

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	21-ESR-01
Project Title:	Energy System Reliability
TN #:	245070
Document Title:	Marta Stern Comments - for Diablo Canyon Power Plant
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Marta Stern
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	8/16/2022 1:20:57 PM
Docketed Date:	8/16/2022

Comment Received From: Marta Stern
Submitted On: 8/16/2022
Docket Number: 21-ESR-01

for Diablo Canyon Power Plant

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

To: California Energy Commission

Re: Docket No. 21-ESR-01 – Diablo Canyon Power Plant

The citizens of SLO County have fought long and hard to close the Diablo Nuclear Plant, which sits on multiple, active earthquake faults and produces nuclear waste that will remain radioactive for 200,000 years. I'm shocked that the legislature would consider subsidizing both nuclear and fossil fuel sources of energy that are unprofitable, dirty and dangerous. Economically viable clean alternatives are available. I want my tax dollars invested in clean, zero-emissions renewables that will ensure the safety of the plant and the survival of my children, grandchildren, and future generations after them.

The Diablo Nuclear Plant in San Luis Obispo County is old and unreliable. It MUST NOT stay open. The last replacement of aging parts resulted in a 7-month shutdown of Unit 2 in 2020-21. Diablo's once-through cooling system was labeled "unlawful" but has been redesignated as "lawful" in anticipation of the sought-after postponement of decommissioning. How much will it cost and how long will it take to build a compliant system? What else will have to be replaced at this aging facility? How will radioactive waste produced by the Diablo Plant **after** 2025 be stored? What about the deteriorating storage containers designed to last 80 years, whereas nuclear waste remains radioactive for 200,000 years? Keeping the plant open, and the production of additional radioactive waste will only compound these problems.

At the federal level, Senator Manchin's vote for the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 was bought with \$50 billion dollars of desperately need climate investment and used instead to bail out the fossil fuels, nuclear and uranium industries.¹ California does not have to follow Manchin's lead. We have always been leaders, not followers. Our tax dollars must be invested in renewables NOW. During the past decade, California's laws, programs and plans have been spectacularly successful in making electricity the only sector in California to reduce greenhouse gases in half. Disrupting the comprehensive plan to decommission Diablo will deal an irreparable blow to California's commitment to rid polluting energy sources from our power grid.

The Governor's claim that California's renewables will never be enough without Diablo is a ruse. Fossil and nuclear-fueled plants didn't prevent outages during the energy crises of the early 2000s or in 2020, and they won't prevent outages now. The brief outage in August 2020 was primarily caused by a malfunction in CASISO's market operation which made existing power supplies unreliable when needed the most. The CPUC also failed to bring 4,000 megawatts of reliable clean energy online. However, the CPUC has made significant progress. The CPUC's recent California Renewables Standard Annual Report conveyed that large owner-invested utilities, and small and multi-jurisdictional utilities, have executed renewable electricity contracts that exceed the annual 2020 RPS target of 33%. Excess procurement is predicted for the next seven years. Using tax dollars to finance the operation of Diablo beyond 2025 only diminishes the tax dollars available to construct a clean, renewable energy grid that WOULD prevent future outages.

Keeping Diablo open beyond its 2025 decommissioning breaks a hard-fought agreement between environmental organizations, labor, and PG&E. It violates California's commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. In 2016, PG&E found it could rapidly and more cost-effectively meet California's

renewable energy and emissions standards by other means. The proposal to keep the PG&E Diablo Plant running would violate the closure agreement established in 2016 as codified by the California legislature and the CPUC in 2018.

The Governor Newsom's support for AB 205, and for keeping Diablo operational past 2025, flies in the face of California's legislative history. From 2002 to 2018, successive administrations have progressively undertaken legislation promoting renewables, and finally in 2018, Governor Brown signed SB100 which set a goal of 100% renewables and zero carbon by 2045. **Reversing this progress, AB 205 provides \$2.2 billion in subsidies to rescue Diablo and several fossil fuel plants from closing.** The Governor proclaims that this "Strategic Reliability Reserve" will only be used as a "last resort." But nuclear plants can't be kept on standby for emergency conditions. Diablo Canyon is designed to run 24 hours a day with a specialized workforce.ⁱⁱ To calm worries about energy reliability, **California's energy funds, including any additional monies made available from the federal Inflation Reduction Act, should be used to accelerate attainment of California's 100% renewables and zero carbon goals. This is not the time to reverse decades of progress.**

PLEASE HELP

- Make big polluters clean up after themselves (e.g. tons of radioactive waste at Diablo)
- Stop giving polluters our taxpayer money
- Advance clean energy so my grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren can survive on planet earth.

Thank you for listening.

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ⁱ Nuclear Information and Resource Service, 8/1/22

ⁱⁱ Ralph Cavanagh, co-director of the energy program at the Natural Resources Defense Council