

MAR 07 2011

Feb. 16, 2011

Iain Fisher, CPUC  
Greg Thomsen, BLM  
c/o Dudek  
605 Third St.  
Encinitas, CA 92024

Dear Mr. Fisher and Mr. Thomsen,

I've been a healthcare professional and land owner in San Diego's East County for the last 33 years. The ECO Substation Project is very, very important to our community for a number of reasons, not the least of which is reliability.

The communities of Boulevard and Jacumba need access to reliable energy. San Diego Gas & Electric has acknowledged that it needs to replace the old substations with new, more reliable technology. Yes, it will cost money, but this project will provide access to clean, renewable energy and allow us to eventually stop using fossil-fuel-sourced energy. Our national defense is being jeopardized by using up our oil, natural gas, and coal reserves.

The source of this renewable energy will be wind turbines and other green projects. The sun and the wind are free, but that energy can't reach us if the infrastructure isn't there.

As former chief executive officer for Grossmont District Hospital, I can also tell you that there's a broader need for reliable energy beyond just our community. Building more infrastructure is not necessarily something we like to do, but it is something we have to do. And it has to be infrastructure that promotes renewable energy sources.

For reasons stated above, we can't continue to rely on outdated fossil-fueled power plants. And nuclear power is not the answer, either, because nuclear waste is a problem. The solution is wind.

We need to begin to look at something that will achieve the state's RPS objectives. Currently, renewable power makes up 6 to 7 percent of our overall energy portfolio. We need to be at 33 percent by 2020. Can we make it? I don't know, but projects like ECO are critical to us achieving that threshold.

The last point I want to make is that this issue transcends NIMBYism. We should be IMBYs. This is a statewide issue that will require the cooperation of everybody, not just those who happen to live far from this project. If enough people think of it in that way, we can solve any problem at all.

Yours Truly,



Ron Dahlgren