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Extend Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Reliable Carbon Free Energy

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

From: [Isuru Seneviratne](#)
To: [Energy - Docket Optical System](#)
Subject: 21-ESR-01 Extend Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Reliable Carbon Free Energy
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Dear California Energy Commission,

I am Isuru Seneviratne, a citizen, an immigrant, and a solutions developer. I studied energy for the last 2 decades and am pursuing a masters in sustainability at Harvard Extension School. I am speaking today as the father of two young children. I support California's commitment carbon neutrality. The scale of the challenge is immense. As many experts have expressed today, the path to a greener grid must remain a reliable one. Only 15% of California's electricity needs are met with in-state 'Firm Clean' resources — carbon-free generators able to provide power on-demand regardless of the time of day or weather. Diablo Canyon is responsible for at least 40% of the state's Firm Clean generation.

Our energy, climate, and industrial policies need to be made by evidence and impassionate scientific inquiry, not on popularity contests, political expediency, or special interest group pressure. Dr James Hansen, the godfather of climate awareness, said "The essence of intelligence—and the scientific method—is the ability to reconsider former positions." I commend Governor Newsom for taking the bold action to extend the life of Diablo Canyon and ask the regulators & legislators to follow the science, not Hollywood tropes. When we make fear our shield, it becomes a weapon too. Fear-based decisions can hurt others, sometimes many millions.

Advanced industrial nations like France, the U.K, Netherlands, and Canada have committed to expanding nuclear energy. All the illustrative IPCC scenarios that preserve a 1.5C planet require nuclear generation to expand 2-6x by 2050, not decrease. As young people are looking for measurable climate action over

unkept promises, I implore you to make the right choices for a prosperous California and a sustainable planet.

But *is* nuclear safe? After comprehensive analysis of sustainable energy choices, the EU recently determined “There is no science-based evidence that nuclear energy does more harm to human health or to the environment than other climate change mitigation [technologies].” This is not due to magic, but the thousands of climate heroes who work these facilities. We heard from some of them today.

Diablo specifically? Nobel laureate Steve Chu recently wrote "Following Fukushima, the NRC and Diablo Canyon's Independent Safety Committee conducted a nine-year review of the plant and found that the facility was built to withstand a 1-in-100,000-year seismic event. Raising seismic questions in 2022 is ill-informed or disingenuous. If there was a large earthquake in the area, the Diablo Canyon buildings would be the safest place to shelter in."

Nuclear is the only energy source that accounts for all its waste streams. An extensive UN study published earlier this year shows that nuclear is among the least impactful source respect to land-use, mining, materials, and toxicity.

When nuclear plants close, they are inevitably replaced by fossil combustion. Each year, Diablo Canyon plant prevents 12-15 million tonnes of greenhouse gasses annually, when the global warming impact of methane leaks from replacement sources is taken into consideration. With proper maintenance and upgrades, Diablo Canyon can generate carbon-free energy for decades to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Isuru Seneviratne
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