



Our Children's Earth Foundation | 100 First Street, Suite 100-367, San Francisco, CA 94105

NEWS RELEASE

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from Bay City News

San Francisco, CA --- San Francisco officials and environmentalists reacted enthusiastically Monday to news that the company proposing to expand the city's Potrero power plant has moved to suspend its state application.

"This is great," commented Deputy City Attorney Theresa Mueller, noting that not long ago her office had asked the California Energy Commission to shelve the controversial project altogether since the city has gone on the record opposing it and Atlanta-based plant operator Mirant Corp. has filed for bankruptcy.

Tiffany Schauer, the executive director of a group called Our Children's Earth that has fought the project on grounds it would create more air pollution in the city's industrial southeast sector, was more vehement. "We're very happy that Mirant has finally thrown in the towel on this project and realized that this is not a fruitful use of its shareholder's money," she said.

Mirant's request for suspension was filed on Nov. 5, according to Mueller, but the parties involved have just recently been notified. She said she would expect the state energy commission committee that is reviewing the project to grant Mirant's request.

At the commission's office in Sacramento, spokesman Chris Davis agreed that it is likely the request for a six-month suspension would be approved. He said Mirant's plans for cooling the 540-megawatt plant at 1201 Illinois St., whether using reclaimed water or a much-criticized plan to pump large amounts of bay water each day, have not yet received approval from the commission.

The city of San Francisco has recently cast its eye on the plant site between Potrero Hill and the bay as a place to set up four combustible turbine electricity-generating units that the city received as part of a multimillion-dollar legal settlement with an out-of-state energy company.

Davis explained, "I've heard that there are negotiations going on, that the city is interested in that site."

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