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## **Public Health and Safety Necessitates Diablo Canyon's Continued Operation**

Thank you for permitting public input.

We have numerous examples of what happens when nuclear power plants close. A telling example is the 2012 shutdown of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). When SONGS was forced to close, California's power related CO2 emissions rose 36% year over year, as nuclear electricity was replaced by gas generation. While California has a comparatively clean grid, estimates suggest that increased fossil fuel generation from this closure contributes to 300-1000 additional deaths each year from PM2.5 pollution. These deaths are unquestionably difficult to quantify with any confidence. But whatever the exact number, they mount year after year, every year we burn carbon for power, inexorably killing Californians.

Although these deaths are just as real as people killed in other ways, as a society we seem comfortable ignoring these faceless, statistical deaths. But two years ago this month something quite different happened. Grid shortfalls lead to extended outages. There has been ample discussion of the proximal causes of these outages. But consider that the maximum California power shortfall was 1,072 MW (6:51PM Aug 14th). That is less than the nameplate capacity of either of the two reactors closed down at SONGS. SONGS, like Diablo Canyon, was well integrated into the California grid. So it is fair to say that with SONGS running, and other factors unchanged, there would not have been outages.

The Aug 2020 outages caused property damage in the tens of billions, and according to BuzzFeed News killed at least 700 people. Scag.ca.gov, confirmed 140 of those deaths. These are deaths with faces, and with death certificates. Now the parties to the 2016 agreement and their supporters plan to close Diablo Canyon's 16 TWh/y. And they do that with clear data showing Diablo Canyon's closure will threaten grid sufficiency. And they have a clear, recent example of how grid insufficiency kills Californians. So proponents of closing the plant are knowingly and willfully choosing to put conditions in place that can lead to mass deaths. That are known to and have recently caused mass deaths. That are predicted to cause mass deaths. And if they get their way, will provide an objective and quantitative measure of the cost of their actions in deaths resulting from any insufficiencies of less than 2,200 MW.

This is a historic opportunity to correct the previous hypocrisy and ideological hostility of some in California Government to existing clean power. Please don't let it go to waste.

Thank you for your consideration.