

Features, Lifestyle & News You Can Use!

Clean Energy supporters rally at Mountainview Power Plant



Photo Courtesy

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 Nov. 24 at the Mountainview Power Plant in Redlands.

The plant, which is owned by Southern California Edison, is proposed to be the first in the state of California, emitting up to 1.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide a year according to a report released by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) in

2011. The plant will produce clean energy sufficient to supply 100,000 homes and will be the largest in Southern California and will call for the development of local coal-water, energy efficiency programs, and gas plant mitigation. The energy storage technologies and limited response programs.

Allen Hernandez, an organizer with the Sierra Club's My Generation Campaign, said that it is necessary to bring the attention of "other people." They aren't when they make the plant," said Hernandez. "We want the Public Utilities Commission and Governor Brown to know that the decision should be the number one priority for the state. We can't afford expensive 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 at San Francisco on all plans of emitting new power plants to replace the power of the San George 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 increase current air quality issues in San Bernardino County and make them worse. However, the Mountainview plant is not the only source of pollution in the county.

Erica Flores, a student with CCA EJ, expressed her concerns regarding natural gas plants that

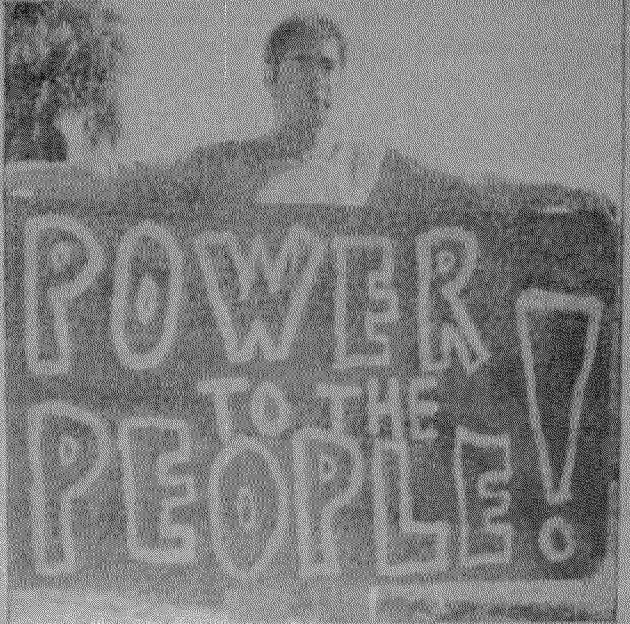


Photo Courtesy

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

QuinnTravis utilizes for their gas. "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 the community. That's why it's important to support events such as these because it's about time they do what's right."

Yasmin Kavehade, 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 any more natural gas projects. I'm calling for them to not expand their pollution we have created," she said. "Let's create green jobs, not dirty natural gas jobs. It's not about natural gas, it's simply not using fracking is dirty."

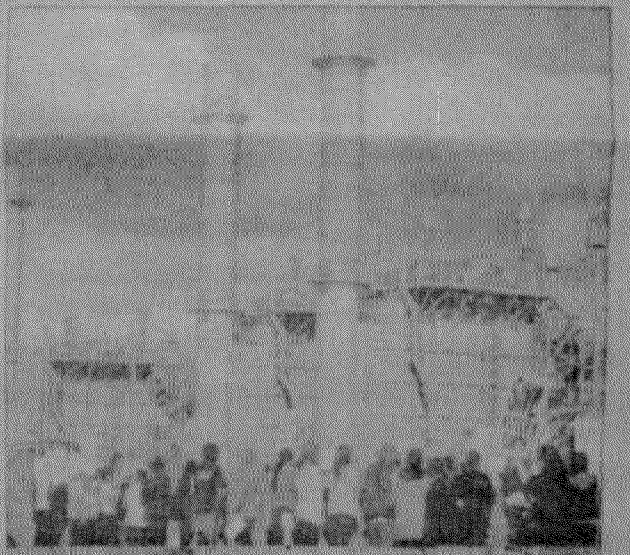


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Redlands Daily Facts

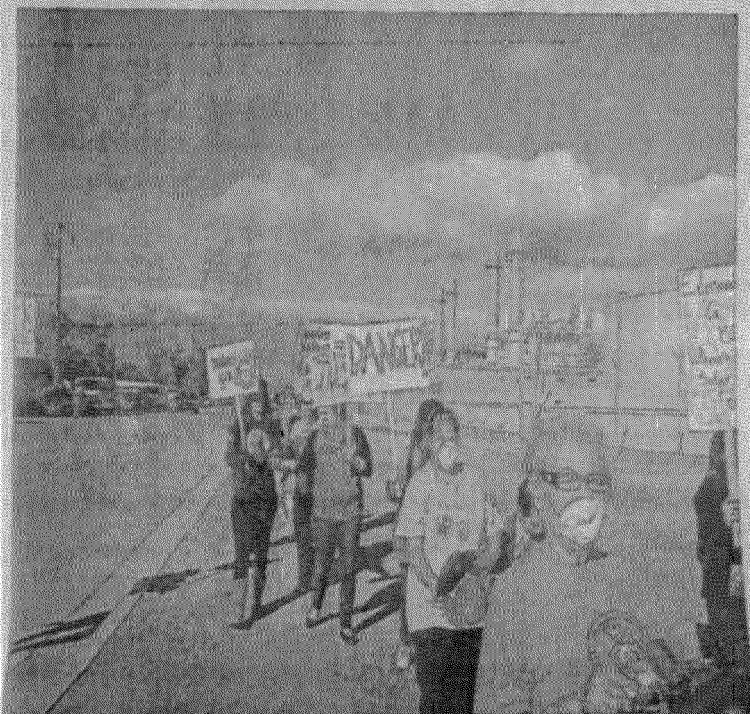
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60 GATHER FOR PLANT PROTEST



60 California residents Sunday gathered at 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 Phil Courtney
Contributor

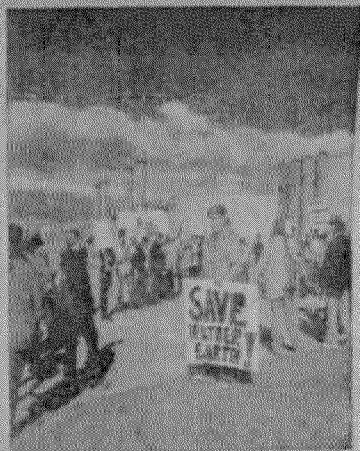
With the emergence of tracks of Southern California Edison's Mountain View Natural Gas Power Plant as their backdrop, more than 60 activists, called Sunday afternoon at the corner of Mountain View and San Bernardino avenues to protest a power plant reported to be the dirtiest in California.

It's the one that's often ranked as mild mercury because of the level of mercury released.

Bringing together various diverse groups, including several in the UC Riverside's Sustainability UCR and Warehouse Workers United, California for a

Major Environmental Trust, Lisa Rogers and a group that sponsored the protest called My Generation, Anna Hernandez, 34, one of the group's organizers and a coordinator for My Generation, said that the demonstration was held to highlight members of a coalition that often says that the San Onofre nuclear power plant in Orange County is worst.

"There needs to be a decision made on how to replace that energy," Rogers said. "Those who made that decision are the Public Utilities Commission, and it needs the decision they want to make, with a lot of pressure from the



Activists gathered at the plant and to voice at the corner of Mountain View and San Bernardino avenues.

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

— Lisa Hernandez, organizer of the protest

Rally

FROM PAGE 1

question is to replace that role that Onofre plant, with 60 percent natural gas and 40 percent renewable energy. No matter that's how sense. We believe we can do 100 percent renewable. If the PUC approves 60 percent, that means they're going to build three 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 Soliman spokeswoman Kim Kinn. "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 has been right here," he said, gesturing toward the plant.

The power plant emits about 1.85 million metric tons of carbon dioxide a year, according to a report released by the Environmental 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 let us be here."

"And as we're heading here," Hernandez said, "because we've asked the Public Utilities Commission for a meeting and we haven't gotten any response. They're in

that position and so they're like, 'oh, what do we do?' — a lot of low-cost investments, construction of our — how do we get to get San Francisco without any kind of commitment. They're left us no choice but to be here today."

"We feel that the Inland Empire is the place that needs to speak out. We are the example. We want that meeting. To say to the Public Utilities Commission and the governor's job, we have. We can't take another one of these commitments in Southern California. We're already stuck with one. How many are doing this in other communities? This is wrong."

Another protest participant was Gerald Kato, who lives in Los Angeles and has been the energy issue from both sides of the street. After a year of work that he spent with the city of Los Angeles and Southern California Edison.

Kato has also worked for more than 30 years in the area energy field, but after working for the utilities, he has seen that employees are interested in the "low profile."

"They don't do much, they're not proud," he explained. "They're not talking of energy efficiency, but... we want to have concentrated programs, many ways could be found to 'share' programs of the energy use."

One great study was constructing the two because that's off the grid "to use our own energy works and works pretty well. I haven't had an electric bill or a water bill, since I have my own well, in about 20 years."

Hernandez said, also with My Generation, said that future gas plants are being "rolled through re-

with through the Public Utilities Commission. We're looking at more plants just like this 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 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 that "you can barely even breathe. And plus, there's not many trees as well."

Anita Farber, 64, who lives in Los Angeles from south-central, works with Allen Hernandez, and said she's involved because it's all about "suspecting each other, and what type of crime we want to see in our communities, and in California."

Adam Levi, who's just turned 24, and is an economics major at UC Riverside, said he was a "disconnect" between the greater population and how many natural resources we actually have — water, fuel, gas — and resources in general. And his main reason why he showed up today is to promote resource conservation as well as in more efficient.

At the conclusion of the rally, several speakers talking through a bull horn, addressed those gathered, including a passionate Greg Stagner, Chairman, 51, who said he on his own proposed on-site wet space out against what he called "environmental racism," motivated by the closing of power plants in production for people another hands, what where the the parts of residents are the needed.

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SEMANA DEL 29 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2011 • 1

PROTESTAN PLAN DE EDISON EN REDLANDS

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

ALF JARROO CANO
OPINIÓN PARA LA PRENSA

Activistas que abogan por la protección del medio ambiente cuestionan esta manifestación el domingo 24 de noviembre en frente de la planta de energía Mountain View en Redlands, una propiedad de Southern California Edison.

Una el cierre de la planta de San Onofre, SCE tiene que ver con la "completar" con otras y sistemas que están en la Comisión de California de California para un total que cubren a la mayoría plantas de gas natural y energía renovable. Comentando Alan Hernández, un activista de Sierra Club, la organización que ayuda en la lucha que promueve la conservación de la protección del medio ambiente.

"Nosotros estamos pidiendo que se instalen plantas de gas natural y se cancelen las nuevas plantas de energía renovable. La solución al problema de contaminación en California es instalar plantas con energía limpia", dice Hernández.

Según Hernández, la Comisión, en conjunto con el Departamento de Recursos del Aire

del ambiente están realizando un plan que significaría un retroceso y que pondría el riesgo de la salud de cientos de miles de residentes. Ir que a su vez perjudicaría en elevados costos para los usuarios.

La compañía SCE dijo por medio del vocero Paul Khan que la planta de Redlands es excepcional debido a la tanta energía que produce. Khan 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 Redlands con otras plantas de gas. Es muy eficiente", dijo Khan.

La planta de energía nuclear de San Onofre, en San Diego, dejó de funcionar en 2012 debido a los riesgos que se presentaban 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 que la capacidad suficiente de energía para cubrir a los usuarios sin problemas.

"Tomamos en cuenta los riesgos climáticos que California ha sufrido con estas plantas, lo que ha causado la emisión de gases y serían tener sentido instalar plantas con energía libre de carbono. Tenemos mucha gente con asma e infecciones respiratorias que serán afectadas de manera directa", indicó Hernández, recordando los datos que dicen

una causa de muchos problemas. "La Comisión se ha negado a establecer diálogo con nosotros. SCE también se ha negado. Existen alternativas que deben ser tomadas muy en serio".

Estas alternativas son paneles solares y turbinas eólicas, entre otras, añadió Hernández.

"Por ejemplo, esta planta de Redlands es una de las que más contaminan el aire. Un estudio reciente reveló que esta planta emite 3.5 millones de toneladas métricas de gases contaminantes al año, lo que equivale a todo el año, y de nuevo la semana. Entonces, ¿por qué no tomar ventaja de una tecnología tan eficiente?", dijo Hernández.

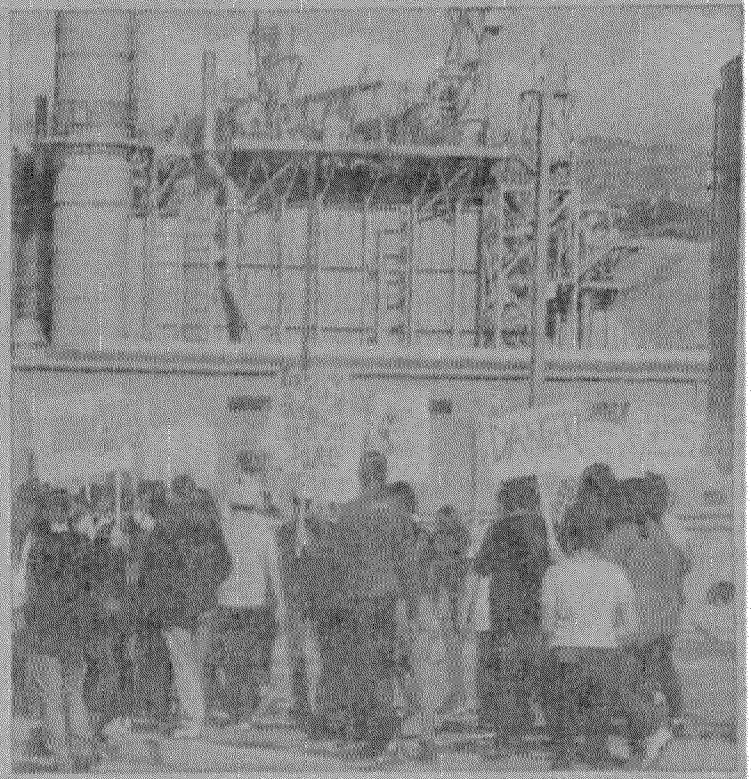
Entre las aproximadamente 60 manifestantes se encontraron James Saxe y Julie, estudiantes de la Universidad de California, Riverside, quienes dicen sentirse preocupada por el futuro de los niños y generaciones.

Kim es un padre que la Comisión y SCE deben escuchar las preocupaciones de la comunidad antes de tomar cualquier decisión.

"Mientras tanto que no tomamos ningún voto. Queremos proteger el futuro de mi hija, al futuro de la comunidad. Hemos alternativas que parecen ser que a estas compañías les importa más el dinero", comentó Kavarado. "Estas plantas son peligrosas y están poniendo en riesgo a nuestras comunidades. Creo que la gente debe tomar con conciencia y apoyar una alternativa".



Activistas que abogan por la protección del medio ambiente realizaron 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 peaceful 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 in customer bills.

Organized 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 1.25 million met-

ric tons of carbon dioxide a year.

“Early next year, the California Public Utilities Commission will approve 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 CPUC, 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 easier in the Island 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.

Justine Kavevada, a student at UCR, said she worries about future generations since state agencies seem to benefit privately-owned companies instead of protecting the community. Kavevada 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 Kavevada.

SCE said through spokesman Paul Klein that the Mountain View

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

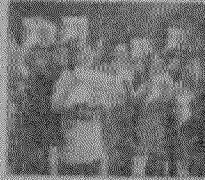
“Because of its efficiency, it runs a lot. It also produces the most power relative to other gas plants. It’s very efficient,” said Klein.

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.

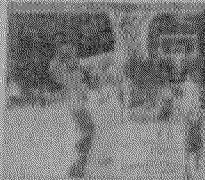
“If they have enough energy, why it is that they want to build more plants then?” asked Hernandez.

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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."

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 de 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".

Advertieron 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) del a 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.

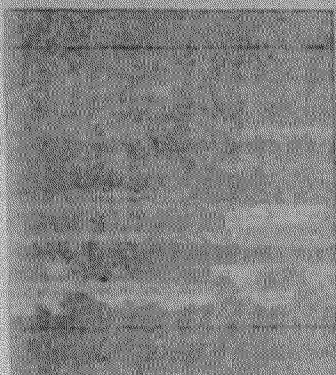
La propuesta fue recibida con preocupación por los miembros de la organización ambiental "dada los impactos sobre la a salud, el daño auditivo y los costos, que las nuevas plantas de gas tendrían en el sur de California".

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 relocation 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

From Country: 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 emissions per year. With coal mines approaching closure 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 this 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 Yassamin 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 back 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