

Locals travel to San Francisco to rally against NRG plant in Oxnard



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO A group of Ventura County residents traveled to San Francisco to rally Thursday before the California Public Utilities Commission against a proposed new NRG Energy power plant on Oxnard's coastline.

By Staff Reports
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A group of Ventura County residents traveled to San Francisco to rally Thursday outside a California Public Utilities Commission meeting against a proposed new power plant on Oxnard's coast.

The trip was organized by several environmental groups and coincided with a larger environmental rally.

Oxnard City Council Member Carmen Ramirez, who attended the event, said local participants took an overnight bus to arrive in the Bay Area on Thursday morning.

Participating groups included the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy, known as CAUSE; Future Leaders of America; Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project; Ventura County Climate Hub; the Center for Biological Diversity; and California Environmental Justice Alliance.

The utilities commission is among several state agencies reviewing NRG Energy's proposed 262-megawatt Puente Power Project. The plant would be built next to NRG's existing Mandalay Generating Station on Harbor Boulevard. Portions of the older plant will be demolished if the project goes forward.

Oxnard has so far opposed the project, saying the city doesn't want another power plant on its coastline. Ramirez has spearheaded the council's opposition.

Those following the topic have been awaiting a recommended ruling from a utilities commission administrative law judge. The recommended ruling, originally due in November, will go to the commission for a decision.

In the end, the California Energy Commission will have final authority over siting the plant. That agency is going through its own separate review process.