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Opposition to Extension of Diablo Canyon Power Plant

I am writing in strong opposition to the extension of the operation of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. The longer the operations at the site are extended, it could severely endanger those who live in areas nearby the site, as well as the environment around it. Nuclear energy is not only dangerous, it is also not a proven cost-effective way to ensure California's energy reliability. There are environmental factors that are a risk to the operation of the site, we still do not have adequate ways to store nuclear waste created by the plant safely, and renewable energy has proven to be effective in being able to produce energy output above the level that Diablo Canyon can.

A large environmental risk that has the potential for catastrophic impact on communities and the environment nearby is the fact that Diablo Canyon is surrounded on all sides by earthquake faults, which have the potential to produce an earthquake larger than the plant can withstand. These earthquakes could cause a nuclear meltdown that would make the area uninhabitable. This risk, combined with the site being decades old now, with years of deferred maintenance, should prove to be too dangerous to allow. The risk of the aging reactor contaminating a large part of California for decades is far greater than the risk of not having enough power to meet demand if Diablo Canyon is shut down on schedule.

Nuclear waste continues to be a problem that any nuclear power plant faces, as we still have yet to create a system in which it can be stored safely without risk of contamination or leakage. It would be grossly irresponsible for the state to permit the creation of more radioactive waste without possessing any infrastructure to remove the waste that has already been generated by nuclear power plants up to this point.

Nuclear energy inhibits the growth of renewable energy sources. The inflexible nature of Diablo Canyon, as it can't adjust output based on demand, disincentivizes the further development of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. As I mentioned above, the state's renewable energy portfolio is able to produce enough energy to render the output created by Diablo Canyon obsolete. Focusing investment on renewable energy infrastructure is not only safer for California's communities and environment, but will also be more cost-effective in the long run due to lower maintenance costs.

Extending the operation of Diablo Canyon would be extremely concerning and would not benefit the state's commitment to addressing climate change and its impact on our communities. In fact, the extension of Diablo Canyon would only serve to accelerate the effects of climate change and draw us further away from any sort of sustainable energy solution. Until we find a way to ensure the ability to safely dispose of radioactive

waste, and can guarantee the safety of the people of California, Diablo Canyon's operations should not be extended.

Bara Mudita