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**For communities and the climate, Save Diablo Canyon**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



Dear Members of the California Energy Commission (CEC), Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, and the California Independent System Operator,

California summers are getting hotter, water is becoming more scarce and expensive, and the state's energy grid is struggling to meet its residents' needs. Californians are looking for an indication that their representatives have their best interests in mind. In order to address these issues while also limiting the state's reliance on fossil fuels, the only practical solution is to incorporate nuclear energy into California's clean energy future and continue the operation of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant.

Recent events have solidified that the inclusion of nuclear energy into California's clean energy future and preventing the closure of Diablo Canyon are the right decision for the state:

First, the academic [report](#) published by scientists from both MIT and Stanford in November of 2021 outlines that keeping Diablo Canyon open would reduce air pollution and CO2 emissions, reduce power costs, bolster grid reliability, and alleviate power shortages. Diablo Canyon could also generate hydrogen or produce a large amount of desalinated water. The plant currently provides [8.5%](#) of total in-state electricity generation and approximately 17% of the state's emissions-free generation. Without Diablo Canyon, meeting the state's climate goals while also moving away from fossil fuels *and* maintaining grid reliability will be virtually impossible. These benefits alone justify the efforts to support nuclear and keep the plant open.

Second, overall support for the continued operation of Diablo Canyon and nuclear energy in general has grown immensely. Recent political support from Governor [Gavin Newsom](#) and other state officials indicates that the benefits outlined above are not just understood and supported by scientists, but by those representing California residents as well. In fact, a [recent poll](#) shows that statewide public support for Diablo Canyon is strong (58%), and is even *stronger* at the local level in San Luis Obispo county (74%). The [union](#) representing many of the plant's workers also maintains that keeping Diablo Canyon open is the right thing to do.

In general, California's support for nuclear energy has [grown](#) in the past few years, and it is time for energy policy to meet this change in public opinion.

Finally, new opportunities for financial support make right now the best time to take action to save Diablo Canyon. First, the Biden Administration recently allocated \$6 billion to the [Civil Nuclear Credit](#) (CNC) program to save existing nuclear plants. The US Department of Energy then [extended](#) the submission deadline for the CNC, opening the door for California to take advantage of it. Second, the California legislature recently passed the [energy trailer bill](#), which allocates a reserved fund of up to "\$75 million to the state Department of Water Resources to prolong the operation of aging power plants scheduled to close". While this bill can not authorize the extension of the plant's life, it does provide funding if the plant's stakeholders decide to do so. However, representatives from PG & E have [stated](#) that in order to pursue the relicensing and continued operation of the plant, legislative action needs to happen first, *perhaps has soon as this August*. Policymakers in California are poised to take meaningful action that will help combat climate change and protect the state's grid reliability by simply saving Diablo Canyon from early shutdown. Will they rise to the occasion?

Regardless of the scientific reports, changing public opinion, and *new* opportunities for funding, it is in the hands of those that represent the state's constituents to make the right decision for California's future, and do so soon.

Respectfully Submitted,



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