Trails Regional Park

Oak Canyon Trail

Scenic Beauty, Northeastern Portion of Mission Trails Regional Park

Old Mission Dam

Scenic Beauty, Northeastern Portion of Mission Trails Regional Park

Fall colors, trail along east boundary of park (south of Father Junipero Serra Trail)

Scenic Beauty, Northeastern Portion of Mission Trails Regional Park

Trail along east boundary of park (south of Father Junipero Serra Trail)

Scenic Beauty, Northeastern Portion of Mission Trails Regional Park

Fall colors, near Old Mission Dam

Kumeyaay Lake at sunset