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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNCILMEMBER HUIZAR GRANTED CERTIFICATION PROCESS ROLE FOR VERNON POWER PLANT

LOS ANGELES (Feb. 15, 2008)—Councilmember José Huizar’s petition to have the City of Los Angeles intervene in the certification process for the proposed new power plant in the City of Vernon was granted by the State of California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission. The approval of the petition will now grant Councilmember Huizar and City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo a role during the certification process hearings for the proposed new power plant.

“I am glad that the Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission gave us permission to intervene on the certification hearings. The residents of Boyle Heights are very concerned about the short and long term health hazards this plant poses to them and I intend to express their concerns during the hearings,” said Councilmember José Huizar.

The approval of the petition follows the unanimous support that Councilmember Huizar received from the members of the City Council when he introduced City Legislation seeking to oppose the construction of the new power plant in the City of Vernon.

“I will not let the City of Vernon dictate the future health and well-being of the residents of Los Angeles. The City of Vernon has admitted that the power plant will produce toxic emissions that are associated with cancer, asthma and other respiratory diseases.”

The South Coast Air Quality Management District has estimated that emissions from the power plant will result in an increase in annual adult mortality of 4 to 12 persons in the area, as part of the preparation of a health risk assessment.

Vernon's regulatory application for certification states that the proposed power plant, when operational, will emit 432,248 pounds of nitrogen oxides, 32,431 pounds of sulfur oxides, 119,864 pounds of volatile organic compounds, 453,431 pounds of carbon monoxide and 294,133 pounds of PM10 particulates per year.

Residents of the surrounding community of Boyle Heights are concerned about dangerously high amounts of pollution and the particulate matter, which could travel from the new plant and affect neighboring communities -- areas which have no jurisdictional authority over the Vernon plant and will receive no benefit from the plant’s operations.

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