

State Resources Agency Weighs in on Diablo's Fate

The ultimate fate of the 12,000 acres of pristine coastal habitat surrounding the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant – whether it will be developed or conserved in its natural state – may depend on a land conservation and economic development plan that a state agency is scheduled to submit to the California Legislature by March 23.



Friends of Diablo Canyon Lands

Senate Bill 846, the bill that may extend the life of the aging nuclear plant to 2030,

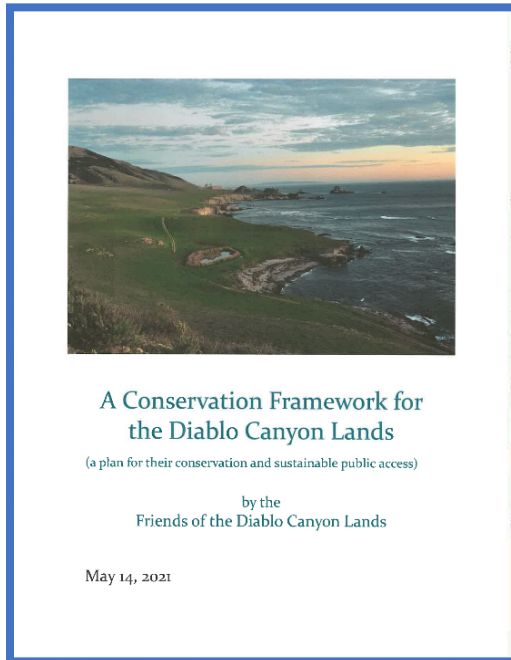
also requires the California Natural Resources Agency to prepare a plan on the ultimate disposition of the Diablo Canyon Lands when the plant shuts down, whenever that may be. On Feb. 10, the CNRA, accompanied by a raft of representatives from other state resource agencies, came to SLO to consider public input on that question, and on the environmental impacts and mitigation of the extended operation of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

All the agencies have required actions they must take in conjunction with the extension of the operation of Diablo's operations pertaining to ongoing impacts on the marine environment from the plant's cooling system, spent fuel storage, unresolved seismic issues, and everything else left hanging when PG&E removed its relicensing application in 2018.

On Feb. 8, the Sierra Club and a dozen other environmental and recreational groups met with California Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot and representatives of the California Natural Resources Agency, California State Lands Commission, California Public Utilities Commission, California Coastal Commission, State Water Resources Control Board, State Parks, and the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development to discuss the disposition of the Diablo Canyon lands.

By far the most crucial element is the placement of a conservation easement over the lands prior to their transfer to any new owner or land manager. Equally crucial, the state must assure that the

manager has a long and thoroughgoing history of land management, and that history must include experience in enforcement of the terms of conservation easements on properties on a scale equivalent to Diablo's 12,000 acres and the diverse ecosystems it contains.



The Santa Lucia Chapter and 30+ local conservation and recreational organizations labored long to produce the [roadmap to preservation](#) of the Diablo Canyon Lands. Our Conservation Chair made sure CA Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot got a copy at the Feb. 8 meeting.