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Please don't extend Diablo Canyon operation

Considering Governor Newsom's proposal to the contrary, this communication requests your thoughtful action to ensure the nuclear reactors at Diablo Canyon CEASE operation no later than 2024 and 2025 as currently scheduled.

Diablo Canyon must shut down as scheduled by 2025. The many unresolved and troubling issues raised by Diablo Canyon's continued operation led the legislature in 2018 to endorse its planned 2024 & 2025 retirements. Operating the reactors past 2024 and 2025 will neither solve those problematic issues nor reduce the concerns. On the contrary, continued operation would only increase adverse environmental impacts, increase the likelihood of reactor failures, increase the amount of nuclear waste generated, reduce grid reliability and waste resources. To extend the operating lifetime requires an unrealistic amount of optimism unjustified in light of the suspension of environmental reviews the proposal relies on. Instead of finding in short order \$1.4 billion to try to keep nuclear power on life support, the state could better invest that money in safe renewables, energy efficiency, storage, or other wiser purposes.

Proposal proponents argue that California needs Diablo Canyon running to increase grid reliability. However, according to expert energy advisor Amory Lovins, " . . . the inflexibility of nuclear plants, in particular, is quite an obstacle to running the grid reliably and economically." [1] The Diablo Canyon Power Plant Independent Analysis concurs that giant "baseload" power plants no longer fit the needs of modern power grids, which require greater flexibility and resilience. [2,3]

The decision to retire Diablo Canyon in 2024-2025 was correct, though not because continuing to operate the plant is safe. Again, according to Lovins: "We've just had the first case in which a major US utility, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, chose to do exactly that: close a well running nuclear plant in order to save money, save carbon, and make the grid work better by taking this big block of inflexible capacity off the grid so that variable renewables have more room to operate." [1]

[1] <https://www.carbonbrief.org/carbon-brief-interview-amory-lovins/>

[2] https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/how-the-system-works/diablo-canyon-power-plant/dcpp-independent-analysis.page

[3] https://www.pge.com/includes/docs/pdfs/safety/dcpp/MJBA_Report.pdf