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August 10, 2009

Mr. Jeff Horn  
Urban and Regional Planner III  
Riverside County Planning Department  
4080 Lemon Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 1409  
Riverside, CA 92502-1409

Re: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the French Valley Energy Center, C.U.P. No. 3626

Dear Mr. Horn:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is a national membership organization representing the general aviation interests of more than 416,000 pilots and aircraft owners including 49,000 in the State of California. On behalf of our membership, AOPA is committed to ensuring the future viability and development of general aviation airports and their facilities as part of a national transportation system.

We are concerned with the placement of this particular energy facility in that it is located under the traffic pattern for the French Valley Airport, specifically the downwind leg for Runway 18. It is the Association's and our members' concern that this plant could introduce turbulence into the traffic pattern as aircraft overfly the location. The applicant has indicated that this would only be light turbulence but we feel that it is prudent to not deliberately introduce such a hazard into the traffic pattern.

We are familiar with anecdotal evidence provided to the Federal Aviation Administration of aircraft upsets due to over-flight of other power plant locations and believe that this should be further studied. Accordingly, AOPA respectfully requests that the draft Environmental Impact Report address the issues of turbulence and exhaust plumes as they would affect aircraft operating in the traffic pattern at the French Valley Airport.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to seeing the draft report.

Sincerely,

John L. Collins  
Manager  
Airport Policy