Dear San Diego Planning Commissioners, Mayor Sanders, San Diego City Council members and CEC Commissioners Douglas, McAllister, Peterman and Weisenmiller,

We the undersigned environmental organizations and officials together represent thousands of residents that live, work or recreate in the San Diego River watershed and Mission Trails Regional Park. We urge you to oppose changes to “laws, ordinances, standards and regulations” (LORS) needed to site the “Quail Brush Power Plant” within Mission Trails Regional Park expansion area and one-half-mile from the San Diego River.
At the turn of the century, the San Diego region’s leading environmental organizations urged local, state and federal agencies to invest in the expansion of Mission Trails Regional Park, a State Conservancy for the San Diego River and a regional Multiple Species Preserve. Millions of public funds have since been invested in all of these symbiotic efforts. The effort to expand Mission Trails Park within East Elliot has resulted in the acquisition of approximately 35 parcels in excess of 700 acres. Public investment is ongoing and parcels acquired in 2011 resulted in the acquisition of 70 acres in East Elliot alone. The sum of these efforts represents a massive investment in public resources such as endangered wildlife habitat linkages, public recreation, sources of clean water, flood protection and visual relief that links regional parks. The site chosen for the power plant would significantly degrade this investment and threaten the public health and safety of the schools and neighborhoods located within a mile from the site.

Significant adverse impacts would include the following:
- Toxic air emissions harmful to public health that also produce acid rains favorable to invasive plant species.
- Habitat loss for endangered species such as Quino checkerspot butterfly.
- Noise and visual impacts to rock climbing areas and trails directly adjacent to the site.
- Lower water quality entering the San Diego River and its tributaries.
- Industrial land use incompatible with the surrounding open space, park, schools and single-family residential designations.

These impacts need to be avoided – not mitigated. Therefore, we respectfully request that you safeguard the public health and investment in natural resources adjacent to the site by rejecting any proposed changes in laws, ordinances, regulations and standards sought for siting of a Quail Brush Power Plant.

Sincerely,

Van K. Collinsworth, M.A.
Resource Analyst/Executive Director
Preserve Wild Santee

Donna Frye
Former Council member
City of San Diego

John Ryan
Council member
City of Santee

Rep. Bob Filner
51st District
U.S. House of Representatives

Jack E. Dale
Council member
City of Santee

Nicole Capretz
Associate Director
Environmental Health Coalition
John Buse
Staff Attorney
Center for Biological Diversity

Geoffrey D. Smith
Coordinator
Wilderness4All

Gale Filter
Executive Director
San Diego Coastkeeper

Robin Kedward
Publicist
Stop the Santee Power Plant

Michael Beck
San Diego Director
Endangered Habitats League

Eric Bowlby
Executive Director
San Diego Canyonlands (SDCL)

Frank Landis, PhD
Conservation Chair
California Native Plant Society,
San Diego Chapter

Patty Mooney
Chair
Save Mission Trails

Richard W. Halsey
Director
California Chaparral Institute

Jack Shu
President
Cleveland National Forest Foundation

Lane Sharman
Co-Founder & Chairman
San Diego Energy District Foundation

Duncan McFetridge
Founder & President
Save Our Forests & Ranchlands

Tom Walters
Chair
Santee Taxpayers Association

Richard Gadler
Representative
Mountain Defense League

Rod Simmons
President
San Diego Mountain Biking Association

David Morrison
Chairperson
Green Party of San Diego

cc:
Santee City Council
Supervisor Dianne Jacob

John Stump
Chair
Sierra Club, San Diego Chapter