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*Comment Received From: Laura Cooper
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Uphold the Decommissioning of Diablo Nuclear Power Plant by 2026

August 9, 2022

To The California Energy Commission (CEC), Office of Governor Newsom, the California Independent System Operator (ISO) and the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors:

I have lived in San Luis Obispo since 1971. Please honor the promise made to the communities of San Luis Obispo County and to all Californians to close Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant before 2026 as outlined by the Decommissioning Engagement Panel. The proposal to extend the Plant's operation would violate the closure agreement established in 2016 and codified by the California legislature and the California Public Utilities Commission in 2018.

The Diablo plant sits near multiple earthquake faults, some only discovered after the plant had been approved and/or built. PG&E had a role in hoodwinking the public when it downplayed the seismic vulnerability of Diablo by changing the predictive models used to calculate potential damage to the plant in the event of a strong quake. Seismologists and others who have studied the differences between accepted earthquake impact models and the modeling that was done by PG&E agree that the PG&E model dangerously underestimates the damage that would occur with a high magnitude earthquake on any of those fault lines.

The operation of Diablo discourages the use of renewable energy sources. We are running out of time to make the switch to renewables and begin to arrest our planet's rising temperature. Relying on nuclear energy by continued reliance on power from Diablo is the wrong direction for California and for humanity.

Diablo is old and not reliable. Maintenance has been deferred. The last replacement for aging parts resulted in a seven-month outage of the plant.

PG&E is responsible for over 100 people dead in fires caused by its own aging equipment, thousands of homes and businesses burned, and hundreds of thousands of acres scorched. PG&E's track record in this regard has earned it distrust from many Californians.

Where and how will the extra high-level radioactive waste be stored from the additional years of operation? Currently, there are only plans for the storage of waste generated through 2025.

Diablo's Once-Through Cooling system is now unlawful. It is the single greatest threat to marine life along California's coastline and is contributing to marine ecosystem collapse and the demise of our fishing industry. How will this now illegal cooling system be rectified to bring it into compliance? Has the cost to construct a compliant cooling system been calculated? And what will the cost be?

California ratepayers and taxpayers have already paid out \$85 million in mitigating costs

to the impacted communities and millions more toward decommissioning costs. In addition, Governor Newsom has now introduced another bill to allow for the continued operation of Diablo Canyon by a vague "five or ten years." The draft of this bill includes shortcuts and sweeping exemptions from environmental review from State permitting agencies. This bill also promises to "loan" PG&E up to \$1.4 billion to cover costs of extending Diablo Canyon's operating life - with all of the loan potentially "forgivable." It agrees to pay PG&E \$7 per every megawatt-hour of power generated which would mean an annual subsidy exceeding \$120 million. This is unacceptable, unfair and an affront to the tax paying public.

Please do NOT extend Diablo's license. Honor the agreements made (as outlined in the Decommissioning Engagement Panel) and codified by the California legislature in 2018.

Sincerely, Laura Cooper