



Plans for Pio Pico Energy Center shelved

By [Wendy Fry](#)

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CHULA VISTA — Plans to build a 12-acre, 300 megawatt power plant in eastern Chula Vista have been squashed. The developers, APEX Power Group, LLC, decided to pursue a different site in Otay Mesa instead.

“It really came down to a business decision,” Apex Vice President David Jenkins said. “The original site had a number of risks associated with it.”

Challenges included securing new zoning designations within the city to build the plant.

The \$400 million Pio Pico Energy Center would have been operational during peak hours only. Backers of the plant hoped the new peaker would bring enough power onto the grid to finally allow the California Independent System Operator to OK the demolition of the South Bay Power Plant. ISO gave the green light for the removal of the 49-year-old plant on the city’s bayfront earlier this month.

Pio Pico’s proposed original site was located south of the Otay Water Treatment Plant at the southern tip of Otay Lakes.

Jenkins said the company is assessing a new site on Alta Road in unincorporated Otay Mesa.

Plans call for the peaker to be operational by 2014.

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