



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

February 9, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Calling for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to Reject License Renewal and Plan to Shut Down the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and Send a Letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Adopt a Resolution calling for Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to reject the license renewal of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and to create a plan to shut down the Diablo Canyon reactors; and
2. Send letters to the NRC and our state and national elected officials requesting the rejection of license renewal and to create a plan to shut down the Diablo Canyon reactors.

BACKGROUND:

On June 19, 2012, the Berkeley City Council passed a Resolution petitioning Governor Brown to direct the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to decommission Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and transition to green non-nuclear power generation sources. Berkeley has a history of restricting the use of nuclear power and weapons. In 1986, Berkeley became a Nuclear Free Zone which limits the City from entering contracts with any person or business that knowingly engages in work for nuclear weapons.

The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant poses serious health and safety concerns. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant sits near several earthquake fault lines. In fact, one particular fault line is a mere 2,000 feet from Diablo Canyon's two reactors and only 985 feet from the plant's intake structure. Any serious earthquake causing serious ground movement could cause substantial damage to the reactors, which inevitably threatens the health and safety of surrounding communities. Moreover, according to a whistleblower report, the NRC hasn't sufficiently enforced seismic regulations at Diablo Canyon.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Minimal.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Consistent with Berkeley's Environmental Sustainability Goals and no negative impact.

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington

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Attachment:

1. Resolution
2. Letter to Elected officials

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CALLING FOR THE CLOSING OF DIABLO CANYON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2012, the Berkeley City Council passed a Resolution Petitioning Governor Brown to direct the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to decommission Diablo Canyon and San Onofre nuclear power plants and to initiate renewable power generation

WHEREAS, this action called upon Governor Brown to exercise his powers to direct the PUC to call for replacing aging reactors with clean and renewable energy generation by the end of the current licenses of California's nuclear power plants at Diablo Canyon and at San Onofre; to decommission California Nuclear Power Plants and Transition to Green Non-Nuclear Power Generation Sources; and calling for withholding "license renewal for Diablo Canyon and San Onofre Nuclear Power plants until seismic issues and offsite permanent storage are resolved"; and

WHEREAS, Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant sits near several earthquake fault lines with one fault a mere 2,000 feet from Diablo Canyon's two reactors and only 985 feet from the plant's intake structure; and

WHEREAS, despite enforcing seismic regulations in similar situations elsewhere, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) hasn't sufficiently enforced them at Diablo Canyon; and

WHEREAS, the Diablo Canyon reactors are not in full compliance with state and federal water quality laws; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council calls on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to reject the license renewal of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Berkeley City Council requests the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to create a plan to shut down the Diablo Canyon reactors, at least until a satisfactory federal and state investigation has been conducted to evaluate the ability of Diablo Canyon to withstand an earthquake and until its owners have installed the necessary equipment to come into compliance with the law, and have demonstrated that they are doing so.

Dear Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

That the Council calls on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to reject the license renewal of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Moreover, we urge the NRC to create a plan to shut down the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant reactors, at least until a satisfactory federal and state investigation has been conducted to evaluate the ability of Diablo Canyon to withstand an earthquake. Lastly, we highly recommend that the NRC require the owners of the property to install the necessary safety and seismic equipment for the DCNPP to come into compliance with all federal, state and local law.

The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant poses serious health and safety. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, DCNPP sits near several earthquake fault lines. In fact, one particular fault line is a mere 2,000 feet from Diablo Canyon's two reactors and only 985 feet from the plant's intake structure. Any serious earthquake causing serious ground movement could cause substantial damage to the reactors, which inevitably threatens the health and safety of surrounding communities. Moreover, according to a whistleblower report stemming from the then chief safety inspector for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the NRC hasn't enforced seismic regulations at Diablo Canyon.

Please do everything in your power to provide safety to our communities. If you find that the DCNPP cannot immediately come into compliance with all federal, state and local law, we request that you decommission the DCNPP and transition the facility to a green non-nuclear power plant to generate environmentally friendlier sources of energy.

Sincerely,

The Berkeley City Council

Cc: Governor Jerry Brown
California Attorney General Kamala Harris
State Senator Loni Hancock
Assembly member Tony Thurmond
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressmember Barbara Lee
President Barack Obama
California Energy Commission
California Water Quality Board