



JOSÉ HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER OF THE FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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COUNCILMEMBER JOSE HUIZAR RECEIVES FULL COUNCIL APPROVAL IN EFFORT TO OPPOSE NEW POWER PLANT IN THE CITY OF VERNON

LOS ANGELES - Councilmember José Huizar received unanimous support from members of City Council today in his effort to oppose the construction of a new power plant in the City of Vernon. Councilmember Huizar first 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 Council to authorize the City Attorney to intervene in the City of Vernon's state regulatory process to build the power plant. Within seven days he gained full Council approval, demonstrating the strength of the issue and the real concern that exists among all Councilmembers for the safety and health of the community.

"The construction of this new power plant poses a serious health risk to the residents of Boyle Heights and other surrounding communities; and I am glad to see that the City Council is united in protecting the health and well being of the residents of Los Angeles," said Councilmember José Huizar.

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.

Councilmember Huizar has been working the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Coalition Against the Vernon Power Plant, and the Communities for a Better Environment to create community opposition to the new power plant. Councilmember Huizar has led more than 300 community members in a series of protest and community marches that included a mock funeral procession which included a hearse and protesters dressed in black to symbolize the inevitable death of residents of Boyle Heights if the plant is constructed.

"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 diseases," said Councilmember José Huizar.

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.

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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