Dear Mr. Solorio,

Building a power plant in the shadows of Cowles Mountain and the surrounding Mission Trails Regional Park is perhaps the dumbest idea in the long, sordid history of dumb ideas in San Diego area politics – not to mention the politics of power generation.

I don’t know where you live, but if you’ve visited San Diego, you probably appreciated it’s coastal region. The beaches, the bluffs, etc. It is lovely. But inland San Diego is a different world, with its own unique brilliance that has been decimated over the decades by relentless development. Mission Trails Regional Park is a modern-day marvel in that it is one of the last remaining islands of that inland beauty, and its beauty and accessibility is treasured by thousands of San Diegans who reach out to it in droves to escape relentless city life.

If you’ve ever been on a beautiful hiking trail, completely lost in the moment, and suddenly stumbled upon a piece of trash or graffiti that somebody has left, you know how jarring and infuriating that piece of intrusive blight can be. By approving this power plant, you would be approving a massive piece of PERMANENT BLIGHT – one that has the added detrimental effect of air pollution and noise pollution – to a protected area. I urge you to vote against this permanent eyesore, one that would leave you in no better standing than the graffiti tagger who spray paints on a rock alongside a beautiful trail.

Please do not site a power plant in the East Elliott area north of Hwy. 52 for the following reasons:

We will be adversely impacted by fire danger, air pollution, noise, decreased property values, and visual blight. The QBGP siting threatens the health, recreation, natural beauty, quiet, and quality of life of all San Diego County residents who use Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) and those who live, work, and go to school in the adjacent communities.

The proposed QBGP is not compatible with many of the City of San Diego’s laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS):
1) The East Elliott Community Plan appropriately and correctly sets aside the area as Park, Open Space, and Recreation.
2) The Municipal Code designates the site as single-family residential (RS-1-8).
3) The City’s Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Subarea Plan is not
congruent with industrial zoning.

4) The Mission Trails Design District identifies the area for natural habitat preservation and trail expansion. It is an important wildlife corridor.

As California state and local taxpayers, we object to any further spending of taxpayer dollars in pursuit of a project that violates these consequential local land use provisions. MTRP is one of the most popular parks in San Diego County. Its unparalleled scenic views, camping, fishing, Native American historical sites, equestrian area, hiking/biking trails, and the San Diego River watershed would be within yards of the conflicting natural gas power plant.

I urge the CEC to implement the NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE while considering conservation and energy storage.

Sincerely,

Mike Hennessy
San Diego, CA

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