

Oct 14, 2014

Chair Felicia Marcus
CA



Dear Chair Marcus,

I urge you to bring PG&E's Diablo Canyon fully into line with California's landmark coastal protection policy by eliminating once through cooling (OTC) and requiring that cooling towers be installed at the power plant.

Diablo Canyon's outdated OTC system draws an estimated 2.5 billion gallons of water per day and discharges that water back into the ocean 20 degrees hotter, killing more than a billion young fish and other species a year. As Diablo Canyon is responsible for nearly 80% of OTC ocean water withdrawals in California, to exempt Diablo Canyon and allow PG&E to flout the law would effectively gut the state's OTC policy.

Experts have concluded that cooling towers can be built at Diablo Canyon and that installing them is the only way to significantly reduce water consumption and the destruction of the marine environment caused by the power plant's OTC system. With California's OTC policy dating back to May 2010, it is long overdue that PG&E be required to install this modern, readily available solution at the Diablo site.

More and more of the state is feeling the tremendous pressure of this historic drought. We need our energy generation facilities to be just as ambitious in their efforts to conserve water as the rest of us. We need technology that will ensure that the beautiful marine environment off the coast of California is adequately protected. Current policy puts our coastal power plants on track to do just that. Please don't let PG&E undo our coastal protections or the state's efforts to save water.

I urge the State Water Resource Control Board to reject Diablo Canyon's request for exemption from California's "Once Through Cooling" policy and protect our marine environment.

An earthquake could make us the next Fukushima.

CC: Vice Chair Frances Spivy-Weber, Tam Doduc, Steven Moore, Dorene D'Amamo

Sincerely,

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