

**OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (OVRP)
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
October 15, 2010
2:00 P.M.**

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER
 - Meeting called to order at 2:10 pm by John Willet.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. CAC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE OVRP PIO PICO ENERGY PLANT PROPOSAL – OVRP CAC Pio Pico Power Plant Subcommittee Chair, Duane Bazzel

At the last meeting John appointed me as the Chair for the Proposed Pio Pico Power Plant Subcommittee. When we looked at the schedule of events for this proposed plant and realizing how quickly things were going to be moving the subcommittee met quickly, reviewed the proposal, documents and impacts it would have on the OVRP. The subcommittee consisted of Dave DiDonato, Jack Bransford, Katie Westfall, John Vogel, Robert Miller, Frank Hererra-A. At this meeting it was decided and asked that I prepare a draft memo that reflected our unanimous feelings and recommendations about this proposed power plant. I prepared this memo, which was reviewed by the committee and sent to all of you for your review. Today we would like to ask that this committee give their support with an action and motion to approve this. There have been three letters of opposition written and filed with the CEC about this project.

Public Comment

- None

CAC Member Comments

- John Willett – I have a memo from John Carroll that I would like to read into the minutes. “As President of the Friends of Otay Valley Regional Park I agree with the CAC to oppose the Power Plant in the Otay Valley Regional Park”.
- Frank Hererra-A – The intent is to send this to the Policy Committee prior to the OVRP PC-CAC meeting and then it is their decision to send this to the CEC
- George Hanson – When is their meeting with the CEC?
 - ◆ They currently do not have a scheduled date.
- Mike McCoy – If the City of Chula Vista overrides the concerns presented and proceeds with the project could it still be challenged by a different agency or group?
- Katie Westfall – There is still the CEC process that has to be completed on this project as well as a MSCP Amendment that will need to be approved by the Wildlife Agencies.
- Frank Hererra-A – The land use issue with the City of Chula Vista still has not been resolved.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THIS LETTER AND FORWARD IT ONTO THE POLICY COMMITTEE – Katie Westfall, 2nd FRANK HERERRA
ALL IN FAVOR – 12-4-2

- Mariana Lopez – Even assuming the Pio Pico plant is constructed there is still no guarantee that the South Bay Plant will be decommissioned or torn down. The two projects are not linked to one another.
- Michael Meachum – If the CEC approves the project, the City of Chula Vista will require that an interconnection study be completed for this project. At the completion of the interconnection study there would have to be proof that there is enough power produced to meet the anticipated needs before the City approves construction. I have been here twice before with papers to handout and have been cut-off and it seems that this committee does not want to hear the facts about this project.
- Duane Bazzel – I have been at all of these meetings and I know that at some of the initial meetings there was not a lot of information that was available. I do not remember you ever being stopped or cut-off. I also know that some of the previous meetings were more sparsely attended and not as many questions were asked because of the little amount of information that was out and available.
- Frank Hererra-A – this is not about how the power is going to be distributed or where, but about the land use and location issue. The interconnection could be to wherever, what we are looking at as the OVRP CAC is the issue of the proposed location of the power plant, which directly conflicts with the OVRP Guidelines that were established by this committee.
- Duane Bazzel – Yes, while this is an information flow and everyone is being educated as we go this memo is speaking about the fact of this power plant being located in the OVRP.
- Michael Meachum – If the interconnection study shows that this new power plant would not supply the necessary energy to shutdown and dismantle the current South Bay Power Plant, the City of Chula Vista, as the land owners for the new power plant, would be able to not sign the lease and stop the project. This is a big difference from some of projects that have happened in the past because the City owns the land where this project would be constructed.
- Katie Westfall – This letter is not opposing the power plant or the need for power. It is opposing the location of placing this power plant within an open space preserve.
- Mariana Lopez – As a resident of the City of Chula Vista the City Council has tried to do good and remove the South Bay Power Plant, but Cal-ISO has stopped it before. I also have a concern that the \$12M budget deficit for the City of Chula Vista could make us more vulnerable to accept a revenue-generating project because of our economic need.
- Michael Meachum – I looked at over 40 sites in Chula Vista for this project and there aren't any other sites that fit the needs and requirements for this project as well as this location. The first people that I took to the site was the City of Chula Vista, other agency staff and members of this committee. If you want to substitute your thoughts and opinions in place of SDG&E's you are more than welcome to. The idea that this committee is making a decision in a vacuum with so little information is disturbing to me.
- Sally Bartlett – It is my understanding that this project will only be up for 50 years and then it will be dismantled by the company and returned to open space with additional land. Is this correct?
- Michael Meachum – The project has a 20 year lease with two 10-year extension options and at the end of the lease they would give an additional 30 acres of open

- space as mitigation. There is not a significant impact to the current environment, but there is still environmental review to be done.
- Duane Bazzel – This is what is currently proposed, however there is nothing in writing or confirmed to ensure that this will happen.
 - Katie Westfall – Additional studies about the animal and vegetation of the site still have to be completed. However, it is already known that there is Fairy Shrimp and vernal pools that would be destroyed. I have a list of other impacted wildlife and vegetation that I can give to anyone that would like a copy.
 - Brandon Marvin – Is there any added benefit for local companies and the area from this project?
 - Michael Meachum - There is an energy commission process that has to be followed. From the beginning, I've been trying to make the mitigations higher to benefit the City of Chula Vista.
 - Ed Batchelder – As this project moves forward, there are still technical and environmental documents being drafted and will be provided.
 - Mark Kukuchek – I'm torn on this as well because we do need to support industry and growth but I also want to protect the preserve of the OVRP.
 - Mariana Lopez – Michael has been very helpful in trying to determine where to place this power plant and I was at the presentation for this power plant and as it goes for a power plant project it is a good project. I would like to ask another question because we have a City Manager that can override staff recommendations, etc and it has been said that he may keep the South Bay Plant open to get the additional revenue. Looking at the location and plan for the plant, is one of the reasons that it needs to be in the area because of the water source?
 - Michael Meachum – SDGE has concluded a business deal, but there still has not been a signed contract. Generally speaking just on infrastructure there are other places that this plant could be located, however none of them are nearly as viable. If it were to move east any further it would be out of the City of Chula Vista city limits.
 - Katie Westfall – I just wanted to clarify that this project should be located in an industrial zone, not in a preserve.
 - Dave Didonato – As a member of the CAC it is our groups focus to protect the OVRP and a power plant does fit into this plan. I have based my decision on what the memo in front of us includes about this project not being a fit or following the OVRP guidelines set forth by this committee.
 - Kevin O'Neill – Chula Vista is giving up a fairly substantial resource and should get something to off-set this. There needs to be some really good mitigation and benefits to the park if this happens.
 - Duane Bazzel – We have been working for many many years on trying to make this park a reality and millions and millions of dollars. It is my stand that as the OVRP CAC we are charged with protecting and taking care of the OVRP. The Policy makers and officials who will have to look into all the economic benefits, pros and cons and make the ultimate difficult decisions.
 - John Vogel – We did take into account what our future voice would be when we discussed this as a subcommittee. We took a strictly OVRP CAC stance of preservation and protection of the OVRP.
 - Robert Miller – I would like to reiterate the statements made by John Vogel and Duane Bazzel, it is hard to protect something but that is what this CAC is supposed to do.
 - Michael Meachum – I just wanted to say that I agree with what Duane Bazzel said and if you look at just the park and when we get further along in the process where we really see the reports and documents including the environmental documents. If it

is shown that this will be a detriment to the habitat and environment you should oppose this project and show the justification with the impact reports in hand.

- Katie – I would just like to reiterate that there is no guarantee that the South Bay Plant will be taken down.

2ND MOTION RECOMMENDATION TO REMOVE THE WORD “STRONGLY OPPOSES” TO JUST “OPPOSES” – Mariana Lopez, 2nd Mark Kukuchek
ALL IN FAVOR – 4-11-2

- George Hanson – I would argue that the language of this memo is far too mild and we should be more assertive.
- Sally Bartlett – I like this 2nd motion wording change recommendation.

CLOSING REMARKS/ROUNDTABLE

- Duane Bazzel – The next step is that I will be forwarding this letter to the PC for their review and either recommendation and signature or not, but either way we still will continue to work as a committee and continue to follow the process and project and voice our opinions, concerns and continue to ask questions.
- Jack Bransford – I would like to thank Duane Bazzel for his work as the subcommittee chair.
- Frank Herrera-A – I think that it’s time we all revisit the OVRP CAC Guidelines and remember what we set forth in those guidelines and are supposed to be here to do.
- Mike McCoy – The MSCP program is set up by the United States Department of the Interior for the reason to off-set things like this so that you wouldn’t put projects in areas like this.
- David DiDonato – I would like to thank everyone for coming so that we could hear this presentation and take a vote on the issue. It is always good to get numerous opinions. I also thank Michael Meachum for all of his work on this project.
- Robert Miller – I have read that California has lost a very large percent of its wetlands already and we have to protect the resources we have.
- Katie Westfall – I would like to say thank you to Duane Bazzel for his leadership and make note that there was recently a report that named the OVRP as an invaluable park resource and we need to protect this.
- Mark Kukuchek – I support protecting the OVRP but don’t want to forget or overlook how important business and industry is to everyone as well.
- George Hanson – I would like to thank Mike McCoy for his comments.
- Kevin O’Neill – I know there were some comments about writing letters to the agencies, etc and I would just like to reiterate that since there is some difference in opinions that if there are letters written that are not part of an approved motion by the CAC they should be written strictly as an individual and not as a member of the OVRP CAC.

OPEN COMMENT

CAC Members

- None

Staff

- None

ADJOURNMENT – 3:35 pm

CAC MEMBER ATTENDEES

John Willett

Katie Westfall

George Hanson

John Vogel

Wayne Dickey

Kevin O'Neill

Jack Bransford

Duane Bazzel

Sally Bartlett

Mike McCoy

David DiDonato

Colleen Green

Pauline Martinsen

Frank Herrera-A

Robert Miller

Mark Kukuchek

Mariana Lopez

Brandon Marvin (left at 3:05p)

STAFF PRESENT

Chuck Tucker

Cheryl Goddard

Laura Ball

Ed Batchelder

Larry Duke

Michael Meachum