

Clean Energy supporters rally at Mountainview Power Plant

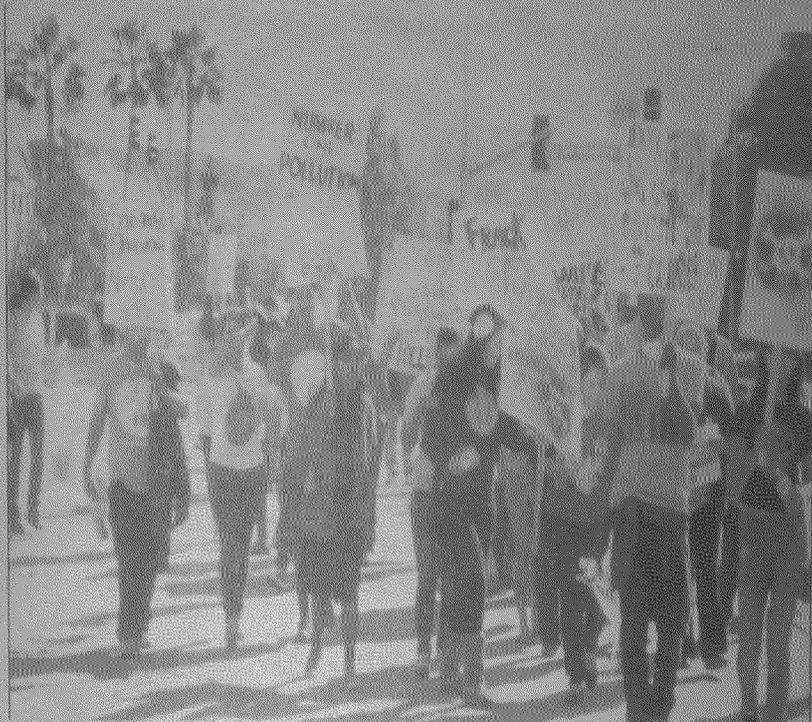


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Supporters march towards the Mountainview Power Plant in Redlands during the rally on November 24, calling for the end of plans for further construction on natural gas plants in Southern California.

By Anthony Victoria

Dozens of students from UC Riverside and San Bernardino Valley College, as well as organizers from the Sierra Club My Generation Campaign and Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ) demonstrated against the building of new Natural Gas plants on Sunday November 24 at the Mountainview Power Plant in Redlands.

The plant, which is utilized by Southern California Edison, is reported to be the dirtiest in the state of California, emitting up to 1.85 million metric tons of carbon dioxide a year, according to a report released by the non-profit Environment California Research

and Policy Center.

Clean energy supporters at Sunday's rally are against more polluting power plants in Southern California and are calling for the development of local renewable energy, energy efficiency programs, and grid-level enhancements like energy storage technologies and demand response programs.

Allen Hernandez, an organizer with the Sierra Club's My Generation Campaign, said that it is sickening to breathe the emissions of carbon dioxide. "They knew this when they built this plant," said Hernandez. "We want the Public Utilities Commission and Governor Brown to know that the decision should be one-hundred percent renewable energy. We cannot afford anymore natural gas plants."

The California Public Utilities

Commission (CPUC) alongside the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the Water Board, and California Energy Commission (CEC) are currently holding hearings in San Francisco to decide plans of building new power plants to supplant the power of the San Onofre Nuclear station, which closed in January of 2012.

According to a press release prepared by the Sierra Club, building more natural gas plants will only exacerbate current air quality issues. In San Bernardino County alone, more than 245,000 children and adults have asthma. However, the Mountainview plant is not the only source of pollution in the county.

Ericka Flores, a volunteer with CCA EJ, expressed her concerns regarding natural gas tanks that

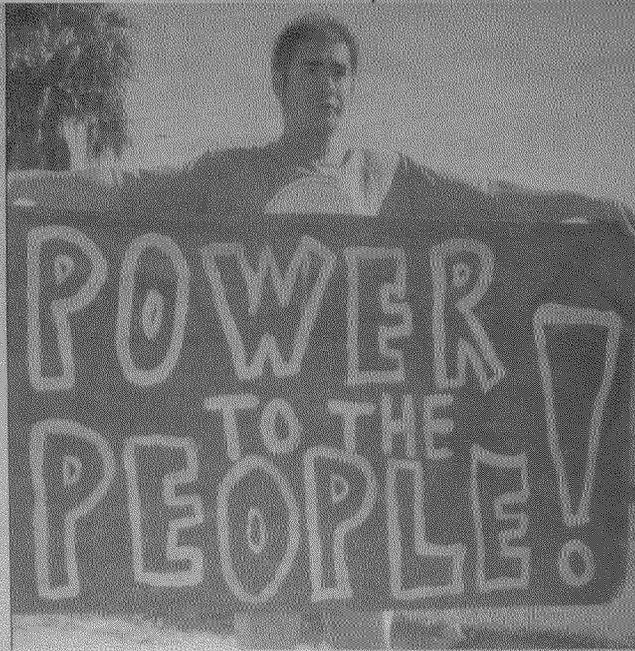


PHOTO COURTESY

Jesus Rivera, 22, of Colton holds up a banner reading, "Power to the People"

OmniTrans utilizes for their busses. "It is known that natural gas includes methane, which is highly explosive," Flores said. "They know about it but they don't want to get it out of our community. That's why it's important to support events such as these because it's about time they do what's right."

Yassamin Kavezade, an Environmental Studies student at UC Riverside and organizer for the Sierra Club My Generation Cam-

paign, is calling for the CPUC to prevent further pollution and encourage them to implement more programs for renewable energy. "The California Public Utilities Commission cannot legitimize anymore natural gas projects. I'm calling for them to not expand this pollution we have created," she said. "Let's create green jobs, not dirty natural gas jobs. It's not clean natural gas, it's simply not true. Fracking is dirty."

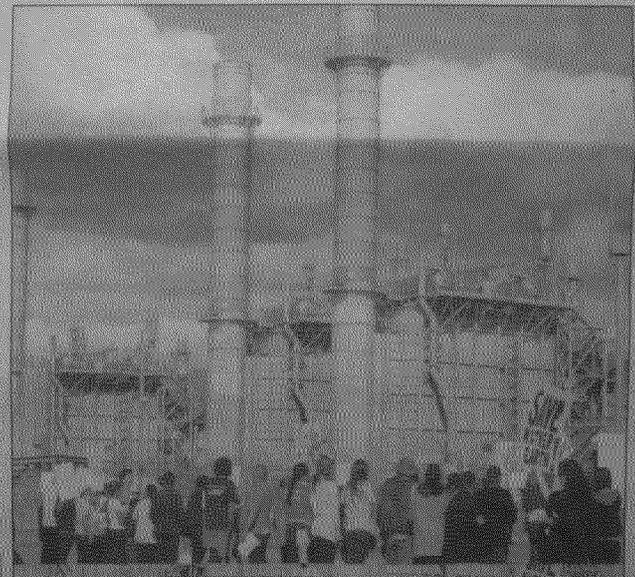


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POWER STRUGGLE

About 60 protest natural gas plant in Redlands

By **Phill Courtney**
Correspondent

With the towering smokestacks of Southern California Edison's Mountain View Natural Gas Power Plant as their backdrop, some 60 or so activists rallied Sunday afternoon at the corner of Mountain View and San Bernardino avenues to protest a power plant reported to be the dirtiest in California.

It's the one that's often noticed on cold mornings because of the cloud of steam it releases.

Bringing together several diverse groups, including around 15 from UC Riverside's Sustainable UCR club; Warehouse Workers United; Communities for a Better Environment from Los Angeles; and a Sierra Club sponsored campaign called My Generation, Allen Hernandez, 33, one of the rally's organizers and a coordinator for My Generation, said that the demonstration was held to heighten awareness of a situation that's arisen now that the San Onofre nuclear power plant in Orange County has closed.

"There needs to be a decision made on how to replace that energy," Hernandez said.

"Those who make those decisions are the Public Utilities Commission, and it looks like the decision they want to make, with a lot of pressure from the governor, is to replace that (the San Onofre plant), with 50 percent natural gas and 50 percent renewable energy. We believe that's nonsense. We believe we can do 100 percent renewables. If the PUC approves 50 percent, that means they're going to build two or more natural gas plants, and probably open up another one."

SCE says this plant is exceptional because of how much it runs.

"The Mountain View plant is one of the most efficient natural gas plants in Southern California," said Edison spokesman Paul Klein. "Because of its efficiency, it runs a lot. It also produces the most power relative to other gas plants. It's very efficient."

Hernandez stated that it was a recent study by a watchdog group that singled out the Mountain View plant as the dirtiest in all of California.

"This beast right here," he said, gesturing behind him.

The power plant emits about 1.85 million metric tons of carbon dioxide a year, according to a report released by the Environment California Research and Policy Center.

A group of protesters marched by, beating drums and pots and pans, while carrying signs with messages such as "Students for the future," "We can't see Mt. Baldy," and "Don't gas me, bro."

"And so we're basically here," Hernandez said, "because we've asked the Public Utilities Commission for a meeting and we haven't gotten any response. They're in San Francisco and so folks from the Inland Empire — a lot of low-income communities, communities of color — have no access to get into San Francisco to submit any kind of comment. They've left us no choice but to be here today.

"We feel that the Inland Empire is the voice that needs to speak out. We are the example. We want that meeting. To say to the Public Utilities Commission and the governor: look, no more. We can't take another one of these monstrosities in Southern California. We're already stuck with one. Now you plan on doing this in other communities?"

"This is wrong."

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Los Angeles Daily News

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

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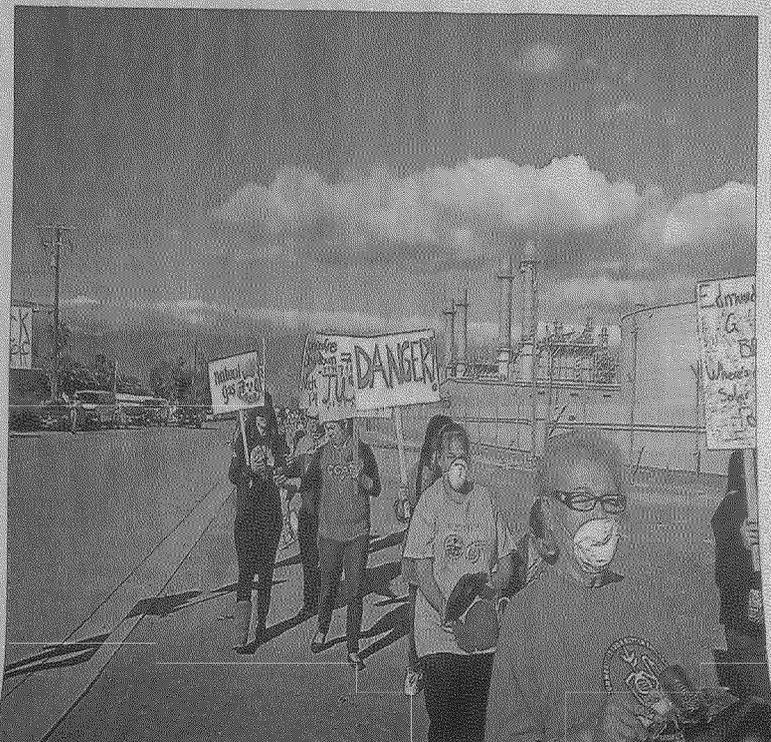
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POWER STRUGGLE

60 GATHER FOR PLANT PROTEST



PHILL COURNEY

Dozens of activists protest on Sunday outside the Southern California Mountain View Natural Gas Power Plant.

Report: Redlands facility is reportedly the dirtiest of its kind in the state; Edison defends plant

Protest: Several different groups gather at Mountain View Natural Gas Power Plant in Redlands

By Phill Courtney
Correspondent

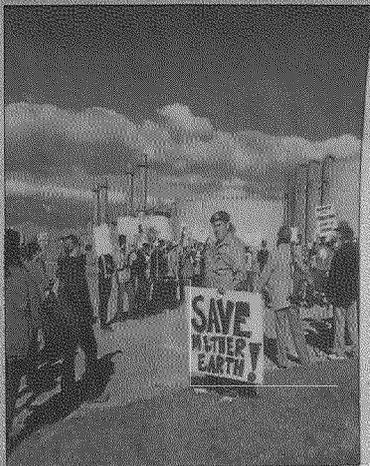
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PHILL COURNEY

A sign is shown at the rally held Sunday at the corner of Mountain View and San Bernardino avenues.

"There needs to be a decision made on how to replace that energy."

— Allen Hernandez, an organizer of the protest

Rally

FROM PAGE 1

governor, is to replace that (the San Onofre plant), with 50 percent natural gas and 50 percent renewable energy. We believe that's nonsense. We believe we can do 100 percent renewables. If the PUC approves 50 percent, that means they're going to build two or more natural gas plants, and probably open up another one."

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Another protest participant was Gerald Katz, who's now in his 60s, and has seen the energy issue from both sides of the fence. After a career of more than 30 years with the city of Colton's electrical utility, and Southern California Edison,

Katz has also labored for more than 30 years in the clean energy field, but, after working for the utilities, has seen how their engineers are interested in the "big projects."

"They don't do small, neighborhood projects," he explained. "They do a smattering of energy efficiency," but, "if we were to have concentrated programs," many ways could be found to "shave megawatts off the energy use."

Katz spent many years constructing his own eco-house that's off the grid "to see how solar energy works, and it works pretty well. I haven't had an electric bill or a water bill, since I have my own well, in about 25 years."

Refugio Mata, 34, also with My Generation, said that future gas plants are being "rushed through, re-

ally, through the Public Utilities Commission. We're looking at more plants just like that one throughout Southern California, and so we want to say we want clean energy. We don't need the gas plants."

Seventeen-year-old James Law, from south-central Los Angeles, and a member of several environmental clubs, said he'd come because he's "changing the world," but also has a personal stake in the state of our air. He has asthma, and the area where he lives has so much pollution "you can barely even breathe. And plus, there's not many trees as well."

Aisha Farley, 23, who, like Law, is also from south-central, works with Allen Hernandez, and said she's involved because it's all about "supporting each other, and what type of vision we want to see in our communities, and in California."

Adam Levi, who's just turned 29, and is an economics major at UC Riverside, said he sees a "disconnect between the greater population" and how many "natural resources we actually waste — water, fuel, gas — just resources in general. And my main reason why I showed up today is to promote resource conservation so we can be more efficient."

At the conclusion of the rally, several speakers, talking through a bull horn, addressed those gathered, including a passionate Opamaggio Gasiani, 22, who read from his own prepared remarks and spoke out against what he called "environmental racism," evidenced by the placing of power plants in predominantly low-income neighborhoods, often where the majority of residents are minorities.

PROTESTAN PLAN DE EDISON EN REDLANDS

Activistas exigen a Southern California Edison que instalen plantas de energía renovable

ALVARO CANO
SPECIAL PARA LA PRENSA

Activistas que abogan por la protección del medio ambiente elevaron una manifestación el domingo 24 de noviembre en frente de la planta de energía Mountain View en Redlands — planta propiedad de Southern California Edison — y que según un estudio reciente es una de las que emiten más contaminación en la nación.

“Con el cierre de la planta de San Onofre, SCE tiene que ver como reemplazar esa energía y sabemos que para eso es la Comisión de Utilidades Públicas de California, emitirá un fallo que favorecerá instalar plantas de gas natural y energía renovable”, comentó Allen Hernandez, organizador de Sierra Club, la organización más grande en la nación que promueve la concientización de la protección del medio ambiente.

“Nosotros estamos pidiendo que no se instalen plantas de gas natural y que en vez se instalen plantas de energía renovables. La solución al problema de contaminación en California es instalar plantas con energía limpia”, dice Hernandez.

Seyan Hernandez, la Co-mision en conjunto con el Operador de Sistema Independiente de California y la Junta de Recursos del Aire

de California están pactando un plan que significaría un retroceso y que pondría el riesgo de la salud de cientos de miles de residentes, lo que a su vez resultaría en elevados costos para los usuarios.

La compañía SCE dijo por medio del vocero Paul Klein que la planta de Redlands es excepcional debido a la alta energía que produce, Klein añadió que la planta es una de las más eficientes en todo el Sur de California.

“Esta planta produce la mayor parte del poder en relación con otras plantas de gas. Es muy eficiente”, dijo Klein.

La planta de energía natural de San Onofre, en San Diego, dejó de funcionar en 2011 debido a los riesgos que representaba para el medio ambiente. Desde entonces, SCE ha buscado la manera de reemplazar la energía producida por sus reactores.

En febrero de 2011, una semana después de que San Onofre fuera cerrada, SCE dijo tener la capacidad suficiente de energía para abastecer a los usuarios sin apagones.

“Tomando en cuenta los estragos climáticos que California ha sufrido con estas plantas, lo que ha causado incendios de maleza y sequía, tiene sentido instalar plantas con energía 100 por ciento libres de carbono. Tenemos mucha gente con asma e infecciones respiratorias que serán afectadas de manera directa”, indicó Hernandez, residente de Fontana, señalando los daños que already

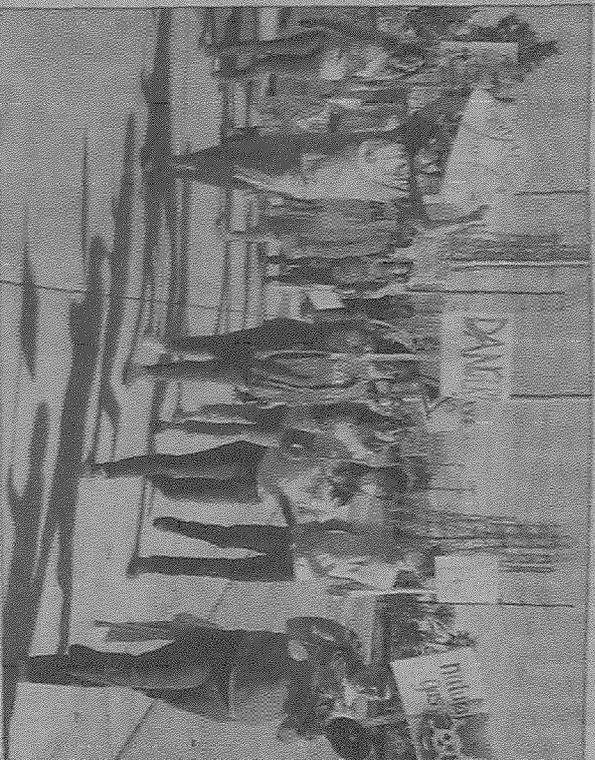
son causados por muchos empujones. “La Comisión se ha negado a entrar en diálogo con nosotros, SCE también se ha negado. Existen alternativas que deben ser tomadas muy en serio”.

Esas alternativas son paneles solares y turbinas eólicas, entre otras, añadió Hernandez.

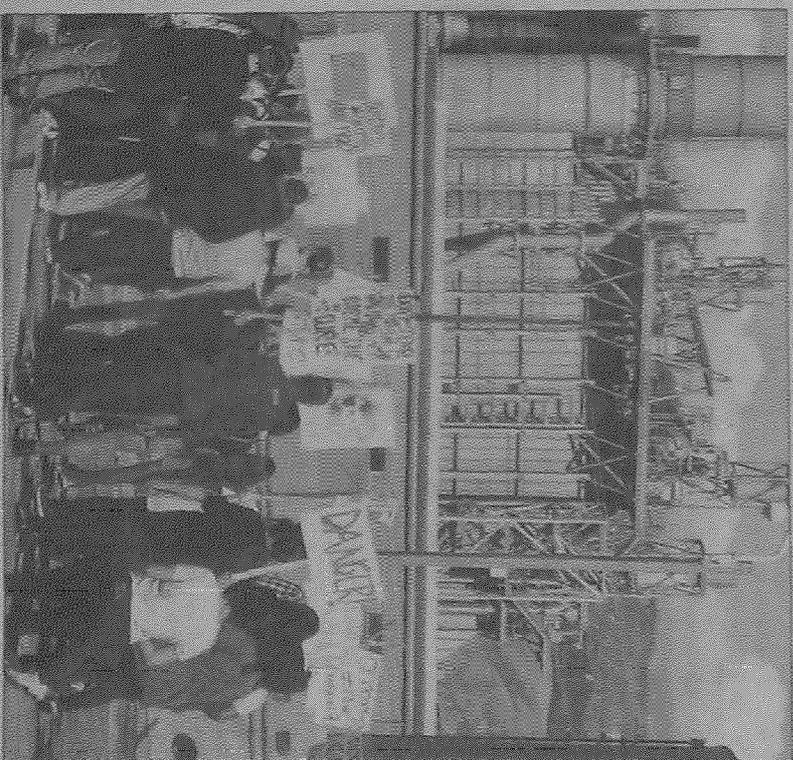
“Por ejemplo, esta planta de Redlands es una de las que más contaminan el aire. Un estudio reciente reveló que esta planta emite 6.6 millones de toneladas métricas de gases contaminantes al año. Aquí tenemos solo 60 años, y de viento insoportable. Entonces, ¿por qué no tomar ventaja de esos recursos?”, dijo Hernandez.

Entre los aproximadamente 60 manifestantes se encontraba Jasmine Kavezade, estudiante de la Universidad de California, Riverside, quien dijo sentirse preocupada por el futuro de las nuevas generaciones. Kavezade añadió que la Comisión y SCE deben escuchar las preocupaciones de la comunidad antes de tomar cualquier decisión.

“Siento como que no tenemos voz ni voto. Quiero proteger el futuro de mi hermana, el futuro de la comunidad. Existen alternativas pero parece ser que a estas compañías les importa más el dinero”, comentó Kavezade. “Estas plantas son peligrosas y están ubicadas en nuestras comunidades. Creo que la gente debe tomar conciencia y apoyar nuestra lucha”.



Activistas que abogan por la protección del medio ambiente elevaron una manifestación el domingo, 24 de noviembre en Redlands.



Activistas protestaron el domingo, 24 de noviembre en frente de la planta de energía Mountain View en Redlands.

LOCAL RESIDENTS SPREAD HOLIDAY JOY -- See Page 3

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Protesters express concerns about pollution during rally

BY ALEJANDRO CANO

Expressing concerns about pollution, protesters held a peacefully rally at the Mountain View Power Plant in Redlands on Nov. 24.

The protesters claimed that plans by state agencies that are designed to regulate privately-owned energy companies would take the state of California backward on issues of clean air and climate emission, resulting in major increases to customer bills.

Operated by Southern California Edison, the site was chosen after a recent study by the non-profit Environment California Research and Policy Center revealed that it is the highest polluting power plant in the state, releasing about 1.85 million met-

ric tons of carbon dioxide a year.

"Early next year, the California Public Utilities Commission will deliver a draft plan to replace the energy from the San Onofre plant that was closed in 2011. They want to build natural gas plants instead of building 100 percent carbon-free energy plants," said Fontana resident Allen Hernandez, an organizer with the Sierra Club. "Given the pace and impact of climate disruption that our state has already seen, temperature extremes, massive wildfires and drought, it only makes sense to replace San Onofre with 100 percent carbon-free energy."

Hernandez said that by building natural gas power plants, SCE, in conjunction with state agencies like CPOC, the California Independent System Operator

(CAISO), and the California Air Resources Board, will be putting in danger the health of hundreds of thousands of people, including children and elderly persons who have respiratory problems.

The alternative could be building plants that use air and solar energy, added Hernandez.

"We will not tolerate the construction of polluting plants in our neighborhoods. It is always sunny in the Inland Empire and when winds come, they come strong. There are alternatives that could protect people's health," said Hernandez.

The protest was organized by the My Generation campaign, sponsored by Sierra Club, and attended by members of the Warehouse Workers United (WWU), Communities for a Better

Environment from Los Angeles, University of California Riverside's Sustainable UCR Club, and concerned residents.

Jasmine Kavezade, a student at UCR, said she worries about future generations since state agencies seem to benefit privately-owned companies instead of protecting the community. Kavezade added that residents could join the effort by writing letters to the state agencies demanding clean energy.

"It will be too late when they start construction. We need to act now for the sake of future generations. I worry about my sister's future, I worry about my community's future. Let's take action now," said Kavezade.

SCE said through spokesperson Paul Klein that the Mountain View

power plant is one of the most efficient natural gas plants in Southern California.

"Because of its efficiency, it runs a lot. It also produces the most power relative to other gas plants. It's very efficient," said Klein.

The San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, located in San Diego County, was closed in 2011 after authorities found it to be dangerous to the environment and people's health. Since then, SCE has looked at alternatives. Two weeks after the plant was closed, SCE announced that it was producing enough power even without the plant.

"If they have enough energy, why it is that they want to build more plants then?" asked Hernandez.

El Latino san diego

¡No! a Plantas de Gas

Miembros de Sierra Club se manifiestan vs. iniciativa

El grupo de ambientalistas inconformes por las políticas de construcción de plantas ambientales en California. |

REDLANDS, CA.- En contra de la instalación de "más plantas de energía contaminantes en el Sur de California", se manifestaron miembros de la organización ambientalista internacional "Sierra Club".

Una coalición de defensores de la salud pública, los partidarios de energía limpia, conservacionistas y estudiantes realizaron una protesta el mediodía del Domingo, 24 de noviembre fuera de la planta eléctrica a gas Mountainview (Vista a la Montaña).

El grupo de ambientalistas inconformes por las políticas de construcción de plantas ambientales en California demandaron asimismo "la expansión de la energía renovable, programas de eficiencia energética, y de nivel de red de mejoras locales como las tecnologías de almacenamiento de energía y programas de respuesta a la demanda".

Advirtieron asimismo que "propuestas para construir nuevas plantas eléctricas de gas están siendo considerados para el estado para reemplazar el poder de la shuttered Estación de Generación Nuclear de San Onofre".

Se dijo que la protesta se llevó a cabo "como una respuesta a los esfuerzos de los funcionarios estatales para la construcción de más plantas eléctricas de gas en el sur de California. La planta de energía Mountainview ha encontrado previamente que la planta de energía más sucia de toda California, pues plantas de gas similares serían construidos en el sur de California, si los planes propuestos reciben la luz verde".

La planta Mountainview se localiza sobre la Redlands Avenue en el 2492 West San Bernardino y la expresión tuvo lugar al filo del mediodía.

Portando máscaras para gas, inhaladores gigantes y por medio de altavoces, voceros de Sierra Club anticiparon que ya se están llevando a cabo las audiencias en la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de California (California Public Utilities Commission) de la ciudad San Francisco, sobre la posibilidad de que se construyan nuevas plantas eléctricas de gas en California y se reemplacen plantas como la Estación de Generación de Gas San Onofre.

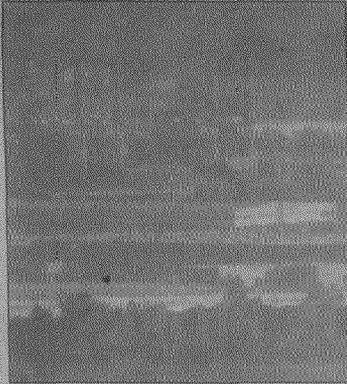
La propuesta fue recibida con preocupación por los miembros de la organización ambiental "dada los impactos sobre la salud, el daño auditivo y los costos, que las nuevas plantas de gas tendrían en el sur de California".

La acumulación de gas de la planta tendría, según Sierra Club, "un impacto dramático en la salud pública local. Contrariamente a las afirmaciones de la industria del gas, la construcción de más plantas de gas sólo exacerbará los problemas de calidad del aire local. Sólo en San Bernardino County, más de 245.000 niños y adultos tienen asma. Los ataques de asma envían 12.000 niños a la sala de emergencias cada año, mientras que más de 83 personas en el condado mueren cada año por asma", sostiene en un reporte.

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Local College Students Hope to Prevent Further Construction of Natural Gas Plants in Southern California



By Anthony Victoria

The retirement of the San Onofre nuclear power plant in January of 2012 prompted California utilities officials to investigate alternative ways of providing thousands of homes and businesses with power. The San Onofre response plan put together by Governor Jerry Brown consists of the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC), California Energy Commission (CEC), the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the Water Board. Together they plan to find solutions to replace San Onofre. Officials expect the inclusion of traditional power generation, most likely natural gas that will add three gigawatts to meet the demands of the San Diego and Los Angeles areas in upcoming years.

Grid advocates are vying for cleaner forms of energy, such as solar plants, instead of natural gas

PHOTO COURTESY: The Mountain View Power Plant in Redlands is the highest polluting plant in the State of California according to a study released in September by the Environment California Research and Policy Center. Environmental groups and students are looking to prevent further construction of natural gas plants in Southern California. They will be holding a rally on November 24 at the Redlands plant.

facilities. According to an analysis conducted by the California Environmental Justice Alliance, existing and new natural gas plants could release anywhere from 3 to 7.5 million tons of CO2 greenhouse gas per year. With deadlines approaching calling for the retirement or maintenance of aging coastal power plants, environmental organizers express that not enough is being done to address the problems of the process called "once-through cooling", which releases hot water into the ocean. It was reported that the process causes harm to marine life.

In the Inland Empire, several students from local colleges and universities expect to rally at the Mountain View facility in Redlands in hopes of garnering the attention of the Public Utilities Commission. The natural gas power plant is reported to be the most polluting in the state, emit-

ting about 1.85 million metric tons of carbon dioxide a year, according to a report released by the non-profit Environment California Research and Policy Center.

"We think it's ridiculous," said Sustainable UCR co-chair Yasamin Kavezade of the proposed plan. "California has already reached its limits on natural gas plants. They aren't a sustainable solution. We would like to see rooftop solar, energy efficiency, demand response and storage."

According to Kavezade, one of the primary factors that prevented rolling blackouts after the San Onofre closure was the use of rooftop solar. "It's the answer," she said. "There are studies and plenty of evidence that show it is a sustainable option."

"Natural gas is still a fossil fuel, meaning it's acquired in an invasive way," explained Opamaggio Casciani, a volunteer with the Sierra Club's My Generation campaign. "It creates holes in the crust of the earth and it pours chemically treated water mixed with harsh chemicals. It is then pushed into the earth, causing cracks and bedrock to release gas that is eventually captured."

Casciani explained that through this process known as hydraulic fracturing or "fracking", lots of CO2 is released into the environment.

"Natural gas is bad for the environment but it is also bad for society, Casciani said. "Are we going to allow natural gas to go for an-

other a hundred years? We won't even be here."

When asked why he is participating in the rally, Casciani expressed he feels it his responsibility to make people more aware about the facts that surround society. "If no one is going to stand up and shout and get angry at being killed forcefully, I take it that it's my responsibility to do it. That's what

motivates me."

The rally will take place on Sunday November 24, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Anthony Victoria is a contributing writer for Inland Empire Community newspapers and can be reached at email address..... victoriaanthony91@gmail.com