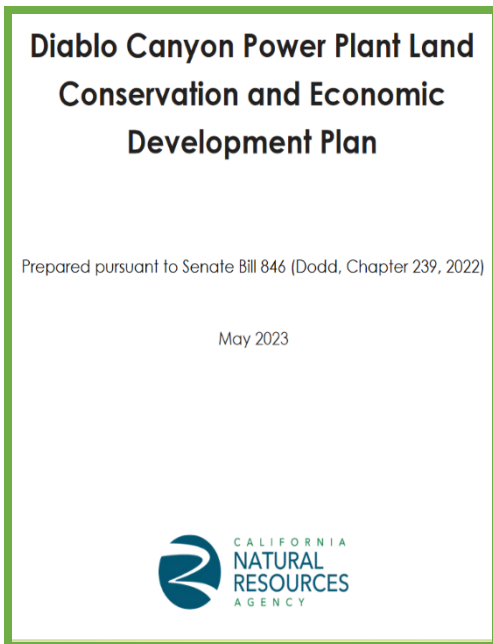


There's A Plan for the Diablo Lands



The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), at the direction of the state legislature, has [come up with a plan](#) for the preservation of the 12,000 acres of undeveloped coastal land around the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant after the plant closes (whenever that may be), and the economic development of the reactor site, aka Parcel P.

We are pleased to report that the plan largely reflects the vision of the [Friends of Diablo Canyon Lands](#) and their grassroots Conservation Framework to preserve the ecological, scenic, and cultural resources of those 12,000 acres while providing for managed public access. The Framework was completed in May 2021 after many months of effort by dozens of local nonprofits, including the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club.

In February, CNRA Secretary Wade Crowfoot brought a delegation of state representatives to visit San Luis Obispo County. At various points in the visit, he was joined by Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis, GO-Biz Director Dee Dee Myers and Water Board Chair Joaquin Esquivel, as well as additional representatives from the Resources agency, State Lands Commission, Coastal Commission, and Department of Water Resources.

During their visit, the state group toured Diablo Canyon and surrounding lands, met with staff for federal and state elected officials, local electeds, California Native American tribes, County staff, and environmental groups. On the last day of the visit, the agencies and the California Public Utilities Commission convened a public listening session to give the public the opportunity to provide comments on their interests and concerns related to future use of the Diablo Canyon Lands and state regulatory actions to extend the operations of the power plant. In addition to comments from the 160 attendees in person or virtually, members of the public were able to email comments to CNRA. More than 700 written comments were received. Input from this public comment included calling for:

- Tribal ownership
- Durable environmental conservation of Diablo Canyon Lands.
- Stewardship of the Diablo Canyon Lands by a public entity.
- Continued managed public access.

- Expansion of the California Coastal Trail via a carefully placed extension.
- Reuse of Parcel P for clean energy innovation to support economic development.
- Avoiding the costs of implementing a Plan from being borne by the County.
- Continued engagement with the County and community.

The resulting plan does a good job of laying out the “guiding values [that] should be considered in any decision-making process used to determine the future use of the Diablo Canyon Lands” – starting with “Value #1: Foster the robust conservation of environmental and cultural resources while enabling appropriate public access.”

In order to achieve this, the plan makes clear, “for conservation and resource protections to be perpetual and binding, a conservation easement must be granted and recorded before any fee interest or other property interest in the parcels is transferred.”

The plan satisfies a requirement of Senate Bill 846 requiring the CNRA, in consultation with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, to submit a Land Conservation and Economic Development Plan “that supports environmental enhancements and access of Diablo Canyon power plant lands and local economic development in a manner that is consistent with existing decommissioning efforts.”

UPDATE: On June 29, Senator John Laird announced that the 2023-2024 state budget will include \$5 million allocated to the California State Coastal Conservancy for the development of a conservation easement across the 12,000-acres of Diablo Canyon Lands, “as well as to map future coastal and interior public trail locations, conduct public and tribal outreach, and undertake tasks in anticipation of the transfer to State Parks the 2,400-acre unit of Diablo Canyon Lands known as Wild Cherry Canyon.”

The funds are part of a \$20 million allocation Senator Laird secured for Central Coast communities to address disaster recovery efforts, services for underserved populations, climate change priorities, repair of vital infrastructure and wildfire prevention.

