I strongly urge the CEC to reject the Quail Brush Power Plant.

Mission Trails Regional Park is a historical and beloved gem of San Diego. Mission Trails includes a historical landmark. It is extremely popular with San Diego residents. Mission Trails Regional Park voted unanimously against Quail Brush during their March 21 Task Force meeting. The San Diego city Council voted unanimously against it. Bob Filner, the Mayor of San Diego, voiced strong opposition against it. Right-wing and left-wing politicians have spoken against it. This is a nonpartisan issue. We don’t want to see our beloved park ruined by this power plant. We want it to remain Mission Trails Regional Park - not Mission Trails Industrial Park.

SDG&E and Cogentrix aren’t concerned we won’t have enough power. They’re concerned they’ll lose their power to generate outrageous profits. The Edison Electric Institute published a document that reveals their concerns about solar and alternative energy sources cutting into their profits and undermining their business. Click here: http://www.eei.org/ourissues/finance/Documents/disruptivechallenges.pdf

The essence of this document illustrates the transition we are heading towards. We are moving away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. The cost of solar panels continues to drop and will continue to be more cost effective. This concerns them and it should. New technologies in energy storage are being developed. These new technologies combined will make fossil fuel power plants a thing of the past – a dinosaur.

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Why we don’t need this power plant

The CPUC ruled that additional power is not needed at this time. SDG&E states this additional capacity is needed to address a projected gap on hot days and to support solar and wind output. Here are the facts that expose SDG&E’s false claims:

SDG&E’s peak demand growth has been relatively static for seven years, swinging somewhat above and below 4,500 MW. Peak demand has varied from 4,601 MW in 2007 to 4,643 MW in 2010 to 4,619 MW in 2012. In other years the peak demand has been well below 4,600 MW. For example, peak demand in 2006 was 4,469 MW. Peak demand in 2011 was 4,354 MW. Claims by SDG&E that peak demand is rising and new peaker plants are needed for the hottest days are misleading and erroneous.

The decision by CPUC Commissioner Ferron states this: “We cannot, on this record, find that the PPTAs [power purchase tolling agreements] are needed to support renewable resources integration.”

All the photos in this letter are from our beloved park. No one can argue with its beauty. Please protect it and reject Quail Brush Power Plant.

Respectfully,

Jeff Kahn, a San Diego County resident