August 21, 2012

Mr. Michael R. Peevey
President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. Peevey:

On behalf of the Santa Monica City Council and the city's residents I am writing to express concerns regarding the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) and to urge action on the part of the California Public Utilities Commission to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of SONGS for the generation of electricity.

Santa Monica is a coastal community located in Los Angeles County approximately 80 miles northwest of SONGS. Since the tragic earthquake and tsunami that struck the coast of Japan in March 2011 and destroyed the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear plant, attention in Southern California has focused on concerns about the safety of SONGS.

While the nuclear energy industry has generally provided electricity safely and reliably, accidents at nuclear generating stations can have widespread and devastating consequences, as witnessed at Chernobyl and last year in Japan. There have been several operational safety issues over the years at SONGS, most recently on January 31, 2012 with the release of radioactive vapor due to a leak in a steam generator tube. Following that incident the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission determined that premature operational wear in the steam generator tubes in SONGS units 2 and 3, which had been installed within the past two years, present a significant safety risk and both units have been shut down.

It is clear to us that nuclear power is incredibly costly and presents significant risks to the public. As you know earlier this month the CPUC Ratepayer Advocate noted that Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric ratepayers are currently paying $54 million per month for the non-operational SONGS plant and that the new generators may need to be replaced at additional expense to ratepayers. In light of the potential catastrophic consequences to human life and the environment from an accident at SONGS and the enormous costs to continue operating the facility the City of Santa Monica urges the California Public Utilities Commission to conduct a full investigation into the cost and reliability of SONGS that compares the costs and benefits of the operation of the plant with other energy sources used today and throughout the licensing duration. This will help to ensure that California residents have safe, reliable and cost effective energy sources that don't pose a catastrophic danger to human life and the environment. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

Richard Bloom
Mayor

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