

Women's Energy Matters

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**ENERGY COMMISSION HEARS WOMEN'S ENERGY MATTERS' APPEAL;  
WEM SEEKS TO CHALLENGE EXPEDITED 600 MW HAYWARD PP  
Wed., Aug. 14, 2002 at 10 am at the Calif. Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth St., Hearing Rm A, First Floor**

At a hearing Wed., Aug. 14, Women's Energy Matters will present an Appeal to the full Energy Commission, attempting to gain legal standing to challenge a giant 600 MW gas-fired power plant Calpine wants to build in Hayward. The "Russell City" plant would be in sight of the approach to the San Mateo Bridge, near the Hayward Regional Shoreline Park wildlife preserve.

The Energy Commission Committee reviewing Calpine's application denied WEM's Petition to Intervene, claiming it was too late. Barbara George, Exec. Dir. Of WEM, said she was misinformed by CEC's website and staff from January to May, 2002, when she attempted to find out how to participate. Calpine filed its application in May 2001, on an expedited 6-month approval process, although it appeared to be on hold for many months in 2002. In fact, negotiations were taking place on threatened species and a new transmission line across the bay, although the 6-month process requires projects to be free of such controversial issues.

The project was changed to the normal 12-month review process, just before final hearings. At a May conference, the project manager told George there was "no point" in becoming an intervenor at that time, because the Commission was already writing the Final Staff Assessment and would not be taking any further input.

WEM later learned that there were other good reasons to gain legal standing, including a later Court challenge. At the start of formal hearings June 20<sup>th</sup> in Hayward, WEM filed a Petition to Intervene which the Administrative Law Judge Gary Fay and Presiding Member William Keese promptly denied. WEM appealed, charging among other things, that the six-month process was a ruse to limit public participation. WEM believes Calpine hoped to prevent a repeat of its fight over the Metcalf Energy Center in San Jose.