How to Replace a Nuclear Power Plant

In our post-Diablo future, one program can replace both the energy the power plant generated and its role in the local economy.

By random chance, on the day of the announcement of the agreement to retire the Diablo Canyon plant by 2025, two consecutive N9 headlines appeared on the KC9X website, reporting the day’s news and the news from the day before.

They were:

June 21: Plan to close Diablo Canyon: PG&E announces phasing out nuclear power in California by 2025

and

June 20: Community Choice Energy plans get potential financial backing in Santa Barbara County.

The day before the equivalent of an image of a wave of the past receding as a wave of the future crested behind it, PG&E underlined the point in its press-release listing the reasons for Diablo’s two-stage closure, ending with this one: the potential increases in the departure of PG&E’s retail load customers to Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), a locality generating renewable energy in PG&E’s longtime upstart competitor, which, over the two-year period, would allow PG&E to replace both the fuel use and emissions at Diablo.

The Diablo game is a complicated one. When the news broke, the reaction was to shut down Diablo Canyon, the San Francisco Chronicle administered, “Nuclear power is done in California. Just a question of when. Shutting down the state’s last reactor of Diablo Canyon is replacing the lost power with renewable energy.” Or as the UtilityDispatch website put it, “One of the biggest tests of all time for renewable electricity was just proposed in California. It does not get the attention it deserves because everybody calls it the closure of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.”

The Sierra Club is giving itself a week to consider the announcement and decide if it deserves to be proposed by the Public Utilities Commission to approve the proposal and receive costs from ratepayers.

In brief, the proposed GHG-free replacement energy plan for Diablo does not appear to facilitate additional and entirely clean-energy deployment and fails to ensure the conservation of the Diablo Lands — more than 12,000 acres of underdeveloped coastal land surrounding the plant.

The Sierra Club is attempting to be patient about press reactions to the terms of the Joint Proposal to ensure due process. Depending on the clarity of responses, our attorneys may require the opportunity for additional examination in the evidentiary hearings. The Sierra Club would require PG&E to analyze the impact of fossil fuel use and resulting greenhouse gas emissions upon Diablo’s retirement as compared to a scenario of Diablo remaining operational. While aware that “if” Diablo Canyon were retired in 2024 and 2025 and no other preparatory steps were taken, fossil fuel use would immediately increase substantially, PG&E has conducted no such analysis.

PG&E’s commitment to the 5 percent Renewables Portfolio Standard by 2030 delays greenhouse gas mitigation for Diablo until six years after its retirement and is less than what will likely be needed to meet SB 32 greenhouse gas objec-
tives. The timing of emission reductions matters.

Deferred deployment of greenhouse gas mitigation reduces the likelihood of limiting future temperatures close to below catastrophic levels. To assure the closure of Diablo will not hinder California in meeting its 2030 greenhouse gas reduc-
tion requirements, PG&E should increase its renew-
able energy procurement from 50 to 60 percent, and its 2030 renewables procurement from 50 to 60 percent, with no changes to voluntary carbon offset strategies and methodologies for departing customers — or those opting in to Community Choice Aggregation.

“How to Replace a Nuclear Power Plant”

California recognizes that replacing Diablo’s carbon-based emissions by cutting the demand for energy — is one of the best ways to get a low-carbon economy. SB 330, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015, requires the department’s greenhouse gas emissions in January 1, 2030. The Application proposes to

Please receive this newsletter on.Sign up for our email newsletter. Subscribe here.
For Her Distinguished Service

Luis Capps receives Sierra Club Award

Every year, the Sierra Club honors exemplary individuals whose achievements help preserve the environment. This award was bestowed upon one who cares passionately about this world.

Luis Capps, the incumbent representative for the 25th district, has served in Congress since 1998. He sits for the Natural Resources Committee, and is a strong voice for the environment. His legislative efforts have included advocating for clean energy, protecting natural resources, and standing up for the rights of consumers. He has been a vocal advocate for issues such as climate change, renewable energy, and social justice. Capps is a proud member of the Democratic Party. He is deeply committed to serving his constituents and to promoting policies that will benefit future generations.

The winner is Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune (left) and Club President Aaron Wunsch congratulate Rep. Lois Capps on her Distinguished Service Award.

Wildlands Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off

by Holly Slieveland, Wildlands Stewardship Group

As many of our members know, the National Sierra Club offers dozens of service trips every year that provide an opportunity for members to give something back to the public lands that have given so much to them. But if you can’t get away for a few days or a week, but you still want to lend Nature a hand?

The Santa Lucia Chapter is forming the Wildlands Stewardship Group for people just like you who love spending time in our parks, preserves and open space and want to do your part to keep them in good shape. You’ll be working with other conservationists to help remove invasive plants, pick up trash, naturalize beehive trails and plant native plants. And you’ll be joining a network of Sierra Club volunteers working on service projects throughout the country to help sustain our public lands. You’ll experience the satisfaction of knowing that you have made an important difference and that you have helped to heal a wounded world.

For our inaugural event, we’ve decided to focus our attention on helping native trees, which have been in the news a lot lately, and most of the news hasn’t been good. We’ve heard about thousands of trees dying from drought, thousands more torn up by bulldozers, avalanches, and storms and tons of trees burning up in the wildfires and Chernobyl fires. It’s staggering to think so many trees quickly. We can’t stop the damage overnight, but we can certainly help get the process started.

To that end, we’re partnering with the City of San Luis Obispo to plant trees on Bishop Peak. We’ll be planting Coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia) seedlings grown from seeds collected in the surrounding area and genetically donated by John Chauvet, John Dyrso and Leland Johnson. The planting will involve making grooves in the soil, digging holes, covering the seedlings, watering, matching and caging them to protect against browsing. So grab a friend or come on your own and make a new friend at the kickoff on Saturday, November 5th from 9:30-12p.m. Long pants, layered shirts and shoes with closed toes recommended.

We’ll have tools and supplies, but if you have gloves or a shovel, bring them along. We’ll be working in small groups so we can teach off jobs and no one gets too tired. And we’ll have drinks and snacks to keep us going. If we’re lucky enough to have a light sprinkle, we’ll seek it through. But I hope we don’t.

We really hope you join us! If you have questions or to RSVP, please contact Holly Slieveland at holisticphilly@yahoo.com or 805-239-3922. The meet-up location will be announced by mid-October.

The executive director for the Wildlands Stewardship Group is Linda Geary, who will be responsible for coordinating the efforts of the group.

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club is located in San Luis Obispo, CA. For more information, visit our website at sierraclub.org or contact our office at 805-543-7051.

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On September 14, the Sierra Club joined with 90 other organizations in a National Day-In-Action against the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in Benicia, a city in California. As we reminded our combined millions of supporters that the TPP is a bad deal for America, encouraging supporters to tell their congressional representatives to oppose the TPP in a post-election lame-duck session of Congress.

As part of the national day of action, more than 13 million people engaged through a range of online and offline channels, with calls from every congressional district in the country. The efforts were designed to encourage American citizens to call their member of Congress and take extra attention at the 28 House Democratic Members who voted to “fast track” authority for the TPP. Some key events of the national day of action:

• The Sierra Club, the nation’s largest membership organization, made the federal government issue a permit and volunteers to call their Members of Congress, especially those in key districts, and tell them to vote out publicly against the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Running through an unannounced day from the final days of the Congress, the TPP would be a disaster for our climate. Through trade can regulations, it can result in climate-damaging emissions, and the TPP test fails to even mention the words “climate change.”

• The TPP would undermine international agreements and keep the United States from having a say in the evolving and complex global trade negotiations. The United States, both as a TPP member and the only country that has explicitly invited Canada to use the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) system to challenge environmental standards in private trade tribunals. We reached out to almost 10,000 of our members and supporters to call the CEOs of the proposed companies, especially those in key districts, and remind them to vote out the TPP. We got more than 10,000 action items from our members and supporters.

• On September 14, the Benicia-Depot-Club Action reached more than 1.6 million people via Twitter, Facebook and Tumblr on the morning of Sept. 14.

• Our Revolution, the post-primary movement of Bernie Sanders, sent out an email alert on the day before the last day of the Congress, encouraging the more than 200,000 people who have signed on to call their Congressman and push for a vote to stop the TPP. Over the next two days, we urge partners to call their member of Congress and continue to work on the issue.

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On August 31, development continued in the landmark killing Senate Bill 110 in the State Assembly, the measure that offered the best hope of reforming the Coastal Commission by banning the practice of “ex parte” communications – private communications with commissioners that occur out of view of public and generate full employment for underground lobbyists in the service of coastal developers. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), who told the L.T. Times, “I am extremely disappointed that this bill will not be moving forward and I am disappointed that California legislators believe that prohibiting ex parte communications is vital for restoring public trust in the Coastal Commission and leveling the playing field between big-moneyed interests and those without. Understanding that point, a lawsuit filed two weeks before Howell was deposed claimed a number of Coastal Commission’s violations and violations of the Coastal Act. A complaint was filed with the California Coastal Commission by environmentalists over the commission’s violation of the Coastal Act, which includes failing to obey the Coastal Act’s requirement to release its records on the collection of data and the results of any related issues. It calls for a change in the “culture” of the commission to be one of “customer service.” In other words, it considers developers as its customers and its mission to be customer service, i.e., the Commission’s mission is to serve developers. It calls for a change in the culture of the Commission to be one of customer service. It calls for a change in the culture of the Commission to be one of customer service. It calls for a change in the culture of the Commission to be one of customer service. It calls for a change in the culture of the Commission to be one of customer service. It calls for a change in the culture of the Commission to be one of customer service. It calls for a change in the culture of the Commission to be one of customer service.

On September 22, an Orange County Superior Court judge handed down a scathing decision in another lawsuit, Friends of the Coast v. California Coastal Commission, finding that “No commission member, shall conduct an ex parte communication with any other member of the commission or any other member of the commission without the consent of the commission, or for the purpose of obtaining that consent.” The case against the commission, brought by the San Diego watch group Spotlight on Coastal Corruption, brings an underestimation of state law requiring that “No communication shall, nor any interested person, shall conduct an ex parte communication unless the commissioner or member fully discloses and makes public the ex parte communication by providing a full report of the communication to the executive director for review and distribution to the commission members. The number of alleged violations per individual commissioner range from 42 to 75, with San Francisco City Councilmember Erik Marques at the top of the list with 48 alleged violations. The California Coastal Protection Act is critical to protecting the natural environment, while providing a greater public exposure to the existing.

For the Central Coast, this expansion would ensure that the unique history and abundant natural resources we take pride in are protected for future generations. Earlier this year, Senator Boxer introduced SB 110, which would provide lasting protection to multiple areas along the California coast while improving management and leveraging the benefits of the state’s cultural and ecological significance of each location.

On February 11, Boxer sought the resignation of the governor after requesting his authority under the Antiquities Act to expand the California Coastal National Monument. The California Coastal National Monument was designated by President Clinton in 2000 and stretches the entire 1,100 miles of California coastline, protecting more than 1,000 acres of land, 200 miles of coastline, and more than 1,000 acres of land. The President’s order provides for the protection of the California Coastal National Monument and its resources as they are, or may be, in the public interest. The order also provides for the protection of the California Coastal National Monument and its resources as they are, or may be, in the public interest. The order also provides for the protection of the California Coastal National Monument and its resources as they are, or may be, in the public interest. The order also provides for the protection of the California Coastal National Monument and its resources as they are, or may be, in the public interest. The order also provides for the protection of the California Coastal National Monument and its resources as they are, or may be, in the public interest. The order also provides for the protection of the California Coastal National Monument and its resources as they are, or may be, in the public interest.
Cross-District standing committees, such as in the case of Diablo Canyon, are critical to ensuring a science-driven decision-making process. In the case of Diablo Canyon, a group of scientists and engineers from both PG&E and UCSB have been working closely with the community to ensure that the data and analysis are transparent and robust. This collaboration has helped to build trust and ensure that the decision-making process is focused on the science and not on political interests. By fostering such collaborations, we can ensure that the decision-making process is driven by the best available science, and that the public is able to trust the outcome of the decision-making process. This is critical to ensuring that we are making decisions that are in the best interest of the public, and that we are able to build a resilient and sustainable future.
half, has resisted every one of the grant utility’s multi-million dollar attempts to buy it and kill it. Because of the utility model of coal, gas or nuclear-generated electricity sent over long-distance transmission lines from a power plant to a substation, Community Choice ultimately means renewable energy and local energy generation, a model that has now overtaken nuclear power in terms of mega-watt-hour generation globally. A Community Choice program can replace Diablo Canyon’s contributions to both the energy grid and the economy, and do so more sustainably, safely, and with genuinely clean power.

It’s good that our elected officials are now saying – as we have been saying for years – that we must start to plan for that future one year when they approved the County’s participation in a regional feasibility study for Community Choice Energy, along with Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties (see “On October 6, Help the County Make the Right Choice,” Oct., 2013). In February, venture in SLO County opted in to the feasibility study. Long before, in a Viewpoint printed in the December 3, 2008 edition of the Tribune, Santa Barbara County Supervisor Kate McKenna wrote that the state’s Community Choice law in combination with California’s other recent clean energy bills had “the potential to create a huge new market for renewable energy.”

Eight years later, Santa Barbara’s fledgling Community Choice program has placed itself in the basin for 100 percent renewable energy production and for pre-Recession-setting in the 100 Percent Clean

California Ocean and Coastal Amateur Photography Contest Announces 2016 Winners

The winners of the California Ocean and Coastal Amateur Photography Contest have been selected, and out of a pool of 500 photos, the first place winner is Los Osos resident Gary O’Neill for his close-up picture of a creature that he entitled “Ocean’s Cremets.” He captured the shot using a long camera lens as he sat on a bluff near the Piedras Blancas Light Station, where he volunteers as a tour guide.

Mr. O’Neill retired to Los Osos with his wife after an agricultural career in the Central Valley, and is a member of several local camera clubs. The judges also awarded 16 honorable mentions – check them out along with all the photos at mycroptophoto.com. The California Coastal Commission coordinates the contest, which they say “Thank You Ocean Campaign and people of the Santa Whale Tail License Plate Fund.

After the Starfish Are Gone

By Judith Benton

Farewell to glorious purple arms And humber orange, yellow, orange

Farewell to crabs, menonomos, tight-lipped mussels.

Still waves, though acidic, will roll in from Sand Spit. blow holes blow

And children with pails and shovels will build castles of sand.

When is a forest not a forest?

When millions have died of drought, Beatrice, fragmentation.

When pine trees and junipers have gone

And perhaps tall saguaro cacti will replace

By panda, panther, polar bear).

The way of the dodo (soon to be joined

When pine trees and junipers have gone

And there is no one to bear witness,

When pine trees and junipers have gone

The way of the dodo (soon to be joined

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And there is no one to bear witness,
CONVENE—COLLABORATE—ACT

The Tidal Deep Ecology Collaboratory take place October 21-23, 2016 at the Rancho B. Chico Conference and Retreat Center, which is us a beautifully 200-acre nature reserve in the heart of San Luis Obispo County. Participants will address the biodiversity crisis, over-populations, and globalization through the lens of Deep Ecology principles.

Topic Leaders Include:
- Robert Giroux - professor at Simon Fraser University environmental psychology researcher
- Matt Killeen - co-founder and director of Restore at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA.
- Dertility James - author of Deep Green Resistance chapter to The Forest
- Dr. Sarah Nix - director of the Seedling project, and a partner of The Good Life Project The Event - co-founder of Earth First and the Wildlands Project

Sponsors:
- Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
- Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

This internationally known event encourages community recycling of unwanted clothing through artistic reuse. The event will include various do-it-yourself workshops including: basic sewing, repurposing a T-shirt, a children’s craft table and more. Each workshop will be taught by local artists. The event is sponsored by Soul & Oak, a business that offers home craft and tea parties for individuals and businesses. All proceeds will go to support the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club.
Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

Oct. 25-27. Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to the Channel Islands. Hike landslides, waterfalls, and along the shore for marine wildlife, birds, and reptiles. You will be on a 65’ cutter, a 3-island, small ship with an open field, balcony, and hot tub. For info on the Club’s global destinations, go to sierraclub.org/outings/adventure-travel.

All our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Study footwear is recommended. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805 unless otherwise noted. This is not guaranteed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 18. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter’s outing policies, or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Chair Joe Morris, 549-0355. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.

Sat., Oct. 8, 9 a.m. Steamer Spring Trail to West Cuesta Ridge. Moderate, fall colors, 1.9 miles and 1,840’ climb, near SLO. We will take the Steamer Spring Trail to Shorer’s Trail to West Cuesta Ridge, looping around Morning Glory Cirque with all great views of Col Pal and valley to the coast. Possibility of poison oak. Bring water, snacks or lunch, and extra in layers for weather. Meet at end of Steamer Springs Rd, the first right turn past Highland Dr when leaving SLO north of Highway 101. Leader: Chuck Tribby, 461-7937.

Sun., Oct. 9, 2-5 p.m. Historic Walk: SLO’s Secret Past. Exploratory stroll to discover the history behind the Mission, the 1800s stagecoach stop, home of SLO’s first millionaire, the Laettner family, and a haunted landmark in the historic core of downtown SLO. Duration about 1 1/2 hours. Meet at NW corner of Nipomo and Dana St. Leader: Lou L. Jonas, 549-0355.

Sat., Oct. 15, 9-3 a.m. Haleakala Peak. Moderate, six-mile hike to summit of Maui’s highest peak, 10,023 ft. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, and be prepared for rapidly changing weather. For information, contact Leader: David Brown, hikingo@gmail.com.

Sat., Oct. 15th, 16th, 17th Paramient City Backwash and Backcountry Cabin Assessment. Backwash to assist in assessing state of land and water in paramient City near Death Valley Nat. Park. Note beginning backpacking. Meet Saturday evening at Chris Wick camp and backpack up Surpacific Camp to paramient City on Sunday. From paramient City on Tuesday, we will hike to and examine interesting historical areas there. There is a possible shuttle back, but unless someone wants to hike to it and it is filled before drinking. The hike will carry all food and equipment necessary for the top as well as some of the tools we will be using. Contact Leader: Kate Allen, kjalber@comcast.net or 652-444-4166, CNRC Desk Committee.

Sat., Oct. 22nd, 9 a.m. Take a Hike Along Santa Barbara’s Most Beautiful Coastal Town Extravaganza. Beautiful Hiking in Santa Barbara’s past, present, and future. Meet in front of 2nd Street bike path at 9 a.m. Leader: Lou L. Jonas, 549-0355.

Sat., Oct. 22nd-23rd. Death Valley Area Ghost Town Extravaganza. Celebrate Halloween with a tour to the Goldfield’s past, camping near historic ghost town of Tecopa. Ghost hike followed by Bonfire and Pollock feast, then a mid-night walk to Tecopa. Sunday tour of Ballard Canyon with a short hike to the pond. Contact Leader: Don Keyes, 530-541-3030.

Sat., Oct. 29th, 9 a.m. Lompoc Reserve Native Plant Walk. Scenic, 1 mile; 1½ mile option. Join us for a pleasant hike on the Lompoc River, an important canyone of oak trees and lush riparian plants. Meet in parking lot of Lompoc Reserve next to the Lompoc River at 9 a.m. Leader: Vicki Marchenko, 522-3567 or vmarc36@gmail.com. Contact Leader: Joe’s parking lot, at Vineyard Drive off Hwy 101. Tour will last about 3 hours. Cost: $5 for Garden members / $10 for public.

Sat., Nov. 5th, 11 a.m. Reservoir Canyon Exploration. Seven-mile hike, 1,300’ elevation gain, to the reservoir canyon summit for great views, and eventually a ride to a secret spot for snack, suitably discovering canyon for return trip to trailhead. Bring water, snack/lunch, non-slip shoes, and dress for the weather. Please feel free to bring a score card or map. Meet at Santa Rosa Park in SLO at 9:30 a.m. Start 9 a.m. from Trader Joe’s parking lot, at Vineyard Drive off Hwy 101. Tour will last about 3 hours. Sat., Nov. 5th, 10 a.m. Lompoc Reserve Native Plant Walk. Scenic, 1 mile; 1½ mile option. Join us for a pleasant hike on the Lompoc River, an important canyone of oak trees and lush riparian plants. Meet in parking lot of Lompoc Reserve next to the Lompoc River at 9 a.m. Leader: Vicki Marchenko, 522-3567 or vmarc36@gmail.com. Contact Leader: Joe’s parking lot, at Vineyard Drive off SLO at 8:30 a.m. Tour starts 9 a.m. from Trader Joe’s parking lot, at Vineyard Drive off Hwy 101. Tour will last about 3 hours. Cost: $5 for Garden members / $10 for public.

Sat., Nov. 12th, 7 p.m. Bishop’s Backyard Bee Keeping. Learn about backyard bee keeping. Meet in parking lot of Bishop’s Backyard Bee Keeping, twelve mile hike, 1,500’ elevation gain, to demonstrate effective signs and picnic tables. Bring water, snacks and beverages plus the services of trekking poles. Contact Leader: Maria, take Main St./Hwy 33 to Botanical Gardens on Main St. Turn left at Botanical Gardens, go one mile, turn left at Stenner Canyon Rd, turn right at Main St., keep the devastation out of sight of tourists. For more information, contact Leader: Randy Fowler, 805-549-0355.

Sun., Nov. 13, 1:30-3 p.m. Backyard Bee Keeping. Learn about backyard bee keeping. Meet in parking lot of Bishop’s Backyard Bee Keeping, twelve mile hike, 1,500’ elevation gain, to demonstrate effective signs and picnic tables. Bring water, snacks and beverages plus the services of trekking poles. Contact Leader: Maria, take Main St./Hwy 33 to Botanical Gardens on Main St. Turn left at Botanical Gardens, go one mile, turn left at Stenner Canyon Rd, turn right at Main St., keep the devastation out of sight of tourists. For more information, contact Leader: Randy Fowler, 805-549-0355.

Sat., Nov. 19th, 9 a.m. Santa Margarita Lake Extravaganza. Beautiful Santa Margarita Lake and surrounding areas. Meet at end of Reservoir Canyon Trail for Happy Hour and hors d’oeuvres. Contact Leader: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 93222. Phone: 560-401- 3030.

Sat., Nov. 20th, 9 a.m. Panamint City Backpack Hike. Easy to moderate, six-mile hike to lookout Point for Happy Hour and hors d’oeuvres. Contact Leader: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 93222. Phone: 560-401- 3030.

Sat., Nov. 26th, 9 a.m. Channel Islands National Park. Visit an outstanding National Park. Bring a lunch, dress for the weather, and wear good shoes. Meet in parking lot of Bishop’s Backyard Bee Keeping, twelve mile hike, 1,500’ elevation gain, to demonstrate effective signs and picnic tables. Bring water, snacks and beverages plus the services of trekking poles. Contact Leader: Maria, take Main St./Hwy 33 to Botanical Gardens on Main St. Turn left at Botanical Gardens, go one mile, turn left at Stenner Canyon Rd, turn right at Main St., keep the devastation out of sight of tourists. For more information, contact Leader: Randy Fowler, 805-549-0355.

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