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January 15, 2014

Mr. Robert B. Weisenmiller
Chair, California Energy Commission

Dear Chair Weisenmiller:

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

13-IEP-1A

TN 72479

JAN 15 2014

On behalf of the Orange County Taxpayers Association, it is my pleasure to convey our strong support of a comprehensive approach to meeting the energy needs of Orange County residents in the wake of the announced permanent decommissioning of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Stations (SONGS).

OCTax is the taxpayers' advocate on many public policy issues in Orange County, such as proposed taxes and regulations, new infrastructure projects, property and development rights and, of relevance here, federal, state, and local legislative actions and policy directives that affect Orange County.

The blackout of September 8, 2011 was a stark reminder of the need for reliable energy generation and the profound impact on the local economy absent this reliability. Our members, and the taxpayers of Orange County, are concerned about the potential for blackouts in the wake of the SONGS announcement, and as such OCTax supports a multi-faceted approach to replace the 16% of local generation that SONGS represented.

As we stated last fall in our letter to you and your counterparts with the Public Utilities Commission and the California Independent System Operator, we believe modern, efficient gas-fired generation has to be part of the post-SONGS solution in southern California. Gas-fired generation provides critical reliability services and is an effective complement to variable renewable resources. While transmission projects are helpful, they are vulnerable to wildfires like the one San Diego residents experienced in October 2007. In addition, renewable energy is not only vulnerable to the elements, but these resources are located, for the most part, hundreds of miles from Orange County.

We encourage Southern California Edison (SCE) and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) to procure power from those facilities that can step in as quickly as possible to fill in the gaps. In addition to providing critically-needed energy reliability, these projects serve as tremendous boosts to local economies, creating millions in revenue to municipalities and creating hundreds of well-paying construction jobs.

In closing, we appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this extremely important issue and encourage your support of the CAISO's plan for a combination of generation options to provide a stable grid and ensure reliability for the residents and taxpayers of Orange County and southern California. Thank you for your time and attention and best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carolyn Cavecche".

Carolyn Cavecche
President and CEO
Orange County Taxpayers Association