

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**



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| (1) DEPARTMENT Board of Supervisors | | (2) MEETING DATE January 10, 2006 | | (3) CONTACT/PHONE Shirley Bianchi (805) 781-5450 | |
| (4) SUBJECT Request to approve letter supporting the California Energy Commission's (CEC) recommendation concerning the accumulation of spent fuel at California's operating Nuclear Power plants. | | | | | |
| (5) SUMMARY OF REQUEST On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Chairperson Shirley Bianchi is requesting adoption of the above-entitled letter of Support. | | | | | |
| (6) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve and sign the attached Letter of Support for the California Energy Commission's (CEC) recommendation concerning the accumulation of spent fuel at California's operating Nuclear Power plants. | | | | | |
| (7) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A | | (8) CURRENT YEAR COST N/A | | (9) ANNUAL COST N/A | |
| (10) BUDGETED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> NO | | | | | |
| (11) OTHER AGENCY/ADVISORY GROUP INVOLVEMENT (LIST): N/A | | | | | |
| (12) WILL REQUEST REQUIRE ADDITIONAL STAFF? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, How Many? _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Term _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Contract _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Help _____ | | | | | |
| (13) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th (All) | | | (14) LOCATION MAP <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A | | |
| (15) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. 15 min) | | | (16) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions (Orig + 4 copies) <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts (Orig + 4 copies) <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances (Orig + 4 copies) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A | | |
| (17) NEED EXTRA EXECUTED COPIES? <input type="checkbox"/> Number: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A | | | (18) APPROPRIATION TRANSFER REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A | | |

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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January 10, 2006

California Energy Commission
Joseph Desmond, Chairman
1516 9th St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Desmond,

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors supports the California Energy Commission's (CEC) recommendation to, "evaluate the long-term implications associated with the continuing accumulation of spent fuel at California's operating [nuclear power] plants, including a case-by-case evaluation of public safety and ratepayer costs of on-site interim storage of spent fuel versus transporting spent fuel offsite for interim storage."

The CEC's concerns stated that given, "the high level of uncertainty surrounding the federal waste disposal program, California's utilities will likely be forced to retain spent fuel in storage facilities [and] at currently operating reactor sites for an indefinite period of time."

Neither the CEC, nor the County of San Luis Obispo is alone in its concerns regarding the increasing stockpiles of high-level radioactive waste on our nation's coasts and waterways. Our support of the CEC recommendation is based on increasing doubts that a permanent disposal facility for high-level radioactive waste at Diablo Canyon will ever be available. These doubts have been substantiated by nuclear experts, federal government oversight agencies and both Republican and Democratic Senators from Nevada and Utah.

- Senator Robert Bennett (R-Utah) declared, "I remain committed to fight against any effort to bring spent nuclear fuel to Utah, and firmly believe that this waste should be stored where it currently is until we work out the economics and technology to reprocess it."

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- Senator Harry Reid (D-Nevada) said he would no longer stand in the way of Utah lawmakers who are trying to block a nuclear waste complex on the Goshute Indian reservation in their state by having the nearby area designated government-protected wilderness. Reid's announcement came several weeks after Senator Robert Bennett, R-Utah, pledged in a Senate speech that he was withdrawing his support for the nuclear waste repository the Department of Energy wants to build at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.
- Former NRC Commissioner and Yucca consultant, Victor Gilinsky stated that "Despite enormous expenditure and heavy political backing the project is in deep trouble. It is caught up in a mess of technical, legal, and managerial problems from which I don't think it is going to extract itself, and as a consequence, I don't think it is ever going to open, not at least if it gets any kind of a fair review."
- Executive Director of the Nevada Office of Nuclear Project, Robert Loux said, "I think from our perspective it's safe to say that we believe the Yucca Mountain project is in an advanced state of disintegration, for a whole variety of reasons, and it has a number of obstacles it has to overcome before it can actually go forward, some of which we believe are completely unresolvable for the most part."

Further evidence confirming the Board's concern that our community may become a permanent high-level radioactive waste storage site in perpetuity can be found in the Congressional vote to cut funding for the nation's only proposed permanent site in November 2005. The final figure was also less than the House and the Senate passed during earlier debates. More delays in the oft-delayed project caused lawmakers to curb Yucca Mountain's budget.

San Luis Obispo County stands ready to work with the CEC, the state, the CPUC and PG&E to plan for our state's energy needs and decreasing our county's risks from a radioactive release due to an act of terrorism, malice or insanity, or to earthquake or age-related accidents.

Sincerely,

SHIRLEY BIANCHI
Chairperson

Cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee
Senator Abel Maldonado
Michael Peevey, President, CPUC

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