Thanks. I believe that CURE has made arrangements to have someone there. Do you have confirmation of that?

Jay

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From: Alex Leupp [mailto:alex.leupp@ncpa.com]
Sent: Monday, November 02, 2009 10:11 AM
To: Jay Ziegler; Jane Cirrincione
Cc: Jonelle Trimmer
Subject: RE: touching base on NCPA - PLA Vote today

Jay, the meeting starts here at 10:30.

/Alex

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From: Jay Ziegler [mailto:jay@zieglerassociates.net]
Sent: Monday, November 02, 2009 10:11 AM
To: Jane Cirrincione; Alex Leupp
Cc: Jonelle Trimmer
Subject: touching base on NCPA - PLA Vote today

Jane, Alex – What time is vote today. I’ve been in touch with Trades to make sure that they are there, but don’t have details. Thanks.

Jay Ziegler

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Contentious utility labor vote today
By Daniel Thigpen
Record Staff Writer
November 02, 2009 - 12:00 AM

LODI - A consortium of municipal utilities that includes Lodi’s Electric Utility will vote today on controversial labor agreements for a proposed Lodi power plant that require construction and maintenance workers to be hired from a union employment pool.
The Northern California Power Agency has taken heat from critics who say such agreements will reduce competition for the work and increase costs for electricity ratepayers.

Supporters call the claims bogus and say rejecting the contracts will delay the project, potentially adding millions in costs.

"We have negotiated this. It is standard for these types of projects," said Lodi Mayor Larry Hansen, chairman of the board. "My way of serving the citizens of Lodi is to keep this on track."

Officials have proposed a 255-megawatt natural gas power plant for 4.4 acres near Lodi’s White Slough sewage treatment plant just off of Interstate 5. The $432 million plant would produce energy for Lodi and 13 other municipalities, including the California Department of Water Resources and the Modesto Irrigation District, the two largest anticipated users.

The project is still under review by the California Energy Commission. If approved, NCPA officials hope to have the plant on line by 2012.

The NCPA board already voted on the proposed labor agreements in October, but the vote was ruled invalid, because a quorum of project participants was not present during the meeting, said Jane Cirrincione, an NCPA assistant general manager.

Nathen Howard, president of TTS Construction Corp. in Lodi, which builds power plants throughout the state, said he won’t bid on the NCPA project if the labor agreements are approved because they mandate he use union workers.

"All you’re doing is raising costs, and in a market like this … that’s kind of going against the grain," Howard said. "We’ve got a local business that specializes in that kind of work that’s being excluded."

Other critics, including lobbyists for the state’s contractors, say NCPA board members are willing to vote for the union agreement because if they don’t, they fear labor groups will try to block the project on environmental grounds later on. They also question a proposed $90,000 payment from the NCPA into a union trust fund included in contract terms.

Union and NCPA officials call the claims misleading.

NCPA officials maintain the project’s estimated $60 million labor costs won’t be impacted by a labor agreement; contractors under the law must pay prevailing wages, because it’s a public works project.

Supporters also point to the agreements’ no-strike clause and a provision that the labor pool be made up of workers within a 50-mile radius from Lodi.

Ken Speer, an NCPA assistant general manager who is overseeing the Lodi proposal, said such agreements are common in power plant construction projects. He also said the power agency approached the unions about negotiating a contract because "that’s really where the skill is."

Robert Baigenorth, president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, said the union trust is used to finance "things that are beneficial to the industry," such as training for union workers or political battles.

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