



SIERRA CLUB – LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

Resolution in support of the Metcalf Energy Center in San Jose

Whereas while the Sierra Club favors energy conservation and a shift to environmentally sound renewables, it acknowledges the pressure for interim less polluting fossil fuel energy plants, and

Whereas new natural gas, combined cycled power plants such as Metcalf Energy Center (MEC) are an enormous improvement over older plants and emergency diesel generators now running in terms of increased energy efficiency, reduction of air pollutants and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and

Whereas the San Jose regional area (Silicon Valley) has a growing demand for electricity and is considered the most vulnerable to electricity outages in the PG&E service area, and

Whereas MEC is adjacent to high-voltage transmission lines (Pacific Inter-tie), thus no new transmission lines are needed, and

Whereas locating electric generation near the users reduces electricity transmission losses, and

Whereas MEC will augment local existing electrical infrastructure and is not a major part of opening up coyote Valley to development, and

Whereas MEC will result in the permanent protection of 116 acres of Tulare Hill as an open space preserve, and

Whereas MEC will result in the enhancement and preservation of sensitive biological habitats, such as the riparian habitat at the adjacent Fisher Creek and the Bay checkerspot butterfly habitat on 15 acres of Coyote Ridge, and

Whereas MEC will contribute to the improvement of salt marsh habitat (California clapper rail, salt marsh harvest mouse) by the reduction of fresh water discharge into San Francisco Bay through the use of recycled water for plant cooling, and

Whereas MEC has contributed \$25,000 to our City Forest this year and will contribute \$25,000 next year, thus supporting local tree planting and maintenance efforts, and

Whereas the California Energy Commission will not license MEC if it is found to represent a significant public safety risk to anyone, anywhere, and

Whereas, numerous local, regional, state and federal agencies must certify the MEC will not cause any significant adverse impacts of any kind, then,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club will support the development of the Metcalf Energy Center subject to approval of relevant environmental regulatory agencies.