



Peace and Justice Commission

ACTION CALENDAR  
June 19, 2012  
(Continued from May 29, 2012)

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Peace and Justice Commission  
Submitted by: George Lippman, Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission  
Subject: Decommission California Nuclear Power Plants and Transition to Green Non-Nuclear Power Generation Sources

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution:

1. 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;
2. Calling 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;
3. Urging President Barack Obama and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to reverse their support of nuclear power, stop loan guarantees to the nuclear energy industry, shut down nuclear facilities operating in seismically active areas of the U.S., establish a moratorium on building new nuclear reactors, and invest in clean, renewable energy; and
4. Insisting that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission withhold license renewal for Diablo Canyon and San Onofre Nuclear Power plants until seismic issues and offsite permanent storage are resolved.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Peace and Justice Commission adopted the following recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution to Petition Governor Brown to Direct the PUC to Decommission Diablo Canyon and San Onofre nuclear power plants and to initiate renewable power generation.

**M/S/C:** (Meola/Siegel)

**Ayes:** Bohn, Kenin, Lippman, Maran, Meola, Nicely, Rabkin, Rueda, Siegel,  
Sochet, Sorgen

**Noes:** None.

**Abstain:** None.

**Absent:** Armendariz (unexcused); Gozal; Masri (unexcused)

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Peace and Justice Commission, consistent with its mandate to promote peace and justice, locally, nationally and internationally, and consistent with the Nuclear Free Berkeley Act, recommends that the Council support this Resolution to Petition Governor Brown to Direct the PUC to Decommission Diablo Canyon and San Onofre nuclear power plants and to initiate renewable power generation.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the Commission's recommendations or the contents of its Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Robert Meola, Commissioner, Peace and Justice Commission, 510-644-1102  
Eric Brenman, Secretary, Peace and Justice Commission, 510-981-5114

Attachment:

1. Resolution
2. Background materials

RESOLUTION NO.       –N.S.

DECOMMISSION CALIFORNIA NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AND TRANSITION TO  
GREEN NON-NUCLEAR GENERATION SOURCES

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) Chapter 3.68.070); and

WHEREAS, Berkeley is a Nuclear Free Zone pursuant to the Nuclear Free Berkeley Act (BMC Chapter 12.90); and

WHEREAS, the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant on the California shore are both dangerously sited near numerous earthquake faults and were designed over forty years ago; and

WHEREAS, a new earthquake fault, the Shoreline Fault, was recently discovered, approximately half a mile away from the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power plant which now has four known active faults within 5 kilometers and an additional number of earthquake faults nearby; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission agree that all nuclear facilities are, by definition, potential targets of terrorists; and

WHEREAS, the spent fuel pools at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant are, dangerously, holding four times the amount of spent fuel rods they are meant to hold; and

WHEREAS, realistic evacuation plans for either of these nuclear facilities are far less comprehensive than the evacuation routes, planning and equipment that were needed during the Fukushima tsunami/earthquake tragedy on March 11, 2011, and 18 million Californians live within 50 miles of San Onofre and evacuation routes are inadequate and infrastructure post-quake and/or tsunami are questionable, leaving millions of California residents at risk; and

WHEREAS, until the recent and tragic earthquake/tsunami/nuclear disaster in Japan, the possibility of just such a scenario was deemed to be too remote of a possibility to prepare for in California; and

WHEREAS, PG&E, Southern California Edison, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the nuclear industry have continued to ignore seismic/tsunami impacts by simply and consistently stating that Fukushima can't happen in the United States and have refused to reconsider the liability limits should the unthinkable occur, and the United States continues to rely on the \$12.6 billion federally-funded liability limit of the Price-Anderson Act, when cost estimates for damage from the radioactive fallout in Fukushima have already reached \$50 billion<sup>1</sup> and counting; and

WHEREAS, the tragic ongoing events, in Japan, resulting from the combination of the earthquake, tsunami, and radiation leaks are a wake-up call for Californians as well as the rest of the planet's inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, California's nuclear power plants never had to pass tests that would prove that they could withstand such severe earthquakes and tsunamis in combination [such as those seen in Japan] before licensing; and their licenses are subject to renewal; and

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has defunded Yucca Mountain, as a nuclear waste repository, and is now proposing to leave highly radioactive waste at reactor sites for 300+ years.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council communicate to Governor Jerry Brown its desire to see California shift its energy production and consumption to sources of energy that are safe, environmentally sound, sustainable, renewable, and cost efficient.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Governor Brown should make known, to the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Coastal Commission, his desire to see the beginning of the process of replacement of nuclear megawatts and the decommissioning processes started at the Diablo Canyon and San Onofre nuclear power plants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley, with the health, welfare, economy and safety of Californians and all peoples and all life on the planet in mind, and recognizing that an order to phase out a nuclear power plant is the beginning of a long process of planning for generation replacement and decommissioning nuclear reactors, calls upon Jerry Brown, the Governor of the State of California, to exercise his powers to direct the California Public Utilities Commission 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, thereby, sending a clear signal to PG&E and Southern California Edison that the State of California intends to use its jurisdiction to protect its economy and the reliability of its energy sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley urges President Barack Obama and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to reverse their support of nuclear power, stop loan guarantees to the nuclear energy industry, shut down nuclear facilities operating in seismically active areas of the U.S., establish a moratorium on building new nuclear reactors, and invest in clean, renewable energy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Of Berkeley, like the City of San Clemente, insists that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission withhold license renewal for Diablo Canyon and San Onofre Nuclear Power plants until seismic issues and offsite permanent storage are resolved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Jerry Brown, California Attorney General Kamala Harris, State Senator Loni Hancock, Assembly member Nancy Skinner, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Representative Barbara Lee, President Barack Obama, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. A record copy of said Resolution to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

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<sup>1</sup> The government panel has estimated that cleaning up the Fukushima disaster and compensating its victims could cost as much as 20 trillion yen (\$257 billion), which would boost the price of nuclear generated power by 8.9 to 10.2 yen per kilowatt hour compared to 2004 levels, the Nikkei said. Japan sees atomic power cost up by at least 50 pct by 2030 –Nikkei Tue, Dec 6 2011 TOKYO, Dec 6 (Reuters) <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/06/japan-nuclear-cost-idUSL3E7N60MR20111206>

#### **LINKS & REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

**Making Sense of Fukushima**, by Henry Sokolski, Hinckley Scholar, Hinckley Institute of Politics.

**In contrast, the Japanese government already has pegged direct Fukushima damages at more than \$50 billion and Merrill Lynch reported they could conceivably run as high as \$130 billion.** These numbers are five to 10 times greater than the maximum amount of insurance coverage the U.S. government currently requires the U.S. nuclear industry to provide. Under current law, U.S. nuclear operators have put roughly \$300 million aside to cover off-site damages. Industry can be required to pay out roughly another \$12 billion over seven years for any specific accident. But that is all. Anything more must be covered by the U.S. government. Before Fukushima, \$12 billion seemed sufficient, but not anymore.

<http://www.npolicy.org/article.php?aid=1113&rt=&key=Making%20Sense%20of%20Fukushima&sec=article&author>

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/2011publications/CEC-100-2011-001/CEC-100-2011-001-LCD.pdf> The December, 2011 Integrated Energy Policy Report by the California Energy Commission [Chapter 13, pages 183-203].

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