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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 27, 2007

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COUNCILMAN JOSE HUIZAR AND CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO ANNOUNCE CITY OF LOS ANGELES' INTENTION TO OPPOSE THE CITY OF VERNON'S POWER PLANT

LOS ANGELES - Councilman José Huizar, City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, East Los Angeles residents, members of the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Coalition Against the Vernon Power Plant joined together to oppose the City of Vernon's plans to build new power plant.

Councilman Huizar introduced City legislation on Nov. 27 that called for the City to protect the interests, health and well-being of its residents. The legislation also called for the City Council to authorize the City Attorney to intervene in the City of Vernon's state regulatory process to build the power plant.

"I will not let the City of Vernon dictate the future health and well-being of the residents of Los Angeles. The City of Vernon has admitted that the power plant will produce toxic emissions that are associated with cancer, asthma and other respiratory deceases," said Councilman José Huizar.

"Shoulder to shoulder, I am working with City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo to protect the residents of Los Angeles from toxic air pollution this plant would produce. The City Attorney will intervene in the state regulatory process to ensure that the proposed plant's dangerous emissions are reduced and mitigated to the maximum extent possible."

Vernon's regulatory application for certification states that the proposed power plant, when operational, will emit 432,248 pounds of nitrogen oxides, 32,431 pounds of sulfur oxides, 119,864 pounds of volatile organic compounds, 453,431 pounds of carbon monoxide and 294,133 pounds of PM10 particulates per year.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District has estimated that emissions from the power plant will result in an increase in annual adult mortality of 4 to 12 persons in the area, as part of the preparation of a health risk assessment.

Residents of the surrounding community of Boyle Heights are concerned about dangerously high amounts of pollution and the particulate matter, which could travel from the new plant and affect neighboring communities -- areas which have no jurisdictional authority over the Vernon plant and will receive no benefit from the plant's operations.

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