September 15, 2006

Commissioner John L. Geesman
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-31
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioner Geesman:

While the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce has not taken a formal position on the proposed South Bay Replacement Project, we wanted to express our support for the efforts of LS Power and the work of the Energy Commission in these proceedings.

The Chamber’s policies and guidelines clearly support efforts that diversify energy supply options, increase reliability and allow for competition. We also support a regulatory and public policy structure that encourages investment in essential energy infrastructure and serious conservation efforts. We believe all of these to be key pieces in the overall regional energy puzzle.

Providing adequate energy for a rapidly growing region is one of San Diego County’s most challenging infrastructure issues. For California’s commerce to grow, many elements of the marketplace need to be enhanced. Businesses in our region need a reliable supply of energy to manufacture goods, move those goods to market, and keep the lights on at retail establishments.

The South Bay Replacement Project will replace the antiquated South Bay Power Plant with a new, smaller, cleaner, highly efficient facility providing an affordable and reliable local electrical supply to the community. The Project will bring tangible economic benefits including increased property taxes, gas franchise fees and local construction, operation and maintenance jobs.

Finally, this plan calls for moving the existing plant and SDG&E substation from 115 acres of Chula Vista bayfront to the south, relocating them on less than 20 acres. In so doing, it will help to facilitate Chula Vista’s Bayfront Master Plan, generating a considerable amount of tax increment for the City’s redevelopment area.
The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce likes what it sees with this project. It will provide clean, reliable energy, economic development, new jobs, tax revenues, in region generation....and replacement of that old South Bay Power Plant. It's a win-win.

We appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Alevy
Vice-President,
Public Policy and Communications