

DOCKETED

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Filer:	Cathy Hickman
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov



June 20, 2016

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED PUENTE POWER PROJECT (15-AFC-01)**

To: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) for the Puente Power Project (P3) Application for Certification (15-AFC-01) which was published on June 20, 2016. The PSA contains the California Energy Commission staff's preliminary engineering, environmental and public health and safety evaluation of the proposed project. The PSA is available for review on the Energy Commission website, in two parts, at:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/getdocument.aspx?tn=211885-1>

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/getdocument.aspx?tn=211885-2>

The PSA is not a decision document for these proceedings, nor does it contain findings of the Energy Commission related to environmental impacts or the project's compliance with local, state, and federal laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). The PSA will serve as a precursor to the Final Staff Assessment (FSA).

Following publication of the PSA, and during a 45-day public comment period, staff will notice a public workshop. A PSA Workshop is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 21, 2016 and Friday, July 22, 2016 in Oxnard, California. After the conclusion of the workshop and the 45-day public comment period, staff will then prepare its FSA.

The FSA will address comments received on the PSA and will serve as staff's formal testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by the Energy Commission Committee assigned to hear this case. The Committee will hold evidentiary hearings and will consider the recommendations presented by the staff, applicant, intervenors, government agencies, tribes, and the public, prior to proposing its decision. The Energy Commission will make the final decision, including findings, after the Committee's publication of its proposed decision.

The Energy Commission encourages public participation in the review of P3's Application for Certification (AFC). The public comment period for this PSA ends on August 4, 2016. If you wish to provide comments on the document, please submit comments by going to the Energy Commission's P3 webpage <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/puente/> and click on the "Submit e-Comment" link. Please provide your full name, any organization name, an e-mail address, a reference to Docket No. 15-AFC-01 in the subject line, and preferably put your comment in an attached document (.doc, .docx, or .pdf format). After entering characters to ensure that responses are generated by a human user and not a computer, click on the "Agree & Submit Your Comment" button to submit the comment to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit. If you wish to mail written comments on the project, please submit them to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit. Please include the docket number (15-AFC-01) in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments and mail or hand-deliver them to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

All written comments and materials filed with the Dockets Unit will become a part of the public record of the proceeding. Additionally, comments will be posted on the P3 webpage of the Energy Commission's website.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PUENTE POWER PROJECT

On April 15, 2015, NRG Oxnard Energy Center LLC submitted an AFC to construct, own and operate the Puente Power Project (P3). The 262-megawatt (MW) electric power project would be located on a 3-acre portion of the 36-acre Mandalay Generating Station (MGS) at 393 North Harbor Boulevard, Oxnard, Ventura County. The proposed project would be comprised of one gas-fired combustion turbine generator (CTG), a 188-foot exhaust stack, and miscellaneous improvements necessary to either extend or reuse existing site structures and utilities. The existing Mandalay Generating Station Units 1 and 2 will be decommissioned and, if P3 is built and becomes operational, the power blocks and exhaust structure will be demolished and removed. The existing MGS Unit 3 would continue to operate.

ENERGY COMMISSION'S SITE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications to construct and operate thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts, engineering aspects and conformance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards of proposed power plants and all related facilities, such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission has a certified regulatory program and is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

SUMMARY OF CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF'S PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

Staff concludes that with implementation of staff's recommended mitigation measures described in the conditions of certification, the project will not cause a significant adverse impact to the environment, public health and safety, or to environmental justice communities, and will comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). Staff has identified the need for additional mitigation for particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM10) and sulfur dioxide (a precursor to PM10) emissions to reduce the project's direct and cumulative air quality impacts to a less than significant level. Air Quality condition AQSC-9 lists available mitigation options.

AVAILABILITY OF THE PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT

Copies of the PSA are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Eureka, Fresno, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Additionally, copies of the PSA were mailed to the following public libraries:

Oxnard Public Library Downtown Main Library 251 South 'A' Street Oxnard, CA 93030	Oxnard Public Library Colonia Branch 1500 Camino del Sol #26 Oxnard, CA 93030
Oxnard Public Library South Oxnard Branch 4300 Saviers Road Oxnard, CA 93033	

Copies of the PSA have also been sent to those public agencies that would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

PUBLIC RESOURCES, CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL SOURCES FOR INFORMATION

If you desire information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact Alana Mathews, the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by email at publicadviser@energy.ca.gov.

To request special accommodations for those persons with disabilities, contact Lourdes Quiroz at lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us or by telephone at (916) 654-5146.

For additional information contact Shawn Pittard, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4026 or email at shawn.pittard@energy.ca.gov.

News media inquiries should be directed to Albert Lundeen, Deputy Executive Director, at (916) 654-4027, or by email at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Date: 6/20/16

Signature on File
Chris Davis, Manager
Siting Office