



Office of the City Council

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March 9, 2020

Pacific Gas & Electric
Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel
Attn: Chuck Anders, Panel Facilitator (via email:canders@strategicinit.com)

Subject: Engagement Panel Meeting March 11, 2020
Diablo Canyon Lands and Other Critical Issues

Dear PG&E Staff and Members of the Engagement Panel:

The City and residents of San Luis Obispo have a long-standing interest in the decommissioning of the Diablo Canyon Power Plan (DCPP) and the critical issues surrounding it. Indeed, as expressed in early communications with PG&E, the City Council as adopted the following policies relating to the decommissioning.

- Ensure the continued safe operation of the DCCP, so as to protect the health and safety of the community;
- Foster creative solutions that will lessen the short and long term economic, fiscal, and environmental impacts to the community;
- Investigate opportunities for job creation and economic diversification;
- Develop a plan to address the potential long-term impacts of closing a nuclear facility; and
- Explore options for the future use and protection of land and marine resources, cultural resources, historic sites, and related facilities.

The Engagement Panel's March 11, 2020 meeting is focused on the Diablo Canyon Lands, and the City of San Luis Obispo and its residents are also very interested in the disposition of these lands. There is a long history of the Central Coast's prioritizing the conservation of these lands. It is reflected in the overwhelming passage (by nearly 75%) by SLO County residents of the Dream Initiative in 2000 – which called for the conservation of and public access to the Diablo Canyon Lands once the plant closes. Also, the work of the Engagement Panel– including now four public meetings, almost 1000 written comments, and the Panel's Strategic Vision document – reflects the will of this community in conserving the Diablo Canyon Lands.

The conservation of and public access to the Diablo Canyon Lands makes sense on multiple levels. The land is remote, prone to fire danger, and has a single path in and out. There is no access to existing services and amenities. The development proposed here has been very high-end estate homes in the multiple million-dollar range that no working-class person could ever afford. Development of the Diablo Canyon Lands is exactly the opposite

of thoughtful planning and sustainable development. Moreover, as public park, the land can generate tourism dollars to support the local economy. And clearly – as demonstrated by the wonderful but already over-subscribed Pismo Preserve -- we have a high demand for outdoor recreational areas along the Central Coast. Protection of the Diablo Canyon Lands not only gives people recreational access to thousands of acres, it also enables a 20 plus mile coastal trail stretching from Avila Beach to Montana de Oro. And, importantly, the Diablo Canyon Lands are truly unique from an ecological perspective – much of Coastal California has been forever lost to run-away, ill-conceived development. Here we have a chance to preserve one of the last, coastal stretches of natural California for ourselves and future generations.

As to how conservation can be achieved, we believe that it should occur through the DCPD decommissioning process. Our residents are being asked to carry the burden of that process, including noise, traffic, restricted coastal access, and more. We'll also likely be burdened indefinitely with managing the nuclear waste on site. For this, we should expect PG&E to mitigate these impacts and conserve all of the Diablo Canyon Lands.

There is significant precedent for the conservation of the Diablo Canyon Lands via mitigation. For example, the Steam Generator replacement project resulted in the conservation of 1200 acres at Point San Luis. The ISFSI project (i.e., dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel) resulted in the creation of the Buchon Trail. In addition, the construction of the Simulator/Training building resulted in the creation of the Pecho Coast Trail. Surely the decommissioning project -- and the largest EIR project ever pursued by the County of SLO -- calls for the mitigation of the rest of the Diablo Canyon Lands.

We ask PG&E and County of San Luis Obispo to fulfill the policies enumerated above for the safe and efficient decommissioning of DCPD, as well as ensure the conservation of and public access to the Diablo Canyon Lands. This is what the community has asked for, and it is what the community deserves.

Sincerely,

Heidi Harmon, Mayor