Questions for Irvine City Staff
City Councilmember Larry Agran
March 27, 2012

1) In the event that the San Onofre nuclear power plant experiences a Chernobyl-like or Fukushima-like catastrophic failure — resulting in a major, widespread radioactive contamination field — what are our City’s public safety responsibilities? Are we prepared to cope with such an emergency?

2) What is the emergency response chain of command within our City? What are the prescribed roles and responsibilities of the Mayor, the City Council, the City Manager, and the Director of Public Safety? What are the responsibilities of other public and private entities — Southern California Edison, the County of Orange, the State government, the federal Department of Homeland Security?

3) Are we prepared to respond to an evacuation order — to evacuate our entire City if ordered to do so, or to receive and provide for evacuees from elsewhere? Are our responsibilities clearly set forth in an evacuation plan available for public review?

4) Do we have equipment to measure radioactive contamination? Do we have access to sufficient masks, special suits and other protective equipment for our public safety workers and for the general public? Do we have iodine pills for widespread distribution to protect against thyroid cancer?

5) Does our City of Irvine 20-Year Energy Plan address policy issues regarding the sources of electricity to meet future energy needs? Does the Energy Plan presume or propose policies that would provide for safer, more reliable energy sources such as major Southern California solar installations — and reduced dependence on nuclear power generation? Does the Energy Plan consider conservation measures that presume a short-term, long-term, or permanent shutdown of San Onofre?

6) Does the draft City of Irvine Budget for FY 2012-2013, soon to be submitted by the Mayor and City Manager, include stepped-up funding for emergency preparedness to cope with a catastrophic failure at San Onofre?

7) Have the Mayor and City Manager been in communication with the highest officials at Southern California Edison to inquire as to their intentions regarding San Onofre — to either permanently shut down and decommission the nuclear power plant in 2022, or to apply for license renewal that would extend operations to at least 2042?

8) In the event that Southern California Edison pursues license renewal, what is the process and what options are available for City participation before state and federal agencies?