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## IBEW 569 San Diego

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Local 569*

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# Newsletter

May, 1999

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### **BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT**

If you've attended any of Local 569's general membership meetings in the last 2 years you've heard me talk about the progress that CURE is making. I thought I would give you a general description of what CURE really is.

California **U**nions for **R**eliable **E**nergy was formed in May 1997 by three building trades crafts and IBEW utility unions. The original members of CURE were three IBEW construction locals (340, 477 and **569**), the UA (Southern California District Council 16 and Local 447 on behalf of all northern California UA locals), and the Boilermakers (Locals 92 and 549), and

IBEW Utility Locals 47 and 1245.

All of the UA and Boilermakers throughout the state were participants, but initially, IBEW construction locals participated only in the areas where the first three plants were proposed.

IBEW Local 11 began participating in CURE shortly after it was formed. IBEW Locals 302 and 428 became participants as we learned of plants in their jurisdictions.

CURE quickly realized the importance of effective statewide leadership, and selected Bob Balgenorth as its Chair.

CURE was formed at the birth of a new industry in California. The utilities were leaving the electric generation business and a wave of new electric generating plants by independent companies was expected. CURE's founders feared that these new plants would follow the way of the smaller cogens - many would be built non-union and all would be operated non-union. The new plants would also have such substantial environmental impacts that development by union friendly industries would be impeded. Emissions offsets would be consumed and water supplies would be depleted. CURE dedicated itself to a statewide mission to prevent this outcome.

All of the power plants must obtain a permit from the California Energy Commission. CURE is an *intervenor* in each of the application proceedings at the Energy Commission. CURE retains a variety of consultants to provide expert analysis of the impacts of the projects, and participates actively in the Energy Commission proceedings. Frequently, other agencies are involved in reviewing the applications, and CURE also participates in those proceedings as warranted.

To date, CURE has been very successful. CURE has labor agreements with Calpine for its first six power plants in Northern California, with Enron for its plant in Pittsburg, California and with U.S. Generating for its plant in Kern County. The agreements govern construction, contracted out maintenance and the permanent workforce. CURE also made a landmark environmental agreement with Calpine in which Calpine agreed to the lowest NOx emission rate of any plant in the United States and agreed to eliminate all water resource impacts by using dry air cooled condensers rather than wet cooling. Using dry air cooling over wet cooling is not only good for the environment but it is also good for our membership. Dry air cooling adds up to 20% more man-hours to a power plant construction project.



We estimate that these labor agreements affect \$3.2 billion in Capital investment, will provide more than 9 million construction work hours, and more than 1 million maintenance work hours.

On Friday, April 30 I got the word that the High Desert Power Plant Project has agreed to ALL of our agreements. If you read in past Transmitters, I told you that Constellation Energy (the developer) vowed that they would NEVER sign our agreements and would fight us all the way. We accepted their challenge and after being held back for almost 2 years, they've decided that it is much better to work with CURE. Negotiations are under way, or soon will be under way, for projects that would more than double these results. Our proposed new plant at Otay Mesa has committed to sign our agreements and should be before the Energy Commission within the next month or two. Several other developers have indicated an interest in negotiations before they file their applications.



By getting involved with the environmental aspects of these construction projects we have

been able to help protect the public, the environment, and our memberships. All power generating development will be by private developers, now, in California. Many, if not most of these plants, would probably go non-union if not for this coalition.

If you are interested in the ongoing development of these projects information is available at the California Energy Commission web site at [<http://www.energy.ca.gov>].