October 1, 2012

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Constitution Ave & 2nd St NE
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION (SONGS) AND PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

Dear Senator Boxer:

The City of Encinitas wishes to express its desire that your office insist that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) complete evaluation of any potential risks posed by leakage of nuclear contaminated materials are fully addressed at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). Encinitas is a coastal city located 25 miles south from the SONGS facility. Any potential incident causing significant radiation leakage or contamination from the facility would have severe impacts on the regional population and potentially cause serious environmental damage.

Recent evaluations of the SONGS facility have identified several issues regarding the design and operation of mechanical equipment and various operational safety issues have been identified over the year that are causes for serious concern. The Southern California area is in a seismically active area. The consequences on the Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Generating Station from the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in March 2011 are sobering reminders of the vulnerabilities and consequences of facilities in earthquake prone areas.

One of the primary responsibilities of government is public safety and welfare of it citizens. It is of the utmost importance that all measures be taken to assure the complete and total safety of the SONGS facility, both mechanically and operationally, before any consideration is given to permitting reactivation, up to and including consideration of deactivation of the facility.

The City of Encinitas respectfully request your office urge the NRC to conduct a comprehensive study of the SONGS that includes a public and transparent licensing amendment process before any unit is brought back online.

Sincerely,

Gus Vina
City Manager

Kristin Gaspar
Deputy Mayor

cc: City Council
City Manager