

## **Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Petitions U.S. EPA To Deny Calpine Power Plant Permit To Build Near College Campus**

(Pleasanton, CA) - The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District (CLPCCD) announced it has petitioned the Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reverse approval of a fourteen story 600-megawatt gas-fired thermal power plant that Houston, Texas based Calpine Corporation proposes to construct close to Chabot College in Hayward. At a minimum the district is asking the EPA to remand the proceedings back to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to follow federal review requirements.

“The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from this proposed plant would be equivalent to adding 331,877 vehicles from a single-source polluter right next to a campus of 15,000 students,” said CLPCCD Chancellor Joel Kinnamon. “The doorstep of a place of learning is no place for a behemoth of air pollution.”

According to the BAAQMD the proposed plant would be the sixth largest polluter in the nine county Bay Area counties and the second biggest fossil fuel power plant polluter of greenhouse gasses.

Called the Russell City Energy Center (RCEC), Calpine has been in the process of securing a permit for a power plant at this location since the City of Hayward granted Calpine development rights at the height of the energy crisis in 2001. From the beginning, the college district along with student, faculty and staff organizations has opposed the project.

Even as the energy crisis abated, the California Energy Commission allowed the project to move forward against the advice of its own staff. Earlier this year, the BAAQMD approved Calpine’s permit using a flawed analysis and incomplete environmental data to determine air pollution impacts and compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act. Among many factors omitted by the BAAQMD air pollution modeling, Interstate 880 – the East Bay’s busiest, most congested freeway near the RCEC is not even included in the analysis. Chabot College is located between the proposed RCEC and Interstate 880.

“It’s shameful to think Calpine is one step away from making our campus ground zero for fallout of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide and particulate matter,” said Chancellor Kinnamon, “There is no need for this plant which energy commission staff recommended against, no support from local environmentalists, and no support from college faculty, staff and student organizations. What’s worse is little if any of the power the proposed power plant would generate would be used to serve Hayward and surrounding areas. Its power would be transmitted over transmission lines, which have not yet been built, to San Francisco and San Mateo counties. So cleaner counties get the power and we get the pollution.”

According to the EPA, Alameda County currently has the highest ground level ozone concentration of the nine Bay Area Counties, 81 parts per billion, which has been linked to serious health problems and premature deaths. In 2009, the area of Western Alameda County, where Chabot College is located, BAAQMD’s Community Air Risk Evaluation (CARE) Program identified it as a community most likely to face the highest health risks from toxic air contaminants. Dr. Sandra Witt of Alameda County’s Public Health Department testified that the community around Chabot College suffers from chronic health issues not present in other nearby Bay Area communities.

In addition to opposition from CLPCCD and its faculty union, classified union chapter of SEIU 1021 and student organizations, the Sierra Club of Southern Alameda County, California Pilots Association, Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, Hayward Area Planning Association, Citizens Against Pollution, United States Congressman Pete Stark, and Alameda County Supervisor Gail Steele all oppose the RCEC project.

For more information, please call Laura Weaver, Executive Director, Public Relations and Governmental Affairs at (925) 485-5215.

The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District includes Chabot College in Hayward and Las Positas College in Livermore. The district offers higher education opportunities to the residents of Union City, Hayward, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley, Pleasanton, Dublin, Sunol and Livermore.