

May 4, 2026

Senator John Laird
1021 O Street, Ste 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Protect Ratepayers and Advance Energy Justice – Oppose Costly Extension of Diablo Canyon

Dear Senator Laird,

We, the undersigned environmental justice, environmental, and community-based organizations, write to express our strong concern regarding efforts to extend the operation of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

California households already face some of the highest electricity costs in the nation. Continuing to invest in one of the most expensive energy resources on the grid raises serious concerns about affordability, equity, and fiscal responsibility.

Continued operation of Diablo Canyon also raises health concerns related to nuclear risk. Research has shown that environmental hazards—including those associated with nuclear facilities—disproportionately impact low-income and frontline communities. These risks, like the financial burden, are not shared equally—falling hardest on the communities least able to absorb them.

Diablo Canyon was previously approved for retirement in 2025 in part because it was no longer cost-competitive. Continued operation now depends on significant public subsidies—costs that ultimately fall on ratepayers and taxpayers.

For environmental justice communities, rising electricity costs translate directly into:

- Increased energy burden
- Higher risk of utility shutoffs
- Greater financial instability

At the same time, public funds are being diverted away from more equitable and cost-effective solutions, including energy efficiency, distributed renewables, and community-based resilience investments.

We urge the Legislature to reject policies that:

- Increase ratepayer costs to subsidize uneconomic generation
- Shift financial risk from utilities to the public
- Undermine investments in community-centered energy solutions

California's clean energy future must be both affordable and equitable. Extending Diablo Canyon fails this test.

Sincerely,



California Environmental Justice Coalition
Matt Holmes, Co-Coordinator



Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
Bradley Angel, Exec Director



Sunflower Alliance
Shoshana Wechsler, Co-Coordinator



West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs
Janice Schroeder, Core Member



1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations
Linda Dallin, San Francisco Circle



Parents Against Santa Susana Field Lab
Melissa Bumstead, Founder/Co-Director



Tri-Valley CAREs
Marylia Kelly, Senior Advisor



Benicia Good Neighbor Steering Committee
Constance Beutel



Valley Improvement Projects (VIP)
Thomas Helme, Co-Founder/Co-Director



GAIA, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
Sirine Rached, Senior Policy Advisor



San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace
Molly Johnson, Board

Bayview Hunters Point Mothers and Fathers Committee
Leaotis Martin, President

For more information or to comment please contact: mothers@mothersforpeace.org