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Olivia Dietrich - comments on Draft CEC DCPD cost comparison

This report by the California Energy Commission (CEC) appears to be reverse-engineered to skew the results in favor of postponing the shutdown of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP). The report heavily constricts the number of resources it analyzes against Diablo, to the point where it cannot fulfill its goals as set out by SB 846. However, tacking extra conditions onto the requirements for renewable energy alternatives to the DCPP gives the CEC undue leeway to exclude major conventional renewable sources of energy from the report, which is not what the Legislature intended when requiring this report of the CEC. As a result, this report excludes the analysis of all conventional sources of renewable energy, such as solar, wind, geothermal, and small hydro power, and nearly all storage options, including lithium batteries and pumped storage hydro, as considerations for replacing the DCPP's power generation. The report also blocks the possibility of having a select few gas power plants on reserve for emergencies, which would ensure the generation of consistent and reliable power for the California grid in extreme situations. Because the CEC heavily limited the number of energy generation alternatives for the DCPP, it did not deliver the promised cost comparison of those potential power sources to the power generated by the DCPP from 2024 to 2035, one of the main objectives of the report.

It is also worth noting that this draft was incomplete, as a warning reading, "Error! Reference source not found," appeared in three distinct locations throughout the report. The public can only form partially-informed opinions and comments on this draft without complete access to the sources referenced throughout the report.