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**Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter Resolution on Conservation of the Diablo Canyon Lands**

**Resolution**: The Santa Lucia Chapter supports efforts to ensure that all of the Diablo Canyon Lands, including Wild Cherry Canyon and excepting the power plant itself and decommissioning zone, be conserved in perpetuity for public access and resource protection via an addition to Montana de Oro State Park and/or the creation of the Point Buchon National Seashore, providing the necessary link for a 20-mile extension of the California Coastal Trail between Avila Beach and Morro Bay. The management plan for these lands must accommodate the concerns of the Chumash, who occupied this land and held it sacred since time immemorial, and include areas set aside for limited access so as to protect cultural sites and benefit wildlife.

As all San Luis Obispo county residents have long been and will continue to be exposed to the hazards of the DCNPP upon its conversion to a nuclear waste site of unknown duration, the surrounding land should be required to be transferred to the state and national park systems as mitigation for that ongoing impact and for the benefit of the people affected.

The Sierra Club will transmit this resolution to the PG&E Community Engagement Panel, California Coastal Commission, California Secretary for Natural Resources, and Representative Salud Carbajal.

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**Background**:

The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is scheduled for closure by 2025. To inform the decommissioning process, PG&E has created a Community Engagement Panel seeking public input on the disposition of the lands surrounding the plant, consisting of 12,000 acres of undeveloped pristine coastline extending for approximately 14 coastal miles from the southern border of Montana de Oro to the community of Avila Beach, the largest remaining segment of undeveloped, privately owned coastline in San Luis Obispo County.

A county ballot measure known as the Diablo Resources Advisory Measure (DREAM Initiative), passed in 2000 by 75% of the electorate, urged the conservation of the Diablo Lands upon the closure of Diablo Canyon. The measure was supported by PG&E, the SLO County Board of Supervisors, and numerous public, private, and non-profit entities.

The Nature Conservancy, American Land Conservancy, Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, Wildlife Conservation Board, California State Coastal Conservancy, Department of Parks and Recreation, California Coastal Commission, CALTRANS, State Water Board, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board have repeatedly affirmed the high conservation value of the Diablo Canyon Lands.

National seashores are coastal areas federally designated as being of natural and recreational significance as a preserved area. The National Park Service has preserved, researched and interpreted the habitat at National Seashores for the recreation, benefit, inspiration and education of the public since 1953. Nine of the nation’s ten National Seashores are on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. In 1959, the National Park Service conducted a recreational survey which found the area now known as the Diablo Canyon Lands to possess “excellent seashore values and should be acquired for public recreation and conservation of its natural resources.” The goal of the NPS inventory of undeveloped seashore areas was “to select those areas that should properly be included in a well-rounded and adequate National Park System; the designation of areas that should be preserved for the welfare of the general public because of their scenic, cultural and scientific values, regardless of what agency or level of Government might administer them; and the identification of areas necessary to provide for active public recreation use and enjoyment by an expanding population.”

Approved by the Executive Committee, Santa Lucia Chapter

August 13, 2018