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*Comment Received From: Audrey Ford  
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**Comment Opposing the Extended Operation of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

Dear California Energy Commission staff,

I write today to express my extreme opposition to the proposal to keep the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant open for an undisclosed number of years beyond the legally agreed upon decommission date of 2024/5. There are a multitude of incredibly compelling arguments supporting the swift closure of this plant, but I will discuss only a few in detail here.

The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is Too Old to Remain in Operation Without Posing Major Threats to Human and Environmental Safety: Indeed These Threats Already Exist and We Flirt With Disaster Every Day That it is Allowed to Remain Open.

The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (referred to hereafter as “Diablo Canyon” or “the plant”) was designed in the 1960’s, over *60 years ago*. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission itself has even characterized portions of sensitive infrastructure as embrittled, with numerous other functions already being rendered inoperable or faulty, including entirely non-functioning emergency exits and leaky piping. Operations have become increasingly more dangerous in response to dwindling efforts at maintenance and upkeep in the face of the long-anticipated 2024/5 closure of the plant.

The Diablo Canyon Site Exists in Close Proximity to a Number of Major Earthquake Faults. Contrary to Past Assumptions.

When Diablo Canyon was built it was thought that the site was more that 20 miles from any earthquake fault lines. This assumption has since been proven to be irrefutably false. Most alarming is the Shoreline Fault which passes within  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a mile from the site. However, there are at least **six major fault lines** which would seriously threaten the stability of the reactor in the case of an earthquake. These faults, in no particular order, are the Shoreline Fault, the Los Osos Fault, the San Luis Bay Fault, the Hosgri Fault, the San Simeon Fault, and the San Gregorio Fault, with more and more interconnected faults being discovered all the time. Considering the constant risk of an earthquake occurring in California, how could it possibly be wise to allow this plant to remain operational? At any moment an earthquake could rock this ancient and unmaintained reactor and result in a nuclear meltdown. This would release unknowable quantities of lethal radioactivity across large areas of California, radioactivity that will remain lethal for many generations to come.

The Continued Use of Diablo Canyon Cannot Possibly be Sold as a Climate Solution When the Plant is Already Actively Damaging the Environment and Accelerating Global Climate Change.

The plant continues to employ an unlawful method of cooling the reactors which deals incredible damage to the environment. This once-through system requires *billions of gallons of water* to be drawn in from the ocean and circulated through the plant *every 24 hours*. By the time this water has completed its cycle through the plant, it is released back into the ocean at temperatures **nineteen degrees warmer** than the surrounding ocean. This drastic and immediate increase in ambient water temperature initiates the decimation and corruption of marine environments and

biological communities, with no way to measure the true extent of the destruction. We've seen what disaster can result from an increased ambient temperature of just a few degrees...imagine the damage *nineteen* degrees can do.

The climate crisis is the most important issue of our time. We must leave no opportunity unexplored in our fight for a solution. However, it is imperative that we think before we make these major decisions or else run the risk of ensuring the total destruction of our beautiful planet. There is no equation involving continued reliance upon nuclear energy that can solve our problem, especially in the case of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant which is poised to meltdown without a moment's notice. The threat of releasing radioactivity into our environment at levels ***thousands of times higher than that of the Hiroshima bomb*** is simply **too high**. We must work together to find an answer to the climate crisis, but the continued operation of Diablo Canyon is not it. I appeal here to your humanity, foresight, and common sense, make the responsible decision and VOTE NO on the extended operation of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. A decision you make in seconds, could poison us for centuries.