

ATTACHMENT 30

Hearing before San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
 December 16, 2009
 Transcription DS300093 WMA
 KENNETH ANDRECHT
 (39:01 – 44:01)

SPEAKER	
Chairman King	Patty Krebs followed Kenneth Andrecht
Kenneth Andrecht	Kenneth from the Port of San Diego here to ask, please... I hope it says Port of San Diego, Retired?
Chairman King	It does, yes.
Kenneth Andrecht	<p>Thank you. My name is Kenneth Andrecht. I'm from Julian, California. I have no stake in the political land use aspects of this project and I've never met anyone from Dynege. So, however, I do have something to tell you.</p> <p>I received information from the Environmental Health Coalition that I think was also provided to you, that indicated that the South Bay Power Plant may be responsible for the destruction of hundreds of acres of eelgrass in South Bay. About eelgrass I am knowledgeable. I worked 26 years for the Port District, 13 years in the Engineering Department, 13 years in the Environmental Department. I was a Director of Property Engineering for 10 years, and I was Assistant Director and Acting Director for 13 years in Environmental. My responsibility was, of course, the CEQA/NEPA process you're all aware of. Also, I was the on-hand manager for the Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve from about 10 years after – no about 5 years – after it was built until about 1998. I was also responsible for the "D" Street fill tern colony in Chula Vista.</p> <p>Eelgrass — my first statement is going to be anecdotal because I don't have any written documentation. In 1960, coming from the "G" Street boat launch ramp over to Silverstrand, San Diego Bay, the whole bottom was filled with brown and green algae – photomus (sp?) algae. I don't recall any eelgrass in the early... in 1960 itself. In fact, huge algal mats – depending on the weather and time of year – huge algal mats would float up and make it really stinky down there.</p> <p>In 1972, the Port District decided and the City of Chula Vista decided to build the Chula Vista small boat basin which is now named Chula Vista Harbor. In 1973, we had one of the very first EIRs done (CEQA was 1970). In that EIR, the benthic communities in the area</p>

SPEAKER	
	<p>were dived and walked. As I recall, there were two patches of eelgrass found in the mudflats, which is now renamed Chula Vista Harbor. And they were about one meter around. We didn't have to mitigate for it. The benthic survey was over 300 acres. We had a dredge disposal site which was called Mud Island. It was 80 acres in size and was built on the north side of the cooling water separation dike. That benthic survey showed almost a barren benthos; actually it was mainly populated with annelid worms, but there was no eelgrass sited in that survey.</p> <p>We built the Chula Vista Harbor and the Mud Island. By 1978, we breached the dikes and Mud Island, we let the mud out and we started planting sea grasses – not sea grasses, <i>Spartina Foliosa</i> and <i>Salicornias</i> and such. Everything was percolating just well as far as the Engineering and Environmental Departments were concerned.</p> <p>We had a need to realign the Chula Vista Channel in about 1988, I think it was. We had a capital improvement program; we knew it was coming. In 1986, I and two of my staff personally went out, harvested eelgrass from the Chula Vista Bayside Park area, took it down and planted it on the north dike of the Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve. Am I taking too long?</p>
Chairman King	Yeah. If you could conclude...
Kenneth Andrecht	Okay. The eelgrass down there – in three years, it bloomed to 19 acres. We had two subsequent transplants; the eelgrass is fine. The deepening of the channel for the power plant and a deep realignment of the Chula Vista Channel has allowed for increased water flushing, and turbidity is not really that much of an issue. I submit to you that eelgrass is thriving in South San Diego Bay.
Chairman King	Thank you very much.
	END OF TRANSCRIPTION