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PRESS RELEASE

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COUNCILMAN JOSE HUIZAR LEADS MOCK FUNERAL PROCESSION TO PROTEST THE CITY OF VERNON'S PROPOSED POWER PLANT

Protesters will follow hearse, carry headstones and mourn wearing black.

LOS ANGELES – Councilman José Huizar was joined by two hundred community members from Boyle Heights and Huntington Park in a mock funeral procession to protest the City of Vernon's proposed new 914-megawatt power plant. East Los Angeles residents, members of the Coalition Against the Vernon Power Plant, Communities for a Better Environment, the Boyle Heights Residents Home Owners Association, and Father John Murrieta of Resurrection Church joined Councilman Huizar in the protest.

"Residents from Boyle Heights should not be the victims of yet another act of environmental injustice with this proposed new power plant," said Councilmember Jose Huizar. "The power plant would produce dangerous emissions that are associated with smog, cancer, asthmas and other respiratory diseases. This is not acceptable for any community."

The mock funeral procession included a hearse and community members dressed in black to symbolize the likely increase in community deaths due to the increased toxic emissions. Estimates from the power plant emissions may result in an increase in annual adult mortality of four to 12 people in the area, according to a health risk assessment by air quality officials.

The power plant emissions will not only affect the residents of Vernon, they will directly and dangerously affect children and families of neighboring communities including Boyle Heights. The unpredictability of prevailing winds are such that emissions from the power plant are very likely to blow toward the City of Los Angeles. Many neighborhoods in eastern Los Angeles are already heavily impacted by pollution from industrial facilities, diesel trucks and other harmful emission sources.

Community members organized the protest after the City of Vernon postponed a public hearing on the proposed new power plant, which was originally scheduled for Nov. 26. Currently there are two power plants in the City of Vernon. Combined, the two plants emit 198-tons of greenhouse gases. The proposed new power plant will emit additional 881-tons of greenhouse gases.

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