

Written
Public Comment
on Diablo
Canyon Nuclear
Allocation

From: [Richard Engel](#)
To: [Lori Taketa](#)
Subject: FW: Potential nuclear allocation to RCEA
Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 8:37:06 AM

Hi Lori,

Per Eileen's suggestion, I notified a few community stakeholders that our Board will take up the nuclear topic next month. This response seems like it should be included as public comment for the September Board meeting. I've gotten a couple other responses but they are just acknowledgements of receipt.

Thanks,
Richard

Richard Engel

Director of Power Resources | Redwood Coast Energy Authority
Office (707) 269-1700 x 354 | Cell [REDACTED] | www.RedwoodEnergy.org

Pronoun: he

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From: Craig S Benson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 9:12 PM
To: Richard Engel <REngel@redwoodenergy.org>
Subject: Re: Potential nuclear allocation to RCEA

Thanks for providing information about the potential addition of nuclear-generated power into our power portfolio.

I do not consider nuclear energy to be either "clean" or "green". I think it is still one of the largest long-term threats to the earth. I would rather pay more for hydro, solar or wind than use nuclear generated energy. I support RCEA's previous decision NOT to include it even though we have to pay for some aspects of its generation, transmission and storage. I favor consumers being made aware of the real costs of nuclear including maintaining ISFSI for stored rods for up 24,000 years.

Best,

Craig Benson

From: [Colin Fiske](#)
To: [Lori Taketa](#)
Cc: [Eileen Verbeck](#); [Richard Engel](#)
Subject: Re: RCEA Email (BCC): Potential nuclear allocation to RCEA
Date: Friday, August 30, 2024 11:35:09 AM

Hi Lori, Eileen and Richard,

Since there won't be a CAC meeting before the 9/26 Board meeting, I'm guessing this is a request for immediate feedback from CAC members. So I will respond by saying that I think this is a really bad idea. I anticipate that breaking the long-standing no-nuclear policy would generate a whole new public controversy at a time when RCEA really can't afford one (especially coming on the heels of the decision to abandon the 2025 clean & renewable energy goal). It would also make RCEA's portfolio look more like PG&E's, which I think contributes to undermining the political case for having a CCA in the first place. Finally, as a community that hosted one of the early generation of commercial nuclear plants and is now dealing with the consequences - in the form of [tons of nuclear waste stored in an eroding bluff subject to the effects of sea level rise](#) - I think it's a really bad look for us to buy power from another coastal nuclear plant down the coast.

Thanks,
Colin

On Thu, Aug 29, 2024 at 4:05 PM Lori Taketa <LTaketa@redwoodenergy.org> wrote:

Hello, Community Advisory Committee members,

Eileen Verbeck asked that Power Resources Director Richard Engel's message (below) be sent to you. The Board of Directors will discuss this item on Thursday, September 26.

Best Regards,

Lori Taketa

Executive Support Specialist & Clerk of the Board | Redwood Coast Energy Authority

(707) 269-1700 | [www.RedwoodEnergy.org](#)

Pronouns: she, her, hers

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Dear Community Advisory Committee:

Redwood Coast Energy Authority, along with most other California electricity providers, have an opportunity to receive an allocation of energy generated by PG&E's Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. RCEA's customers, like all other electricity users served by providers subject to California Public Utilities Commission regulation, are required to pay a portion of the costs of operating this nuclear plant, which is deemed by the CPUC an important resource for grid reliability in California. These ratepayers may receive a share of this carbon-free energy that they have funded.

Each electricity provider can choose whether or not to accept their proportional allocation. Some providers choose to accept the allocation since their customers are already paying for it, and accepting it does not result in additional nuclear power generation or development. In addition, the costs of other carbon-free resources such as large hydropower or renewable energy certificates from sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal power have increased sharply in the past couple of years, making the nuclear allocation more attractive financially as a means of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with a provider's power portfolio.

To date, RCEA has rejected its nuclear allocation, given our policy of not procuring nuclear power (as documented in our Energy Risk Management Policy: <https://redwoodenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/RCEA-Energy-Risk-Management-Policy-2022-Update-with-Addendum-A.pdf>), and because we had other cost-effective means of meeting our renewable and carbon-free energy targets.

The increased cost of other emissions-free resources cited above is causing RCEA and other electricity providers to revisit their decision to reject the nuclear allocation. To accept our nuclear allocation, our Board would need to either modify our nuclear policy or authorize an exception to it. In that case, the nuclear power would appear as part of RCEA's portfolio on our power content label, which is mailed annually to all RCEA customers. If accepted, the allocation in the coming year is expected to meet about 5-10% of RCEA's total electricity load. RCEA can decide year by year whether to accept or decline the nuclear power allocation.

RCEA staff and our consultant presented preliminary information on this potential nuclear allocation to our Board in August. We will present the Board with additional information on the allocation and its implications for RCEA's finances and power portfolio at their September 26 public meeting and ask them for a decision. An agenda packet for that meeting will be posted several days prior to the meeting at <https://redwoodenergy.org/board-of-directors/>.

Best regards,

Richard

Board of Directors
RCEA
Via Email

9/1/2024

Re: Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Allocation

In our efforts to ameliorate the climate catastrophe that is now clearly upon us and strengthening every year, there are no simple answers, no straightforward fixes, no well-intentioned actions that will not also carry negative impacts, environmental or social. We are in a world where increasingly our decisions will be a matter of “pick your poison”.

Nuclear power is one of those poisons – carbon free but with serious dangers. Yet we are required by the PUC to support it. It makes no sense to me to refuse our power allocation in the name of some lofty ideal. A world where such ideals can drive decisions is no longer viable. And as has been said before, we don’t need to do “something” about reducing GHG, we need to do everything.

Accept the nuclear power allocation.

Sincerely,
Kit Mann

From: [Lori Taketa](#)
To: [Lori Taketa](#)
Subject: FW: Diablo Canyon energy allotment and North Coast Journal article
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 11:46:00 AM

From: David Weisman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 4:29 PM
To: Richard Engel <REngel@redwoodenergy.org>
Subject: Re: Diablo Canyon energy allotment and North Coast Journal article

Richard:

I am glad to be of assistance. I will be happy to keep your board apprised of the current CPUC proceeding, for which a proposed decision is anticipated by late November. There may be opportunities for your board to provide comments to the CPUC regarding this situation if it chooses to do so. As well, nothing prevents your board from sending a letter to your state senator Mike McGuire and assemblyman Jim Wood voicing concerns about this matter, as it was enabled by the passage of SB 846 back in 2022, and both of them voted for passage of that bill. Were they aware at the time that this lack of transparency could be an outcome?

I remain available as a resource and to answer any further questions you may have.

Best regards,

DAVID WEISMAN

On Sep 16, 2024, at 4:18 PM, Richard Engel <REngel@redwoodenergy.org> wrote:

Hello Mr. Weisman,

Thank you for providing this important clarifying information. I had in fact been under the impression this would be called out as a separate line item on customer bills. I appreciate you pointing out the decision language on this. I will pass on your email to our Board clerk for inclusion as public comment to our Board.

Richard

Richard Engel

Director of Power Resources | Redwood Coast Energy Authority
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From: David Weisman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 3:47 PM
To: Richard Engel <REngel@redwoodenergy.org>
Subject: Diablo Canyon energy allotment and North Coast Journal article

Dear Mr. Engel:

Recent news reporting on RCEA's impending decision to accepting power from Diablo Canyon as part of its mix was reported in the North Coast Journal (September 12). I have written to the author, Mr. Greenon, alerting him to one small but significant error in the reporting. I am taking the liberty of forwarding that information to you as well, ahead of your decision making process. The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility is (and has been since 2005) active ratepayer watchdogs and intervenors in all CPUC proceedings related to Diablo Canyon.

There was one point about which you may not have been updated, specifically related to this paragraph:

Now guaranteed to remain online for another five years, the state is requiring PG&E to make allotments of its power available to community choice energy providers at no additional charge. (Again, **the power is being paid for through a line item on all California energy customers' bills.)**

Actually, *there will not be a **specific line item*** on all California energy customer bills (in this case, that means PG&E, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric—all the investor owned utilities regulated by the CPUC). In the initial CPUC proceeding to extend the life of Diablo Canyon (A 23-01-007), all three of those utilities did request that this additional fee be listed as a Diablo Canyon specific line item charge.

Notwithstanding the shared belief by PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E that the Diablo Canyon non-bypassable charge (NBC) should be appropriately presented on customer bills as a stand-alone charge, the CPUC's decision (D 23-12-036) instead opts for the opaque camouflage of burying this plant-specific commitment of \$10 billion+ in ratepayer obligations (according to PG&E's current estimate) within the unmarked grave of "Public Purpose Programs" (PPP). The CPUC gives no justification for abdicating their responsibility or enhancing transparency by simply declaring "The Commission is not persuaded" even though all three utilities have agreed to the proper labeling of this charge. Here is the actual language from the CPUC Decision:

D. 23-12-036 8.3. Bill Presentment (page 96-97)

SCE argues any DCP extended operations NBC be presented to customers via a separate line-item on their bills. PG&E concurs that the DCP extended operations NBC should appear on customer bills as a stand-alone charge, with PG&E's implementation of such charge to follow completion of its billing system modernization project. SDG&E supports these arguments.

The Commission is not persuaded it is necessary to include the DCP extended operations NBC as a separate line item on customer bills. *Current public purpose program (PPP) rates already include a variety of state-mandated programs, and it is not clear how a separate, stand-alone DCP extended operations charge on customer bills would improve customer understanding of this charge, or why DCP extended operations should be presented in a different manner than other state-mandated programs. Therefore, for bill presentment purposes, each of the large electrical corporations and the SMJUs are instructed to include the DCP extended operations NBC in their PPP rates.*

[emphasis added]

Why should it not be clear what ratepayers are paying for, especially if it triggers a new and unique added charge to their electric bill? This is not a typical “public purpose program” (i.e., brochures on energy efficiency) but a state mandated charge backed by SB 846. It is not clear who the CPUC is trying to shield from specific details of these rate increases—and the wrath they may incite in customers—given that the utilities were unanimously in favor of transparency.

I invite you to share this update with your fellow board members at RCEA. I am also attaching the actual pages from the CPUC decision (highlighted) and the full decision to provide context.

There is much left to question about the wisdom and exorbitant cost of both the extension of Diablo Canyon, and the lack of transparency with which this is being carried out by state agencies.

Kindly feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

Yours truly,

DAVID WEISMAN

Executive Director
Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility Legal Fund

██████████
██████████

www.a4nr.org

Commission should not adopt a different proposal as doing so would result in increased costs and time for implementation of the DCP extended operations NBC, as well as increased financing costs for PG&E that are ultimately borne by all Commission-jurisdictional customers.

SCE proposes to provide monthly reports – as opposed to daily reports – to PG&E along with remittances, given that billed kWh data may not be available on a daily basis but could be provided in monthly reporting. SCE further suggests modifying PG&E’s template for a Servicing Order Agreement to provide that “Operator and Utility agree” rather than “Operator agrees, and Utility is ordered.” SCE believes this language better reflects the relationship between the utilities in the context of the DCP extended operations NBC.

SCE’s proposal is reasonable and should be adopted. PG&E’s remittance proposal shall be utilized by SCE and SDG&E, except as modified per SCE’s suggestion. With respect to the language of the Servicing Order Agreement, PG&E shall make any changes necessary to the Servicing Order Agreement to comply with the cost allocation, benefit allocation, ratesetting process, and rate design for the DCP extended operations NBC adopted by this decision, including SCE’s recommended changes. PG&E shall seek approval of revisions to the Servicing Order Agreement through a Tier 2 advice letter to be filed within 90 days of the issuance date of this decision.

8.3. Bill Presentment

SCE argues any DCP extended operations NBC be presented to customers via a separate line-item on their bills. PG&E concurs that the DCP extended operations NBC should appear on customer bills as a stand-alone

charge, with PG&E's implementation of such charge to follow completion of its billing system modernization project.²⁵⁸ SDG&E supports these arguments.

The Commission is not persuaded it is necessary to include the DCPD extended operations NBC as a separate line item on customer bills. Current public purpose program (PPP) rates already include a variety of state-mandated programs, and it is not clear how a separate, stand-alone DCPD extended operations charge on customer bills would improve customer understanding of this charge, or why DCPD extended operations should be presented in a different manner than other state-mandated programs. Therefore, for bill presentment purposes, each of the large electrical corporations and the SMJUs are instructed to include the DCPD extended operations NBC in their PPP rates.

8.4. Incremental Costs Associated with Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Extended Operations Non-Bypassable Charge

SCE seeks Commission approval for the establishment of a memorandum account to track "any unforeseen DCPD-specific costs that may arise in the future, such as, but not limited to, DCPD NBC customer notification or support costs."²⁵⁹ PG&E makes a similar request.²⁶⁰ While we anticipate the incremental costs associated with the implementation of the DCPD NBC to be limited, these costs were not considered or addressed in prior utility GRCs. Therefore, SCE's and PG&E's request is approved. PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E are authorized to establish a new DCPD Extended Operations Memorandum Account to track incremental, IOU-specific costs incurred related to the implementation, billing,

²⁵⁸ PG&E OB at 26.

²⁵⁹ SCE OB at 7.

²⁶⁰ Ex. PG&E-02 at 2-9.

Decision 23-12-036 December 14, 2023

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Implementing Senate Bill 846
Concerning Potential Extension of
Diablo Canyon Power Plant
Operations.

Rulemaking 23-01-007

**DECISION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING EXTENDED OPERATIONS
AT DIABLO CANYON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 846**

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**DECISION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING EXTENDED OPERATIONS
AT DIABLO CANYON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 846**

Summary

Pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 846, this decision directs and authorizes extended operations at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCPP) until October 31, 2029 (Unit 1) and October 31, 2030 (Unit 2). The approval in this decision is subject to the following conditions: (1) the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission continues to authorize DCPP operations; (2) the \$1.4 billion loan agreement authorized by SB 846 is not terminated; and (3) the Commission does not make a future determination that DCPP extended operations are imprudent or unreasonable. Additional processes are established for the Commission to continue to consider the prudence and cost-effectiveness of extended DCPP operations. This decision also allocates the costs and benefits of extended DCPP operations among all load-serving entities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction; creates a new non-bypassable charge and associated processes to collect DCPP extended operations costs; establishes a new process, similar to the annual Energy Resource Recovery Account proceedings, to review and authorize DCPP extended operations costs; and provides further direction on the use of surplus performance-based fees.

This proceeding remains open.

1. Background

1.1. Factual and Legal Background

The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (Diablo Canyon or DCPP) is located in coastal San Luis Obispo County and consists of two reactors that have been operating since 1985 (Unit 1) and 1986 (Unit 2), with a combined generation capacity of 2,240 megawatts (MW). The plant is owned and operated by Pacific

Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and the units are currently licensed by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to operate until November 2, 2024 (Unit 1) and August 26, 2025 (Unit 2).

In 2009, PG&E filed an application with the NRC to renew Diablo Canyon's operating licenses.¹ In 2016, PG&E asked the NRC to suspend its 2009 application pending approval by the Commission of an agreement in principle that PG&E reached with stakeholders "not to proceed with the license renewal."²

In Decision (D.) 18-01-022, the Commission approved PG&E's proposal to retire Diablo Canyon in 2024 and 2025, when its federal licenses expire. PG&E subsequently withdrew and terminated its 2009 license renewal application with the NRC.

On September 2, 2022, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 846.³ Among other things, SB 846 invalidates Ordering Paragraph 1 and Ordering Paragraph 14 of D.18-01-022, concerning the approved retirement of Diablo Canyon, and allows for the potential extension of operations at Diablo Canyon beyond the current federal license retirement dates, up to five additional years, under specific conditions as provided. In authorizing the potential extension of Diablo Canyon operations, SB 846 states:

Preserving the option of continued operations of the Diablo Canyon powerplant for an additional five years beyond 2025 may be necessary to improve statewide energy system

¹ Exhibit (Ex.) PG&E-04 at 3-24.

² Letter from Edward Halpin, Senior Vice President, PG&E, to U.S. Nuclear Regulation Commission (June 21, 2016) (<https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1617/ML16173A454.pdf>); see 88 Federal Register (Fed. Reg.) 14,395, 14,396 (March 8, 2023).

³ SB 846 (Dodd, 2021-2022 Reg. Sess.) Diablo Canyon powerplant: extension of operations, codified as Public Resources (Pub. Res.) Code Sections 25233, 25233.2, 25302.7, 255548, and 25548.1-7; Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code Sections 454.52, 454.53, 712.1, and 712.8; and Water Code Section 13193.5.

reliability and to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases while additional renewable energy and zero-carbon resources come online, until those new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources are adequate to meet demand. Accordingly, it is the policy of the Legislature that seeking to extend the Diablo Canyon powerplant's operations for a renewed license term is prudent, cost effective, and in the best interests of all California electricity customers. The Legislature anticipates that this stopgap measure will not be needed for more than five years beyond the current expiration dates.⁴

Following the enactment of SB 846, on October 31, 2022, PG&E submitted a request to the NRC to resume its review of the 2009 license renewal application for Diablo Canyon. To avoid interruptions in service, the NRC allows nuclear reactors to operate past their license expiration dates if license renewal is sought at least five years before those dates.⁵ Due to the timing of SB 846, PG&E could not make this deadline; however, by law, the NRC may also waive that five-year rule in special circumstances.⁶

On January 24, 2023, the NRC determined that it would not initiate or resume PG&E's withdrawn 2009 application to renew Diablo Canyon's operating licenses. The NRC's decision did not address PG&E's separate request, included in its October 31, 2022 letter, to receive an exception from the five-year application requirement in 10 C.F.R. Section 2.109(b).⁷

On March 3, 2023, the NRC granted PG&E a one-time exemption from 10 C.F.R. Section 2.109(b), finding the requested exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health and safety, and is consistent with

⁴ Pub. Res. Code Section 25548(b).

⁵ Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Section 54.17(a); 10 C.F.R. Section 2.109(b).

⁶ 10 C.F.R. Section 50.12.

⁷ Ex. H of A4NR-01.

the common defense and security. The NRC's exemption allows Diablo Canyon to continue to operate under its current licenses past their expiration dates, provided PG&E submits a new license renewal application by the end of 2023 and satisfies various regulatory requirements at the federal and state levels.⁸

PG&E filed its license renewal application with the NRC on November 7, 2023.⁹ While the NRC's review process and timeline have yet to be determined, based on the current schedule for the NRC license renewal proceeding, PG&E states the NRC is unlikely to issue license renewal conditions until sometime in 2025, at the earliest.¹⁰

1.2. Procedural Background

In D.22-12-005, the Commission executed the following tasks in accordance with SB 846: (1) ordering PG&E to take any actions that would be necessary to preserve the option of extended operations at Diablo Canyon, (2) establishing cost-tracking mechanisms for actions associated with continued and extended operations of Diablo Canyon, and (3) invalidating Ordering Paragraph 1 and Paragraph 14 of D.18-01-022. This decision also closed Application (A.) 16-08-006, and indicated the Commission would open a new rulemaking on an expedited schedule in accordance with the range of time-sensitive SB 846-related issues that will need to be monitored, considered, and addressed.

On January 20, 2023, the Commission issued the instant Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) to continue to execute tasks and consider specific criteria related to the potential extension of operations at Diablo Canyon. The OIR contained a preliminary scope and schedule for this proceeding.

⁸ PG&E Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Unit 1 and Unit 2, 88 Fed. Reg. 14,395 (March 8, 2023).

⁹ November 7, 2023 Reporter's Transcript at 365:10-13.

¹⁰ Ex. PG&E-04 at 31-12 through 3-13.

Opening comments on the OIR were filed by the following parties: Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility (A4NR), California Community Choice Association (CalCCA), California Energy Storage Alliance; Californians for Green Nuclear Power (CGNP), Coalition of California Utility Employees (CUE), County of San Luis Obispo (SLO County), Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (DCISC), Green Power Institute (GPI), Northern Chumash Tribal Council, PG&E, Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission (Cal Advocates), San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace (SLOMFP), The Utility Reform Network (TURN), and Women's Energy Matters (WEM).

Reply comments were filed by the following parties: A4NR, Alliance for Retail Energy Markets (AREM) and Direct Access Customer Coalition (DACC), filing jointly, CALifornians for Renewable Energy, Inc. (CARE), Cal Advocates, CalCCA, GPI, PG&E, SLO County, and WEM.

Small Business Utility Advocates (SBUA) and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) were granted party status via separate email rulings by the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) on March 14, 2023 and March 16, 2023, respectively. On March 15, 2023, the assigned ALJ issued a ruling denying the DCISC party status.

A prehearing conference (PHC) was held on March 17, 2023, to address the scope of issues, categorization, schedule of the proceeding, and other procedural matters. During the PHC, National Resources Defense Council, Inc. (NRDC), Southern California Edison Company (SCE), and the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) requested and were granted party status.

On April 6, 2023, the assigned Commissioner issued a Scoping Memo and Ruling (Scoping Memo) dividing the first phase of the proceeding into two tracks: Phase 1: Track 1 was narrowly scoped to consider DCISC funding issues

in accordance with Pub. Util. Code Section 712.1(d), and was addressed by the Commission in D.23-08-004. Phase 1: Track 2, which is the subject of this decision, considers whether operations at Diablo Canyon should be extended, the development of extended operations cost recovery mechanisms and processes, whether and how to allocate the associated benefits of extended operations, and the use of surplus funds, among other issues.

On April 20, 2023, the assigned ALJ issued a ruling requesting comments served as testimony on statutory interpretation and issues of policy, and incorporating certain reports into the record of the proceeding (Track 2 April Ruling).

On May 19, 2023, PG&E served testimony on DCPD historical and forecast cost data through 2030.

On June 2, 2023, the assigned ALJ issued a ruling incorporating the May 2023 report by the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the Commission, entitled *Joint Agency Reliability Planning Assessment – SB 846 Second Quarterly Report*, into the record of the proceeding.

On June 7 and June 9, 2023, the following parties served proposals as opening testimony concerning the establishment of new cost agreements/mechanisms for DCPD extended operations, whether and how to allocate the benefits of extended operations, the development of a new cost recovery and approval process pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(h)(1), and whether additional guidance should be provided on the use of surplus funds (Track 2 Proposals): AReM/DACC, Cal Advocates, CalCCA, GPI, PG&E, SBUA, SCE, WEM, and Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc. (Bear Valley), Liberty Utilities (Liberty), and PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power (PacifiCorp) (collectively, the small and multi-jurisdictional utilities or SMJUs).

On June 28, 2023, the assigned ALJ granted a motion by Calpine Corporation (Calpine) for party status.

On June 29 and June 30, 2023, the following parties served opening testimony on the Track 2 April Ruling and PG&E's May 19, 2023 historical and forecast DCPD cost data: A4NR, Cal Advocates, Calpine, CARE, CGNP, CUE, GPI, PG&E, SBUA, SLO County, SLOMFP, TURN, UCS/NRDC, and WEM.

On June 30, 2023, the assigned ALJ issued a ruling incorporating into the record of the proceeding the following DCISC reports: *Report on Fact-Finding Meeting with DCPD on March 14, 15 and 27, 2023; Report on Fact-Finding Meeting with DCPD on April 18, 19, and 20, 2023; Report on Fact-Finding Meeting with DCPD on May 2-3, 2023; and Report on Fact-Finding Meeting on May 5, 2023, and Comprehensive Seismic Safety Update.*

Following authorization from the assigned ALJ, on July 11, 2023, SLOMFP served supplemental comments structured as opening testimony in response to the Track 2 April Ruling and SLOMFP's data requests to PG&E.

Two remote public participation hearings (PPH) were conducted on July 25, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Approximately 750 people attended the PPHs, including 115 speakers.

On July 27 and July 28, 2023, the following parties served rebuttal testimony addressing the Track 2 April Ruling and Track 2 Proposals: A4NR, AReM/DACC, Cal Advocates, CalCCA, CARE, CGNP, CUE, GPI, PG&E, SCE, SBUA, SDG&E, SLOMFP, TURN, and WEM.

On August 14, 2023, the assigned ALJ granted a motion by the SMJUs for party status.

Evidentiary hearings were held virtually on September 5-7, 2023.

On September 18, 2023, opening briefs (OB) were filed by the following parties: A4NR, AReM/DACC, Cal Advocates, CalCCA, Calpine, CARE, CGNP, CUE, GPI, PG&E, SBUA, SCE, SDG&E, SLOMFP, SMJUs, TURN, and WEM.

On September 27, 2023, the assigned ALJ issued an email ruling incorporating into the record of the proceeding the CEC's September 27, 2023, Diablo Canyon cost comparison report, entitled *Draft Senate Bill 846 Diablo Canyon Power Plant Extension Cost Comparison* (Draft Cost Comparison Report).

On September 29, 2023, reply briefs (RB) were filed by the following parties: A4NR, AReM/DACC, CalCCA, CARE, CGNP, CUE, GPI, PG&E, SBUA, SCE, SLOMFP, SMJUs, TURN, and WEM.

On October 4-6, 2023, comments on the Draft CEC Cost Comparison Report were filed by the following parties: A4NR, CARE, CGNP, GPI, PG&E, SBUA, SLOMFP, TURN, and WEM.

At A4NR's request pursuant to Rule 13.14 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules),¹¹ the Commission held an oral argument on November 7, 2023, in order to provide parties the opportunity to address the Commission on the issues in Phase 1: Track 2 of this proceeding.

1.3. Submission Date

This matter was submitted on November 7, 2023, upon the conclusion of oral argument.

¹¹ A4NR's Motion for Oral Argument, filed September 18, 2023. All subsequent references to a Rule or Rules are to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, unless otherwise specified.

2. Issues Before the Commission

The Scoping Memo sets forth the following issues to be considered in Phase 1: Track 2 of this proceeding:¹²

1. Whether operations at Diablo Canyon should be extended until October 31, 2029 (Unit 1) and October 31, 2030 (Unit 2), or whether earlier retirement dates should be established. In making this determination the Commission will consider:
 - a. Whether the \$1.4 billion loan provided for by Chapter 6.3 of Division 15 of the Pub. Res. Code is terminated, or whether an extension of operations at Diablo Canyon is found to be not cost-effective, imprudent, or both;
 - b. Whether the NRC has extended the operation dates for Diablo Canyon;
 - c. Whether the costs of any upgrades necessary to address seismic safety, issues of deferred maintenance, or NRC conditions of license renewal are too high to justify;
 - d. Whether new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources that will be constructed and interconnected by the end of 2023 are an adequate substitute for Diablo Canyon, and will meet the state's planning standards for energy reliability; and
 - e. If the Commission establishes earlier retirement dates, the length of time necessary for an orderly shutdown of Diablo Canyon.
2. If the Commission directs and authorizes extended operations at Diablo Canyon, whether one or more processes should be established to continue to monitor the associated utility ratepayer cost from, and reliability need for, continued operations at Diablo Canyon.
3. If the Commission directs and authorizes extended operations at Diablo Canyon, what are the new processes

¹² Scoping Memo at 5-6.

to authorize annual recovery of all reasonable Diablo Canyon extended operation costs and expenses on a forecast basis, including allocation of forecast costs among Commission-jurisdictional load-serving entities (LSE).¹³

4. Whether additional cost recovery mechanisms, agreements, plans, and/or orders are needed prior to the current retirement dates for Diablo Canyon Unit 1 and Unit 2 (*i.e.*, in 2024 and 2025, respectively).
5. Whether and how the benefits of extended operations, including Resource Adequacy (RA) and greenhouse gas (GHG)-free attributes, should be allocated among the LSEs and customers paying for extended operations.
6. Whether additional guidance should be provided on the use of any surplus ratepayer funds PG&E receives for Diablo Canyon in 2024.

3. Evidentiary Standard, the Burden of Proof, and the Burden of Production

In a rulemaking proceeding, “all parties have equal standing where their proposals are concerned,”¹⁴ and each party “must show by a preponderance of the evidence that the Commission should adopt their proposal, rather than an alternative.”¹⁵ Preponderance of the evidence is usually defined “in terms of probability of truth, *e.g.*, ‘such evidence as, when weighed with that opposed to it, has more convincing force and the greater probability of truth’.”¹⁶ Similarly,

¹³ The LSEs are PG&E, SCE, SDG&E, Bear Valley, Liberty, PacifiCorp, Community Choice Aggregators, and Electric Service Providers.

¹⁴ D.18-10-019 at 32.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Decision Granting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Project* [D.08-12-058] at 19 (citing Witkin, *Calif. Evidence*, 4th Edition, Vol. 1 at 184).

each party also bears the burden of production for those parts of their showing that ask the Commission to disregard a competing proposal.¹⁷

We have analyzed the record in this proceeding within these parameters.

4. Extension of Operations at Diablo Canyon

SB 846 requires the Commission to “direct and authorize extended operations” at Diablo Canyon until October 31, 2029 (Unit 1) and October 31, 2030 (Unit 2).¹⁸ However, the statute also sets forth certain conditions which, if met, either through a determination by the Commission or through certain triggering events outside of this proceeding, would allow or require the establishment of earlier retirement dates.¹⁹

With this in mind, the Commission has two primary tasks with respect to the potential extension of operations at Diablo Canyon: first, each of the specific statutory conditions which would allow for the establishment of earlier retirement dates must be considered. To the extent there are disputed interpretations of law, the Commission must determine statutory intent. Second, based on the preponderance of evidence standard, the Commission must determine whether one or more of the statutory conditions have been met. SB 846 requires the Commission to issue its final decision directing and extending operations at Diablo Canyon by December 31, 2023.²⁰

Based on the record of this proceeding, this decision finds none of the conditions set forth in Pub. Util. Code Sections 712.8(c)(2)(B) through 712.8(c)(2)(E) have been met. Accordingly, this decision directs and authorizes

¹⁷ D.87-12-067, 27 CPUC 2d 1, 22; D.18-10-019 at 32.

¹⁸ Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(c)(2)(A).

¹⁹ Pub. Util. Code Sections 712.8(c)(2)(B)-(E).

²⁰ Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(c)(2)(A).

extended operations at Diablo Canyon until October 31, 2029 (Unit 1) and October 31, 2030 (Unit 2). The approval in this decision is conditioned upon the following: (1) the NRC continues to authorize DCPD operations; (2) the \$1.4 billion loan agreement authorized by SB 846 is not terminated;²¹ and (3) the Commission does not make a future determination that DCPD extended operations are imprudent or unreasonable. Accordingly, this decision finds it is within the Commission's authority, and in ratepayers' best interest, to continue to evaluate the prudence and cost-effectiveness of continued DCPD operations, and to this end directs PG&E to provide certain historical and forecast cost information as part of its 2024 DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application.

This decision also directs PG&E to file a Tier 3 advice letter to seek modification of the retirement dates approved in this decision and/or to make a recommendation on whether continued DCPD operations are prudent and reasonable, in response to any of the following events: (1) the NRC's conditions of license renewal become known; (2) the NRC approves retirement dates for Diablo Canyon that are earlier than what is approved in this decision; and/or (3) the \$1.4 billion loan authorized in SB 846 is terminated. The occurrence of any of these events may cause the Commission to reevaluate the DCPD retirement dates approved in this decision.

Finally, this decision finds PG&E's six-month estimate for an orderly shutdown of Diablo Canyon to be reasonable. In the event earlier retirement dates for DCPD are approved or requested, PG&E is directed to explain whether and why there are any deviations from this six-month timeframe.

²¹ Pub. Res. Code Section 25548.3.

4.1. Whether New Renewable Energy and Zero-Carbon Resources are an Adequate Substitute for Diablo Canyon, and Meet the State’s Planning Standards for Energy Reliability

Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(c)(2)(D) states:²²

If the commission determines that new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources that are adequate to substitute for the Diablo Canyon powerplant and that meet the state’s planning standards for energy reliability have already been constructed and interconnected by the time of its decision, the commission may issue an order that reestablishes the current expiration dates as the retirement date, or that establishes new retirement dates that are earlier than provided in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), and shall provide sufficient time for orderly shutdown and authorize recovery of any outstanding uncollected costs and fees.

Parties were provided an opportunity to comment on this section of statute, including proposed definitions of key terms, as part of the Track 2 April Ruling. In addition, the following SB 846-mandated state agency reliability reports were incorporated into the record of this proceeding for party consideration: (1) the CEC’s March 2023 report, entitled *Diablo Canyon Power Plant Extension – Final Draft CEC Analysis of Need to Support Reliability* (CEC’s March 2023 Report); (2) the CEC’s and the Commission’s February 2023 report, entitled *Joint Agency Reliability Planning Assessment – SB 846 Quarterly Report and AB 205 Report* (February 2023 Joint Planning Assessment); and (3) the CEC’s and the Commission’s May 2023 report, entitled *Joint Agency Reliability Planning Assessment – SB 846 Second Quarterly Report* (May 2023 Joint Planning

²² All subsequent Section references are to the Public Utilities Code, unless otherwise specified.

Assessment). The findings in each of these reports are briefly summarized below.

Using a deterministic “stack analysis” of forecasted supply and peak demand conditions during 2023-2032,²³ the CEC’s March 2023 Report indicates the capacity expected to come online due to past procurement orders is sufficient to meet the Commission’s current RA planning reserve margin (PRM),²⁴ even under an assumed scenario with 40 percent annual capacity delays. However, the CEC analysis also demonstrates that shortfalls could occur under climate-driven extreme events, including the extreme heat events California recently experienced in 2020 and 2022, and that risks are compounded if coincident wildfire risk reduced transmission capacity during peak events.²⁵ Given the potential delays in resource build out to meet ordered procurement and increasing risks of climate-related threats to grid reliability, the CEC’s March 2023 Report ultimately concludes it would be prudent for the state to pursue extended operations of Diablo Canyon.²⁶

²³ The CEC’s analysis “stacks” the projected supply of resources against defined peak load conditions under normal, above-normal, and/or extreme weather conditions in 2023-2032, and assumes various PRMs to determine the effective capacity in meeting those peak load conditions. Procurement capacity is based on contracting compliance with the procurement orders adopted in D.19-11-016 and D.21-06-035 (*see* CEC’s March 2023 Report at 15-23; Ex. PG&E-03 at 13; *also*, Ex. UCS/NRDC-01 at 8).

²⁴ CEC’s March 2023 Report at 16-21. PRM is used in resource planning to estimate the generation capacity needed to maintain reliability given uncertainty in demand and unexpected capacity outages. (*Id.* at B-4.) In D.22-06-050, the Commission adopted a 16 percent minimum PRM for RA 2023, and 17 percent minimum PRM for RA 2024 (*see* D.22-06-050 at 21-22).

²⁵ A 2020 equivalent event was approximated using a 22.5 percent PRM, a 2022 equivalent event was approximated using a 26 percent PRM, and coincidental wildfire risk was assumed to reduce total import capacity by 4,000 MW. (*Id.* at 22-24.)

²⁶ *Id.* at 24-25.

The February 2023 Joint Planning Assessment also used a deterministic stack analysis to evaluate the load/resource balance during specific hours in the summer months and examined the same PRM scenarios and potential levels of online capacity procurement delays. In addition, this assessment included “Reduction Scenarios,” where 20 percent and 40 percent of capacity never comes online, as well as two different supply scenarios: ordered procurement and Preferred System Plan (PSP) procurement.²⁷ The February 2023 Joint Planning Assessment generally shows the same results as the CEC’s March 2023 Report: planned procurement is sufficient to meet the Commission’s current RA standard; however, under more extreme scenarios (*i.e.*, approximations of the heat events California experienced in 2020 and 2022) and with varying levels of procurement delays, the assessment shows shortfalls of up to 3,800 MWs over the next few years. The assessment also shows that, if 20 percent to 40 percent of the planned procurement fails to come online, the current RA standard would not be met.²⁸

Lastly, the May 2023 Joint Planning Assessment updated the status of demand and new resource additions for summer 2023. Overall, the report indicates an increase in net qualifying capacity installed through March 2023, largely associated with energy storage and paired solar-storage projects, as well as a net increase in hydroelectric generation. However, a shortfall of 200 MW remains under a 2020 equivalent event, along with an 1,800 MW shortfall under

²⁷ The “planning track” of the Commission’s Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) proceeding operates on a two-year cycle that concludes with the Commission adopting a PSP. In the PSP, the Commission identifies an optimal portfolio of resources for meeting state electric sector policy objectives at least cost and then sets requirements for LSEs to plan toward that future. (February 2023 Joint Planning Assessment at 26.)

²⁸ February 2023 Joint Planning Assessment at 56-57; *also*, Ex. UCS/NRDC-01 at 11-12.

an approximated 2022 equivalent event. The report also shows an additional 3,000-4,000 MW loss of resources if coincident wildfire risk reduces transmission capacity during peak events.²⁹

4.1.1. Party Comments

4.1.1.1. Definition of Terms and Statutory Intent

Parties presented a broad range of proposed definitions for new “renewable energy,” new “zero-carbon resources,” and “the state’s planning standards for energy reliability,” as used in Section 712.8(c)(2)(D), as well as the appropriate baseline for what should be considered “new.”

PG&E and A4NR propose “renewable energy” be defined as resources that are compliant with the state’s Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS), while “zero-carbon resources” should have zero on-site emissions, unless permissible for compliance with the state’s RPS Program.³⁰ GPI also generally supports these definitions, but questions the need for the final clause in the definition of zero-carbon resources: “unless otherwise permissible for compliance with the RPS program.”³¹ SBUA likewise supports the definition of “renewable energy,” but recommends “zero-carbon resources” be defined as electric generation that does not burn fossil fuels or cause other carbon air pollution.³² Calpine argues the definition of “zero-carbon resources” should encompass electrical resources that can individually, or in combination, deliver zero-carbon electricity, including hydrogen fueled generation as well as natural gas generation retrofit

²⁹ May 2023 Joint Planning Assessment at 3-6 and 9-10.

³⁰ Ex. PG&E-02 at 8-10; Ex. A4NR-02 at 15-16.

³¹ Ex. GPI-02 at 5.

³² Ex. SBUA-02 at 15-16.

with post-combustion carbon capture and sequestration technology. Calpine asserts this definition is consistent with the definition of zero-carbon resources in Pub. Res. Code Section 25216.7(d)(2).³³

Concerning the baseline for counting “new” resources, PG&E and CUE recommend using D.21-06-035 as the starting point, since this decision includes a minimum procurement order of 2,500 MWs of zero-emitting resources for the explicit purpose of replacing Diablo Canyon.³⁴ In contrast, A4NR supports using D.19-11-016 as the baseline, on the basis that this decision expressly addressed concerns about impending RA shortages and was crafted in a manner consistent with the state’s GHG goals,³⁵ while GPI recommends using the most recent IRP baseline defined in D.23-02-040.³⁶ In comments on the Draft CEC Cost Comparison Report, GPI recommends the baseline be defined as the higher of the trajectory of RPS resource procurement requirements or the trajectory of clean energy resource procurement that satisfies the state’s GHG emissions reduction targets.³⁷ WEM and SLOMFP suggest 2016 or 2018 could serve as the point of demarcation, based on events that occurred in A.16-08-006;³⁸ however, for the purpose of evaluating renewable energy, WEM urges the Commission to

³³ Ex. Calpine-01 at 2-4.

³⁴ Ex. PG&E-03 at 8-10; Ex. CUE-02 at 9; *also*, D.21-06-035 Ordering Paragraph 6.

³⁵ D.19-11-016 at 2; *also*, Ex. A4NR-01 at 21, Ex. A4NR-02 at 15-17, and Ex. SBUA-01 at 15.

³⁶ Ex. GPI-02 at 5.

³⁷ GPI October 6, 2023 Comments at 4.

³⁸ 2016 was the year the “Joint Proposal for the Orderly Replacement of Diablo Canyon Power Plant with Energy Efficiency and Renewables” was filed in A.16-08-006; 2018 was the year D.18-01-022 was issued approving the retirement of Diablo Canyon. (Ex. WEM-02 at 8-9; *also* SLOMFP OB at 34.)

consider the “enormous progress that has already been accomplished to date in developing renewable and zero-carbon resources.”³⁹

Cal Advocates has no recommendation regarding the appropriate baseline for “new” resources, and asserts the approximate starting point is unlikely to affect the analysis in this proceeding one way or another. Cal Advocates goes on to explain the relevant definitions hinge not on how far back in time the Commission begins counting “new” resources, but instead on the resources’ ability to achieve interconnection by the end of 2023.⁴⁰

To be “adequate to substitute for the Diablo Canyon powerplant,” PG&E proposes incremental renewable energy and zero-carbon resources should require 2,500 MW of incremental zero-emitting, and 1,000 MW of incremental firm zero-emitting, resources to be online.⁴¹ CUE asserts renewable resources must be able to substitute for DCCP’s hourly and aggregate output on an equally reliable basis. Additionally, to meet the requirement that the resources be zero-carbon, CUE asserts qualifying storage should be tied to specific zero-carbon resources.⁴²

Lastly, in defining “the state’s planning standard for energy reliability,” on a system-level, PG&E supports the use of a stack analysis, such as what was used in the CEC’s March 2023 Report and February/May Joint Planning Assessments. PG&E also supports use of the capacity counting rules utilized as part of the

³⁹ Ex. WEM-02 at 8-9; *also*, WEM OB at 11.

⁴⁰ Ex. CalPA-01 at 12.

⁴¹ PG&E explains its recommended energy and capacity resources derive from those established by D.21-06-035, Conclusion of Law 9 and Conclusion of Law 14. (*See* Ex. PG&E-03 footnote 9.)

⁴² Ex. CUE-01 at 5.

Commission’s RA and IRP proceedings.⁴³ Cal Advocates, UCS/NRDC, and SLOMFP support use of the 0.1 loss-of-load expectation (LOLE) probabilistic metric for evaluating energy reliability.⁴⁴ These parties highlight that the 0.1 LOLE standard is used widely across the industry, produces results that are probabilistic rather than deterministic,⁴⁵ and continues to be the primary grid reliability metric in the Commission’s IRP and RA proceedings.⁴⁶ Rather than implementing new analyses, Cal Advocates also recommends utilizing the recently produced LOLE results for the IRP portfolios in D.23-02-040.⁴⁷ Lastly, A4NR supports defining “the state’s planning standard for energy reliability” as those standards adopted by the Commission pursuant to Section 380 and Section 454.52.⁴⁸

4.1.1.2. Reliability Analyses Presented In This Proceeding, and Whether the Statutory Condition Has Been Met

PG&E, CUE, GPI, and CGNP believe the conditions set forth in Section 712.8(c)(2)(D) have not been met. Citing to the potential resource shortfalls identified under the 2020/2022 Equivalent Event Scenarios in the CEC’s March 2023 Report, as well as their proposed statutory definitions above,

⁴³ Ex. PG&E-03 at 13.

⁴⁴ The 0.1 LOLE standard translates to one loss of load event (*i.e.*, when the grid operator is forced to implement rotating power outages) every 10 years. (Ex. UCS/NRDC-01 at 5; *also* Ex. UCS/NRDC-01 at 4-5; Ex. CalPA-02 at 8-10; and Ex. SLOMFP-05 at 6.)

⁴⁵ A deterministic analysis compares ordered procurement to demand to determine if a shortfall would occur in certain hours under average and extreme conditions, whereas a probabilistic analysis considers the probability of one or more extreme events occurring. (*See* Ex. NRDC-01 at 5-6; *also*, CEC March 2023 Report at 16.)

⁴⁶ Ex. UCS/NRDC-01 at 1, 4-5; Ex. CalPA-02 at 8-10.

⁴⁷ Ex. CalPA-02 at 9-10.

⁴⁸ Ex. A4NR-01 at 22-23.

PG&E, CUE, and GPI assert sufficient new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources have not come online to replace DCPD and are unlikely to do so by the end of 2023.⁴⁹ Additionally, PG&E claims these reports emphasize that California continues to face significant reliability risk not accounted for in the current RA planning standard, including risk created by climate change-induced heat events, uncertain demand caused by electrification, and resource procurement delays.⁵⁰ Citing to recent modeling in the IRP proceeding, GPI contends there will be an increase in carbon emissions in 2024/2025 as a result of the shutdown of Diablo Canyon.⁵¹ CGNP argues Diablo Canyon played an important role during the extreme heat events California experienced in August-September 2022, and points to increases in natural gas use for electricity generation in California.⁵²

Similarly, based upon its interpretation of Section 712.8(c)(2)(D), Cal Advocates believes it is unlikely that resources with contracted commercial online dates will be interconnected and available by the end of 2023. In furtherance of this argument, Cal Advocates notes that on August 9, 2023, the two largest LSEs, comprising more than half of the 2,500 MW obligation in D.21-06-035, filed a Joint Expedited Petition for Modification of D.21-06-035 to request the deadline for LSEs to meet the Diablo Canyon replacement requirement be extended by two years.⁵³ Cal Advocates also states the Commission's recent 2026 LOLE results from D.23-02-040 are too close to the

⁴⁹ Ex. PG&E-03 at 14-18; Ex. CUE-01 at 6-7; Ex. GPI-02 at 5-6.

⁵⁰ Ex. PG&E-03 at 16-17.

⁵¹ Ex. GPI-02 at 6-7.

⁵² Ex. CGNP-02 at 5-11.

⁵³ Cal Advocates OB at 5.

reliability planning standard LOLE of 0.1 to indicate with certainty that the portfolio is reliable without Diablo Canyon.⁵⁴

In contrast, A4NR, WEM, SLOMFP, and CARE believe there is sufficient evidence in this proceeding demonstrating new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources have been constructed and interconnected, or are on track to be constructed and interconnected, and will substitute for Diablo Canyon and meet the state's energy planning standards. Pointing to the CEC's March 2023 Report and February/May 2023 Joint Planning Assessments, A4NR highlights that, under a 17 percent reserve margin scenario, all three reports show the Commission's procurement orders are sufficient to eliminate reliability shortfalls through 2030. A4NR further asserts, among other things, that: (1) installed new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources nearly double the net qualifying capacity attributed to Diablo Canyon;⁵⁵ (2) by the end of 2023, the procurement counted towards D.19-11-016 is expected to exceed the 3,300 MW required;⁵⁶ (3) Commission-jurisdictional LSEs have not been delayed in meeting IRP orders for new generation;⁵⁷ and (4) Diablo Canyon is unsuitable as a contingency resource.⁵⁸

WEM asserts DCPD is not an appropriate resource to address summer net peak reliability issues, and suggests Diablo Canyon's contribution can instead be met with readily deployable resources, namely energy storage and demand response. Additionally, WEM argues: (1) Diablo Canyon's reported electricity

⁵⁴ Ex. CalPA-02 at 9-10; Cal Advocates OB at 5-7.

⁵⁵ Ex. A4NR-01 at 23-26; *also*, A4NR OB at 6.

⁵⁶ Ex. A4NR-02 at 21.

⁵⁷ Ex. A4NR-01 at 24; *also*, February 2023 Joint Planning Assessment at 36.

⁵⁸ Ex. A4NR-01 at 30.

generation is inflated; (2) Diablo Canyon is not needed for reducing GHG emissions; (3) the 11,500 MW procurement ordered by D.21-06-035 was aggressively designed to protect grid reliability; and (4) based on the May 2023 assessment and report produced by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), entitled *2023 Summer Loads and Resources Assessment* (CAISO May 2023 Assessment),⁵⁹ there were adequate reserve margins in place for summer 2023.⁶⁰

SLOMFP argues California's current capacity shortages occur in only a limited set of hours during the summer months, making it more of an operating reserves problem not addressable through continued operation of DCP. ⁶¹ In addition, SLOMFP argues: (1) continued operation of Diablo Canyon impedes the development of other low or zero-carbon alternatives; (2) contingency reserves can address the capacity shortfalls in 2025-2026; (3) other technologies and policies are needed to support a 21st century electricity system; (4) there are several deficiencies in the CEC's March 2023 Report including, among others, a purported failure to vet the operating reserve assumptions, as well as failure to include the 4,000 MW procurement order in D.23-02-040.⁶²

⁵⁹ See CAISO May 2023 Assessment, available at: <http://www.caiso.com/Documents/2023-Summer-Loads-and-Resources-Assessment.pdf> (last accessed September 15, 2023).

⁶⁰ Ex. WEM-02 at 9-15; *also*, WEM OB at 6-7.

⁶¹ Ex. SLOMFP-5 at 4-10.

⁶² Ex. SLOMFP-04; Ex. SLOMFP-05; and Ex. SLOMFP-08.

Citing more recent reports from the Tracking Energy Development Task Force (TED)⁶³ and CAISO,⁶⁴ CARE asserts procurement of renewable and energy storage resources is on track to meet the Commission's procurement orders.⁶⁵ CARE also provides data on DCP's recent operating history and argues it is often not available during emergencies.⁶⁶

SBUA asserts California needs a diversity of electric generation resources, beyond solar and battery technologies, and recommends the Commission consult with the CEC, the CAISO, and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council concerning the adequacy of the state's planning standards for energy reliability.⁶⁷

UCS/NRDC contend it is difficult to draw any conclusions from the "stack analysis" studies presented in this proceeding, since these studies do not account for the likelihood of extreme events occurring nor, as argued by UCS/NRDC, do they account for the availability of emergency resources.⁶⁸ UCS/NRDC then reference the LOLE analysis contained in the CAISO May 2023 Assessment, but ultimately conclude that this analysis also does not clearly indicate whether extended operations at Diablo Canyon are needed, since the assessment does not

⁶³ See TED Task Force, May Resource Tracking Data Report issued July 7, 2023, available at: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/energy-division/documents/su/mmer-2021-reliability/tracking-energy-development/resource-tracking-data-may-2023-release.pdf> (last accessed September 15, 2023).

⁶⁴ See CAISO Special Report on Battery Storage July 7, 2023, available at: <http://www.aiso.com/Documents/2022-Special-Report-on-Battery-Storage-Jul-7-2023.pdf> (last accessed September 15, 2023).

⁶⁵ Ex. CARE-02 at 5-8.

⁶⁶ Ex. CARE-01 at 12-18.

⁶⁷ Ex. SBUA-02 at 17-19.

⁶⁸ Ex. UCS/NRDC-01 at 9-12.

take into account emergency resources or adequately incorporate the impacts of increasingly frequent extreme weather events.⁶⁹

4.1.2. Discussion

As a threshold matter, the considerations at play in this proceeding address a relatively narrow set of circumstances based on the specific language set forth in Section 712.8(c)(2)(D). This decision is not intended to inform, or serve as a precedent for, other Commission proceedings tasked with addressing broader planning processes and implications, including the Commission's RA and IRP proceedings.

In ascertaining the Legislature's intent, we begin with the words of the statute, since they generally provide the most reliable indicator of Legislative intent.⁷⁰ We also give significance, if possible, to every word or part, and harmonize the parts by considering a particular clause or section in the context of the whole.⁷¹

Section 712.8(c)(2)(D) states "If the commission determines that new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources that are adequate to substitute for the Diablo Canyon powerplant and that meet the state's planning standards for energy reliability have already been constructed and interconnected by the time of its decision, the commission may issue an order that reestablishes the current expiration dates as the retirement date, or that establishes new [earlier] retirement dates..." While several of the terms in this section of the statute are not explicitly defined in SB 846, the underlying syntax is clear that "new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources" are intended to be evaluated

⁶⁹ *Id.* at 13-15.

⁷⁰ *Hsu v. Abbata*, 9 Cal.4th 863, 871 (1995); *Burden v. Snowden*, 2 Cal.4th 556, 562 (1992).

⁷¹ *Moyer v. Workmen's Comp. Appeals Bd.*, 10 Cal.3d 222, 230 (1973).

against all of the following criteria: whether they are an adequate substitute for Diablo Canyon, meet the state's planning standards for reliability, and have already been constructed and interconnected by the end of 2023.

In considering how to begin to define the meaning of "new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources" we find the arguments presented by Cal Advocates particularly instructive and on-point. Cal Advocates reasons:

The relevant definitions of "new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources" hinge not on how far back in time the Commission begins counting "new" resources, but instead on the resources' ability to achieve interconnection by the end of 2023... The selection of one or the other baseline list may change which specific resources are deemed "existing" or "new" but may not change the total composition of the studied portfolio.⁷²

Focusing on the current portfolio of resources expected to achieve interconnection by the end of 2023 is not only consistent with the plain language of Section 712.8(c)(2)(D), but enables parties and the Commission to incorporate the most up-to-date resource planning assumptions, grid conditions, and policy developments/procurement orders – all of which are relevant to the Commission's consideration of whether "new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources" are an adequate substitute for Diablo Canyon and meet the state's planning standards for reliability. This is particularly true in California, where rapid changes in the electricity market are being driven by "the large number of new LSEs, the major shifts in the resource mix, weather and climate uncertainty, and increasing acceleration of electrification of building and transportation energy use."⁷³

⁷² Ex. CalPA-02 at 12.

⁷³ D.21-06-035 Finding of Fact 4.

The deterministic stack analyses presented in this proceeding, including more recent updates to account for the procurement orders in D.23-02-040 and new resource additions through March 2023, indicate shortfall conditions could exist as early as 2023 under extreme heat wave conditions that approximate those experienced in California in 2020 and 2022; shortfalls increase when incorporating various resource delay assumptions.⁷⁴ Recent probabilistic LOLE results prepared by the Commission and CAISO also point to narrow resource margins or potential shortfalls, including a LOLE result close to 0.1 in 2026 without an extension of Diablo Canyon,⁷⁵ as well as a potential shortfall in 2025 when considering the levels of capacity required by the Commission's procurement orders.⁷⁶

All of these analyses are based on various scenarios of new resources and nameplate capacity such as those identified in the Commission's most recent PSP, as well as ordered procurement.⁷⁷ To the extent there are potential risks and shortfalls associated with these scenarios – which are designed to meet the state's GHG reduction targets and ensure electric reliability – it is not necessary to define, with specificity, what is meant by renewable energy and zero-carbon resources, since these resources are assumed to be a subset within the larger portfolio.

⁷⁴ See CEC's March 2023 Report at 48; February 2023 Joint Planning Assessment at 21-24; May 2023 Joint Planning Assessment at 11-12.

⁷⁵ D.23-02-040 at 58, Table 5; *also*, Cal Advocates OB at 6-7.

⁷⁶ CAISO May 2023 Assessment at 11, Table 1.

⁷⁷ See footnote 21. As part of the IRP process, the Commission adopts a PSP or an optimal portfolio of resources for meeting state electric sector policy objectives at least cost to ratepayers, in the "planning track" of the IRP proceeding. The PSP is then used to set requirements for LSEs to plan toward that resource portfolio.

UCS/NRDC assert it is difficult to articulate the probability of outcomes contained in the results from a deterministic stack approach, since the actual probability of outage risks associated with different supply and demand balances are uncertain. While it is true deterministic analyses require some inference and subjectivity regarding the likelihood of various potential futures occurring, that does not mean the deterministic stack analyses presented in this proceeding provide no value or should be completely ignored. SLOMFP argues current capacity shortages are operational in nature, and extending operations at DCPD would not address the issue at hand. SLOMFP appears to misunderstand how planning and operating concepts are addressed in the IRP proceeding. For system reliability (as opposed to local reliability), the PRM accounts for load forecasting error, operating outages, and operating reserves.⁷⁸ As a result, “operating reserves” are intrinsically linked to “planning reserves” and, therefore, SLOMFP’s argument is flawed. Further, while SLOMFP observes the greatest reliability risk is currently limited to only a certain set of hours during the summer months, it should be noted that DCPD is a baseload resource that is capable of operating during higher risk hours.

Notwithstanding the various other concerns raised by these and other parties, at a minimum, we believe the reliability studies presented in this proceeding are consistent with our findings in the 2023 IRP decision that the electric system “is much closer to a supply and demand balance than is comfortable for reliability purposes.”⁷⁹ On the other hand, as emphasized by Cal Advocates, Section 712.8(c)(2)(D) specifically limits the Commission’s

⁷⁸ PG&E RB at 12.

⁷⁹ D.23-02-040 at 25.

consideration of reliability issues in this proceeding to renewable and zero-carbon resources that “have already been constructed and interconnected” by the end of 2023. All of the reliability studies in this proceeding assume continued procurement during the 2024-2028 time period based on the procurement orders and associated compliance deadlines adopted in the IRP proceeding. While it is difficult to parse out the specific procurement orders intended to offset Diablo Canyon, based on the record of this proceeding, as parties have noted D.21-06-035 requires LSEs to bring online at least 2,500 MWs of resources with specified zero-emitting attributes by June 1, 2025, as an explicit showing of replacement capacity for Diablo Canyon. We find it is unlikely that resources with contracted commercial online dates in 2024 or later will be constructed and interconnected by the end of 2023. This conclusion is further supported by the recent Joint Expedited Petition for Modification (PFM) filed in Rulemaking (R.) 20-05-003, where the two largest LSEs, comprising more than half of the 2,500 MW obligation, are requesting the Commission modify D.21-06-035 to extend their compliance deadlines from 2025 to 2027.⁸⁰

In addition to the conclusions above, we find party arguments in support of the early retirement of Diablo Canyon to be unpersuasive and contrary to the specific requirements in Section 712.8(c)(2)(D). A4NR’s argument that the deterministic stack analyses presented in this proceeding show the current RA standard is being met miss the overall conclusion of these reports, which is that shortfalls exist when considering recent heat wave conditions and the potential

⁸⁰ See, generally, R.20-05-003, *Southern California Edison Company’s (U 338-E) and Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s (U 39-E) Joint Expedited Petition for Modification of Decision 21-06-035* (August 9, 2023); see, also, Cal Advocates OB at 4-5. This decision takes no position on the merits of this PFM, which is being considered in R.20-05-003.

for resource delays. As noted above, all of these studies also assume continued procurement during the 2024-2028 time period. A4NR further asserts the installed capacity of new renewable energy and zero carbon resources nearly doubles that of Diablo Canyon and points to procurement counted towards D.19-11-016. A4NR, however, fails to demonstrate whether the resources installed are an adequate substitute for Diablo Canyon, that the procurement in D.19-11-016 was intended to completely offset Diablo Canyon, and that these resources meet the state's planning standards for reliability.⁸¹

SLOMFP and WEM point to different technologies, including energy storage (including long-duration storage), demand response, and solar plus storage, among others, as being viable and preferred alternatives to DCP, but both parties fail to demonstrate whether these installed technologies are already available, will serve as an adequate substitute for Diablo Canyon, and meet the state's planning standards for reliability.⁸² Various recommendations from these parties to further develop or direct procurement of energy storage, demand response, and transmission innovations, as well as concessions such as "it is difficult to predict how successful the regulators will be [in the integration and approval of projects], or how big the supply chain problem will continue to be," further highlight that these technologies are not all in place today.⁸³ Similarly, CARE also points to the significant growth in installed energy storage and renewables, but fails to demonstrate whether current projects installed are an adequate substitute for Diablo Canyon and meet the state's planning standards for reliability.

⁸¹ Section 712.8(c)(2)(D).

⁸² *Ibid.*

⁸³ Ex. WEM-01 at 35-36; Ex. SLOMFP-05 at 29-32; Ex. SLOMFP-04 at 72.

For all of the above reasons, we conclude the conditions set forth in Section 712.8(c)(2)(D) have not been met.

4.2. Cost, Cost-Effectiveness, and Prudence

There are two sections of SB 846 relevant to the Commission's consideration of cost, cost-effectiveness, and prudence as they pertain to the authorization of extended operations at Diablo Canyon. First, as part of the Commission's decision directing and authorizing extended operations at Diablo Canyon, Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) requires the Commission to:

[R]eview the reports and recommendations of the Independent Safety Committee for Diablo Canyon described in Section 712.1. If the Independent Safety Committee for Diablo Canyon's reports or recommendations cause the commission to determine, in its discretion, that the costs of any upgrades necessary to address seismic safety or issues of deferred maintenance that may have arisen due to the expectation of the plant closing sooner are too high to justify incurring, or if the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission's conditions of license renewal require expenditures that are too high to justify incurring, the commission may issue an order that reestablishes the current expiration dates as the retirement date, or that establishes new retirement dates that are earlier than provided in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1).

Consistent with this statutory requirement, the following DCISC reports were included in the record of this proceeding for party consideration: (1) *Report on Fact-Finding Meeting with DCPD on November 8, 9 and 10, 2022*; (2) *Report on Fact-Finding Meeting with DCPD on December 6-7, 2022*; (3) *Report on Fact-Finding Meeting with DCPD on January 31 and February 1, 2023*; (4) *Report on Fact-Finding Meeting with DCPD on March 14, 15 and 27, 2023*; (5) *Report on Fact-Finding Meeting at DCPD on April 18, 19 and 20, 2023*; (6) *Report on Fact-Finding Meeting with DCPD on May 2-3, 2023*; and (7) *Report on Fact-Finding Meeting on May 5, 2023 and*

Comprehensive Seismic Safety Update. While several of these reports contain DCISC recommendations for future reviews, none of the reports entered into the record of this proceeding contain recommended upgrades or associated actions to address issues of seismic safety or deferred maintenance.

Concerning the NRC's conditions of license renewal, PG&E's license renewal application to the NRC was submitted on November 7, 2023, while the NRC's review process and timeline have yet to be determined. PG&E estimates any conditions the NRC might require in renewed operating licenses will likely not be available until at least 2025.⁸⁴ In the absence of a renewed NRC license, the Scoping Memo determined "it is reasonable for PG&E to provide cost estimates associated with likely or potential improvements ... that might reasonably be required as part of the NRC relicensing process," and directed PG&E to serve testimony on DCP's historical and forecast cost data through 2030.⁸⁵ PG&E submitted this historical and forecast cost data on May 19, 2023.

Second, in describing events that would trigger a suspension or early termination of the \$1.4 billion loan provided for under SB 846, Pub. Res. Code Section 25548.3(c)(5)(C) includes the following triggering event: "A determination by the Public Utilities Commission that an extension of the Diablo Canyon powerplant is not cost effective or imprudent, or both." While there is no specific deadline associated with this section of statute, the Commission is required, as part of this decision, to consider whether the SB 846 loan has been terminated. Therefore, issues of cost-effectiveness and prudence are relevant to

⁸⁴ November 7, 2023 Reporter's Transcript at 365:10-13; Ex. PG&E-03 at 2; PG&E OB at 8-9.

⁸⁵ Scoping Memo at 9, 13.

this decision, were included within the scope of the proceeding,⁸⁶ and were the subject of extensive party comment.

As part of the Commission's consideration of the cost-effectiveness of extended operations at Diablo Canyon, parties were also provided an opportunity to comment on the CEC's Draft Cost Comparison Report, developed pursuant to Pub. Res. Code Section 25233.2(a).⁸⁷ Given the date the report was published, alongside the statutory requirement for the Commission to issue its final decision by the end of 2023, comments in response to the Draft Comparison Report were provided on an expedited one-week timeframe. Reply comments were not accepted. In summary terms, the Draft Cost Comparison Report finds there are no supply resources that can be brought online before the planned 2025 retirement of Diablo Canyon to meet the like-for-like energy generation of 18,000 gigawatt-hours per year. Using PG&E's May 22, 2023 forecast Diablo Canyon cost data in this proceeding, the Draft Cost Comparison Report also shows average forecast Diablo Canyon costs of approximately \$747 million per year (2023-2030), while upfront capital investment for 725 MW of replacement capacity (DCPP has a net peak capacity of 2.2 gigawatts) is valued between \$230-\$330 million per year.⁸⁸

⁸⁶ See Scoping Memo, Phase 1: Track 2, Issue 1.a at 5.

⁸⁷ Pub. Res. Code Section 25233.2(a) requires the CEC to "present a cost comparison of whether extended operations at the Diablo Canyon powerplant compared to a portfolio of other feasible resources available for calendar years 2024 to 2035, inclusive, is consistent with the greenhouse gases emissions reduction goals of Section 454.53 of the Public Utilities Code. As part of this comparison, the commission shall evaluate the alternative resource costs, and shall make all evaluations available to the public within the proceeding docket."

⁸⁸ Draft Cost Comparison Report at 2, 17, and 26.

4.2.1. Party Comments

4.2.1.1. Definition of Terms and Statutory Intent

Regarding the definition of “too high to justify,” PG&E and CUE argue Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) limits the Commission’s consideration of costs to any recommendations and reports by the DCISC, as well as NRC license renewal conditions.⁸⁹ While acknowledging Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) does not provide clarity or guidance on how to define “too high to justify,” PG&E points to Section 712.8(k) as providing guidance on how to interpret “too high to justify.”⁹⁰

A4NR recommends the threshold of “too high to justify” be defined as the level at which the projected costs described in Section 712.8(c)(B) exceed the sum of: (1) available government funding streams identified in D.22-12-005; (2) “other non-ratepayer funds available” to PG&E, as contemplated by Section 712.8(c)(1)(C); and (3) the amount of any binding commitment by PG&E to forego recovery of costs in excess of item (1) and item (2) from its ratepayers or the customers of other LSEs.⁹¹ Along similar lines, CARE asserts that if the expenses for safety, deferred maintenance, and NRC requirements exceed available government funding then the costs are “too high to justify.” CARE also points to the loan agreement between PG&E and the Department of Water

⁸⁹ Ex. CUE-01 at 1; Ex. PG&E-03 at 3-4.

⁹⁰ Ex. PG&E-03 at 3-5. Section 712.8(k) states, in part: “If at any point during the license renewal process or extended operations period the operator believes that, as a result of an unplanned outage, an emergent operating risk, or a new compliance requirement, the cost of performing upgrades needed to continue operations of one or both units exceed the benefits to ratepayers of the continued operation of doing so, the operator shall promptly notify the commission.”

⁹¹ Ex. A4NR-01 at 2.

Resources (DWR) to define what activities are allowed to be reimbursed by the \$1.4 billion loan authorized in SB 846.⁹²

SLOMFP contends costs are “too high to justify” if they are unjust, unreasonable, or imprudent, and must consider the costs and risks to both PG&E ratepayers as well as the taxpayers of California.⁹³ SLOMFP also provides a historic overview of how prudence has been considered in utility regulation, and highlights Pub. Res. Code Section 25548.3(c)(5)(C) as requiring early and continuing review by the Commission concerning the prudence of decisions relating to extending the operating life of Diablo Canyon.⁹⁴

Similarly, SBUA recommends “too high to justify” be defined in a manner similar to “not cost effective” and/or “imprudent.” SBUA goes on to suggest “not cost effective” means Diablo Canyon produces electricity that is more costly than other renewable electric generation in California, while “imprudent” means continued operations at Diablo Canyon are more expensive as compared to the costs to operate other nuclear power plants in the United States.⁹⁵

Cal Advocates suggests the Commission use PG&E’s current cost forecasts as a benchmark for comparison with future annual forecasts and actual costs or, in the alternative, compare PG&E’s total DCPD operating costs with market generation costs; if there is a significant deviation between these costs, Cal Advocates suggests this may indicate that continued operation of Diablo Canyon is “too high to justify.” Cal Advocates also states a significant level of

⁹² Ex. CARE-01 at 1; Ex. CARE-02 at 1-4; *also* Pub. Res. Code Section 25548.3.

⁹³ Ex. SLOMFP-01 at 3.

⁹⁴ Ex. SLOMFP-03 at 4-12.

⁹⁵ Ex. SBUA-02 at 5-6.

costs borne by ratepayers, as opposed to government funding streams, would indicate continued operation of Diablo Canyon is “too high to justify.”

GPI suggests the Commission establish a threshold whereby if the costs required to extend operations at Diablo Canyon are expected to cause the total recoverable cost of energy production to increase by more than 10 percent, then a process would commence to determine whether the cost increase is “too high to justify.”⁹⁶

4.2.1.2. Whether Costs Are Too High to Justify, and/or Whether Extended Operations at Diablo Canyon Are Not Cost-Effective or Imprudent

PG&E’s May 19, 2023 testimony includes the forecast of relicensing costs PG&E included in its application for funding from the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Civil Nuclear Credit (CNC) program, totaling approximately \$131 million between Q3 2022-2026. Within that amount, PG&E attributes approximately \$9.5 million to “likely or potential improvements that might reasonably be required as part of the NRC relicensing process.”⁹⁷

Additionally, PG&E provides historical and forecast costs related to Diablo Canyon using the categories and accounting methodologies adopted by the Electric Utility Cost Group (EUCG). Table 1 and Table 2 below reflect the historical and forecast cost data provided by PG&E in its May 19, 2023 testimony.⁹⁸

⁹⁶ Ex. GPI-02 at 3.

⁹⁷ Ex. PG&E-01 at 12-13.

⁹⁸ *Id.* at 7, 9. Note: PG&E’s May 19, 2023, testimony also includes historical cost data for the 2010-2012 period.

Table 1: Historical Diablo Canyon Costs (\$000)

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Engineering	38,509	36,865	36,783	41,005	48,129	49,749	50,033	46,723	39,542	31,990
Loss Prevention	64,850	62,261	63,045	72,811	69,343	70,840	74,045	78,778	72,659	72,755
Materials and Services	8,917	12,980	8,499	8,648	3,811	3,920	6,000	4,600	4,976	8,468
Fuel Management	5,987	844	1,053	648	300	0	554	501	832	808
Operations	61,427	65,186	55,839	67,903	73,457	75,766	77,567	70,895	71,340	77,593
Support Services	134,566	155,377	151,291	147,888	104,299	61,617	98,313			
Training	10,987	11,222	9,335	7,318	7,700	7,996	10,343	11,472	9,072	7,551
Work Management	96,973	144,842	157,413	141,805	120,992	114,824	137,884	106,288	104,519	112,109
Total Nuclear Operating Costs	422,216	489,577	483,257	488,026	428,031	384,712	454,739			
Capital	209,296	209,934	217,443	183,121	161,871	106,210	102,476	43,327	34,362	12,995
Outage	45,289	87,156	52,333	58,860	64,584	48,086	81,928	44,982	41,466	63,274
Fuel	133,152	113,921	125,134	126,909	124,061	128,286	112,605			
Total	809,953	900,588	878,167	856,916	778,547	667,294	751,748	596,818	581,344	644,111

Table 2: Forecast Diablo Canyon Costs from 2023-2030 (\$000)

Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Engineering	44,444	44,767	39,047	39,786	41,178	42,619	44,111	19,023
Loss Prevention	77,614	78,178	68,189	69,479	71,911	74,427	77,032	33,220
Materials and Services	7,887	7,944	6,929	7,060	7,308	7,563	7,828	3,376
Fuel Management	833	839	732	746	772	799	827	357
Operations	76,292	76,847	67,028	68,296	70,687	73,161	75,721	32,655
Support Services								
Training	9,352	9,420	8,216	8,371	8,664	8,968	9,282	4,003
Work Management	108,140	108,926	191,968	142,588	147,579	206,495	158,091	68,177
Total Nuclear Operating Costs								
Total Capital	150,180	150,052	150,094	154,312	119,785	123,977	96,237	20,751
Outage	46,841	46,841	96,961	50,177	51,933	107,502	55,632	23,991
Fuel								
Total	735,836	744,446	893,139	765,144	751,996	885,818	773,478	422,644

TURN identifies the following cost categories as being excluded from PG&E's May 19, 2023 forecast: Administrative and General (A&G) costs; the volumetric performance-based payment of \$13 per megawatt-hour (MWh) (2022) per year authorized by SB 846;⁹⁹ the fixed management fee of \$100 million (2022) per year authorized by SB 846;¹⁰⁰ the \$300 million liquidated balancing account authorized by SB 846 to cover replacement power costs if Diablo Canyon is out of service due to an unplanned outage;¹⁰¹ continuation of the employee retention program approved in D.18-11-024 "on an ongoing basis until the end of operations of both units;"¹⁰² tax-related obligations (*i.e.*, property, payroll, business, state corporation franchise, and federal income) resulting from extended operations at Diablo Canyon; various costs included in PG&E's General Rate Case (GRC) Results of Operations Model (including transmission, uncollectibles, franchise and San Francisco Gross Receipt tax requirement, and amortization); and, miscellaneous costs, including nuclear property insurance and incremental decommissioning planning costs.¹⁰³

Based on an estimate of the cost categories above, and accounting for potential state and federal funds, TURN provides a revised 2024-2030 Diablo Canyon forecast totaling approximately \$10.1 billion in utility ratepayer obligations. Compared to PG&E's forecast (and not accounting for state and federal funds), TURN's revised forecast represents a total increase of almost

⁹⁹ Section 712.8(f)(5).

¹⁰⁰ Section 712.8(f)(6)(A).

¹⁰¹ Section 712.8(g), (i).

¹⁰² Section 712.8(f)(2).

¹⁰³ Ex. TURN-01 at 4-5; Ex. TURN-03, PG&E Response to TURN Data Request 5, Q5-15; Ex. TURN-04, PG&E Response to TURN Data Request 6, Q1; TURN OB at 7-15.

\$5 billion (2024-2030), or an average annual increase of approximately \$800 million.¹⁰⁴

Citing to many of the same excluded cost categories as TURN, A4NR asserts PG&E's cost forecast is materially misleading, and omits nearly \$2.2 billion in known costs.¹⁰⁵ Additionally, A4NR contends PG&E's cost forecast excludes, or improperly accounts for, over \$1 billion in previously identified prospective DOE reimbursements, authorized funding from the DWR, as well as fuel costs protected under Section 712.8(c)(1)(C).¹⁰⁶

In addition to omitted costs, several parties question the accuracy of the underlying activities and capital projects included in PG&E's forecast. Concerning NRC's potential conditions of relicensing, these parties speculate safety and environmental reviews will result in significant costs. Specifically, parties cite to potential issues of seismic safety and embrittlement, steam generator replacements, and the costs to comply with environmental review processes, among others.¹⁰⁷ CARE asserts PG&E's cost forecast fails to include costs associated with the type of commitments the NRC required of PG&E in the original 2009 license renewal application.¹⁰⁸

In reply, PG&E concedes its May 19, 2023 cost forecast excludes many of the cost categories identified by TURN and A4NR. However, PG&E also argues: (1) many of the excluded costs will either cease to exist in extended operations,

¹⁰⁴ TURN OB at 16; *also*, Ex. TURN-01 at 25.

¹⁰⁵ Ex. A4NR-01 at 34.

¹⁰⁶ *Id.* at 31-35.

¹⁰⁷ Ex. SLOMFP-01 at 3-7; Ex. SLOMFP-02 at 5-19; Ex. SLOMFP-06 at 2-12; Ex. SLOMFP-07 at 3-12; Ex. A4NR-01 at 2-5.

¹⁰⁸ Ex. CARE-02 at 9.

will be recovered through other applications, or are otherwise outside the relevant costs determined to be in the scope of this proceeding; (2) the EUCG cost reporting format was based on the requirements of the DOE's CNC application, and represents the most recent and complete set of cost information available; (3) SB 846 delegates the responsibility to provide an all-in value for use in a cost comparison to the CEC; and (4) TURN overstates the costs in the extended operations period by an average of \$400 million per year, and over \$3 billion in total.¹⁰⁹ PG&E also states it is in the process of developing an estimate of the Diablo Canyon extended operations using existing GRC cost structures, and that this forecast will be complete for inclusion in the extended operations cost recovery application to be filed in early 2024.¹¹⁰ Additionally, PG&E disagrees with SLOMFP's characterizations and conclusions on the issues to be overseen by the NRC, asserting related expenditures can only be analyzed for prudence at the time and in the context in which they arise, and contends that CARE is incorrect in claiming PG&E's forecast failed to include costs associated with the types of commitments the NRC required in PG&E's 2009 license renewal application.¹¹¹

Regarding the current reports and recommendations produced by the DCISC, parties generally agree the DCISC does not yet have, or is still in the process of reviewing, the information necessary to perform the analyses required by Section 712.8(c)(2)(B).¹¹² This includes the updated seismic study PG&E is required to conduct pursuant to Pub. Res. Code Section 25548.3(c)(13), any

¹⁰⁹ Ex. PG&E-03 at 1-2 through 1-6.

¹¹⁰ *Id.* at 1-4; *also*, PG&E OB at 14-15.

¹¹¹ *Id.* at 3-11 through 3-14.

¹¹² PG&E OB at 11-13; SLOMFP OB at 25-27.

updated seismic-related information included in PG&E's NRC license renewal application, as well as PG&E's revised maintenance schedule, which adds 200 activities previously removed as a result of the expected shutdown in 2024 and 2025.¹¹³

Parties provide different recommendations based on the evidence and arguments above. PG&E and CUE highlight that there are currently no recommendations from the DCISC for seismic safety upgrades or deferred maintenance activities, or conditions of NRC's license renewal; therefore, these parties argue it is not possible at this time to determine whether the associated costs for unknown activities are "too high to justify."¹¹⁴ Citing to current cost uncertainties, TURN also contends there is insufficient information to be able to determine whether the costs of extended operations at Diablo Canyon are "too high to justify incurring," or whether "an extension of operations at Diablo Canyon is found to be not cost effective, imprudent, or both."¹¹⁵

Based on its own evaluation of the costs to operate DCPD compared to the costs of RPS contracts and the average cost of nuclear power in the United States, SBUA concludes DCPD extended operations are cost-effective and prudent.¹¹⁶ GPI believes the preliminary costs and lack of capital projects presented in this proceeding indicate DCPD extended operations are not "too high to justify."¹¹⁷ Using the Commission's Avoided Cost Calculator (ACC), CUE estimates Diablo Canyon's contribution to the grid results in a ratepayer benefit ranging from

¹¹³ PG&E OB at 8, 12; Ex. A4NR-02 at 9-11; Ex. A4NR-04 at 2.

¹¹⁴ CUE OB at 2-3; PG&E OB at 9-10.

¹¹⁵ TURN OB at 1-2.

¹¹⁶ Ex. SBUA-01 at 5-10.

¹¹⁷ Ex. GPI-02 at 2-4; Ex. GPI-03 at 3-5; GPI OB at 3-6.

\$1.555 to \$1.676 billion per year (2025-2029),¹¹⁸ while CGNP contends DCCP operations are cost-effective based on data obtained from PG&E's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Form 1 filings.¹¹⁹

In contrast, A4NR and SLOMFP believe there is sufficient evidentiary record demonstrating the costs in Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) are already "too high to justify," while SLOMFP contends DCCP extended operations are "not cost effective or imprudent, or both." A4NR's position is based on the level of omitted costs from PG&E's Diablo Canyon cost forecast, which A4NR argues will exceed the amount of available government funding by over \$1 billion.¹²⁰

SLOMFP asserts Diablo Canyon is not cost-effective for the following reasons: (1) the Commission previously made a finding of fact that "Continuing operation of Diablo Canyon Unit 1 beyond 2024 and Unit 2 beyond 2025 would require renewal of NRC licenses, and would not be cost effective;"¹²¹ (2) using an assumed cost of \$70 per MWh based on the cost of operations of aging nuclear reactors similar to Diablo Canyon, SLOMFP argues operations at Diablo Canyon are significantly higher than the price for alternative renewable energy and zero carbon resources;¹²² (3) based on its assertion that Diablo Canyon Unit 1 will need to be repaired or replaced to address issues of embrittlement, SLOMFP estimates the resultant costs to be between \$250-\$500 million;¹²³ and (4) SLOMFP

¹¹⁸ Ex. CUE-01 at 3-4.

¹¹⁹ CGNP OB at 3.

¹²⁰ Ex. A4NR-02 at 2-10; A4NR OB at 5-6.

¹²¹ D.18-01-022 Finding of Fact 1; SLOMFP OB at 9-11.

¹²² Ex. SLOMFP-08 at 5-7 and 16-29.

¹²³ Ex. SLOMFP-07 at 11.

highlights costs associated with obtaining the necessary environmental permits and authorizations to extend operations.¹²⁴

Concerning the prudence of extended operations, SLOMFP concludes a capably managed utility would not chose to extend operations at Diablo Canyon based on the following assertions, among others: (1) neither PG&E, nor any governmental agency, has conducted a study demonstrating the need for Diablo Canyon to address grid reliability, while PG&E's position in A.16-08-006 was that retiring Diablo Canyon in 2024/2025 would not impact reliability;¹²⁵ (2) keeping Diablo Canyon online will impede the production of renewable and zero-carbon power supply at the lowest possible cost;¹²⁶ (3) when it comes to non-airborne pollutants, aging nuclear reactors rank among the least green fuels, in the same category as coal and gas;¹²⁷ and (4) actual and forecast costs in this proceeding demonstrate it is costly to extend operations at Diablo Canyon.¹²⁸

Concerning whether the costs in Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) are "too high to justify," SLOMFP asserts PG&E's "slow walking" of the statutorily-mandated information should be interpreted to mean that the information is more likely than not to demonstrate an extension of Diablo Canyon operations is too high to justify. Notwithstanding this argument, since the DCISC does not have the requisite seismic information, SLOMFP asserts it is within the Commission's authority to issue an order affirming the current NRC license expiration dates of 2024/2025, or to prescribe the timing of the extension order, delaying it unless

¹²⁴ Ex. SLOMFP-01 at 3-7.

¹²⁵ Ex. SLOMFP-03 at 12-14.

¹²⁶ Ex. SLOMFP-04 at 31-32; Ex. SLOMFP-05 at 32-37.

¹²⁷ Ex. SLOMFP-04 at 17-18.

¹²⁸ SLOMFP OB at 32.

and until the prerequisites of Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) are met.¹²⁹ Lastly, should the Commission nevertheless make a determination on the conditions in Section 712.8(c)(2)(B), SLOMFP urges the Commission to consider potential updates to the DCPD seismic assessment, additional maintenance activities identified by PG&E which SLOMFP argues should be considered “deferred maintenance,” as well as purported embrittlement issues with Diablo Canyon’s Unit 1 pressure vessel.¹³⁰

Lastly, regarding the CEC’s Draft Cost Comparison Report, PG&E, CGNP, and SBUA generally find the CEC’s conclusions (*i.e.*, that there are insufficient resources to replace DCPD) to be reasonable.¹³¹ In contrast, most other parties believe the Draft Cost Comparison Report fails to provide useful information or should not be used to inform the decisions in this proceeding. TURN, A4NR, CARE, and GPI argue that the Draft Cost Comparison Report excludes almost all viable alternative resource options, preventing any meaningful comparison, while the DCPD cost forecast ignores a wide array of cost categories and updated costs identified in this proceeding.¹³² SLOMFP and WEM highlight that this is a draft version of the report, and therefore should not be relied upon.¹³³

4.2.2. Discussion

As part of the requirement for the Commission to issue a decision by the end of 2023 directing and authorizing extended DCPD operations,

¹²⁹ *Id.* at 25-27.

¹³⁰ *Id.* at 27-32.

¹³¹ PG&E October 6, 2023 Comments at 1-2; CGNP October 4, 2023 Comments at 4 and 11-13; SBUA October 6, 2023 Comments at 1.

¹³² TURN October 6, 2023 Comments at 3-12; A4NR October 6, 2023 Comments at 1-10; CARE October 5, 2023 Comments at 4-8; GPI October 6, 2023 Comments at 1-7.

¹³³ SLOMFP October 6, 2023 Comments at 1; WEM October 6, 2023 Comments at 1.

Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) requires the Commission to review the following costs to determine if they are too high to justify: (1) costs or upgrades necessary to address the DCISC's recommendations on seismic safety or issue of deferred maintenance; and (2) expenditures stemming from NRC's conditions of license renewal. While SB 846 does not provide guidance or parameters on what level of costs might be considered "too high to justify," it is clear that the scope of costs being considered in Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) are limited to any costs associated with recommendations by the DCISC, as specified, or conditions of NRC's license renewal.

Concerning the definition of "too high to justify," as used in Section 712.8(c)(2)(B), the Commission agrees with SLOMFP that the "plain and commonsense meaning" of the statutory language is clear.¹³⁴ In interpreting statutory language, the Commission "give[s] the words of the statute 'a plain and commonsense meaning' unless the statute specifically defines the words to give them a special meaning."¹³⁵ The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "justify" as "to prove or show to be just, right, or reasonable" and SB 846 does not give the phrase "too high to justify" any "special meaning."¹³⁶

Importantly, the plain and commonsense meaning of the statutory language must not be understood in "isolation," but, instead, must be determined "in the context of the statutory framework as a whole in order to determine its scope and purpose and to harmonize the various parts of the

¹³⁴ Ex. SLOMFP-01 at 3.

¹³⁵ *MacIsaac v. Waste Mgmt. Collection & Recycling, Inc.*, 134 Cal.App.4th 1076, 1083 (2005) (citations omitted).

¹³⁶ *Id.* See, also, Merriam-Webster's definition at: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/justify> (last accessed October 19, 2023).

enactment.”¹³⁷ Within the Commission’s broader review of charges demanded or received by a public utility, the Commission is statutorily obligated to ensure that utility operations result in rates that are “just and reasonable.”¹³⁸ The Commission implements its mandatory review under Section 451 by assessing the reasonableness and prudence of utility actions, an evaluation that incorporates consideration of cost-effectiveness, among other factors.¹³⁹ Thus, the statutory framework of the Public Utilities Code supports the Commission applying its established reasonableness and prudence standard to determine whether the specific costs identified in Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) are reasonable and prudent.

In enacting SB 846, the Legislature affirmed the Commission’s broad statutory mandate in Section 451 by requiring the Commission to ensure extended DCPD operations are cost-effective and prudent. As explained elsewhere, SB 846 provides several conditions which, if met, would allow, or require the Commission to establish earlier retirement dates for DCPD. One such condition is the termination of the \$1.4 billion loan agreement under SB 846, which may be triggered through “[a] determination by the [Commission] that an extension of the Diablo Canyon powerplant is not cost effective or imprudent, or both.”¹⁴⁰

¹³⁷ *Sierra Club v. Superior Ct.*, 57 Cal.4th 157, 165 (2013).

¹³⁸ Section 451.

¹³⁹ See, e.g., *Application of San Diego Gas & Elec. Co. (U902e) for Authorization to Recover Costs Related to the 2007 S. California Wildfires Recorded in the Wildfire Expense Memorandum Acct. (Wema), Order Denying Rehearing of Decision (D.) 17-11-033, D.18-07-025*, at *4 (July 12, 2018); see also Ex. SLOMFP-03 at 9-10 (citations omitted) (summarizing Commission’s Prudent Manager Standard).

¹⁴⁰ Pub. Res. Code Section 25548.3(c)(5)(C).

Therefore, to “harmonize the [Legislature’s] enactment”¹⁴¹ of the phrase “too high to justify” in Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) with the statutory framework of the Public Utilities Code and SB 846 itself, the Commission interprets the phrase as requiring it to assess whether the specific types of costs identified in Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) (*i.e.*, the cost of upgrades to address seismic safety or deferred maintenance concerns identified by the DCISC, or the cost of PG&E complying with NRC license renewal conditions for DCP), are justified, or reasonable, under the Commission’s established reasonableness and prudence review standard. In accordance with Pub. Res. Code Section 25548.3(c)(5)(C) and the Commission’s overarching responsibility to determine whether extended operations of DCP will result in just and reasonable rates, it follows that the Legislature intended for the Commission to apply the same, established prudence and reasonableness standard to the Commission’s review of the two specific types of costs identified in Section 712.8(c)(2)(B). This includes consideration of whether these specific costs cause DCP extended operations to fail to be cost-effective.

Notwithstanding our interpretation of Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) and Pub. Res. Code Section 25548.3(c)(5)(C) above, we find the Commission does not have sufficient information at this time to be able to determine whether extended operations at DCP are “too high to justify” or “not cost-effective or imprudent.”

At the time of this decision there are no recommendations from the DCISC for seismic safety upgrades or deferred maintenance activities associated with extended Diablo Canyon operations, nor does the Commission have before it any NRC license renewal commitments or conditions. Absent any actual

¹⁴¹ *Sierra Club v. Superior Ct.*, 57 Cal.4th 157, 165 (2013).

recommendations and conditions from the DCISC and NRC, it is not possible for the Commission to assess whether associated, unknown costs render the extension of Diablo Canyon operations too high to justify.

A4NR attempts to argue DCPD extended operations costs are “too high to justify” based on allegations that omitted costs from PG&E’s forecast exceed government funding streams by over \$1 billion. A4NR’s argument, however, relies on broad cost categories – including costs authorized under SB 846, DOE reimbursements, authorized funding from DWR, as well as fuel costs – all of which are well beyond the scope of potential (let alone known) DCISC recommendations or NRC’s conditions of license renewal. SLOMFP also provides several potential conditions of NRC’s license renewal, while at the same time admitting “it is premature to speculate what deficiencies the NRC Staff may find and require PG&E to address through negotiated upgrades or license conditions.”¹⁴² Further, SLOMFP’s allegation that PG&E’s “slow walking” of statutorily mandated information indicates costs are likely too high to justify is pure speculation, while its suggestion that the Commission delay its decision until the prerequisites of Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) are met is in direct conflict with the requirement in SB 846 for the Commission to direct and authorize extended DCPD operations no later than December 31, 2023.¹⁴³

Accordingly, this decision determines the conditions set forth in Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) have not been met.

SLOMFP is the only party to argue there is sufficient evidentiary record demonstrating DCPD extended operations are not cost-effective. The majority of

¹⁴² Ex. SLOMFP-06 at 3.

¹⁴³ Section 712.8(c)(2)(A).

SLOMFP's arguments hinge on purported extended operation costs that are either unsubstantiated, undefined, or not specifically tied to Diablo Canyon.¹⁴⁴ For example, SLOMFP's cost comparison is based on the operating cost of aging nuclear reactors that are *similar* to Diablo Canyon, rather than actual DCPD site-specific costs. SLOMFP's allegation that DCPD Unit 1 will need to be replaced is also speculative, and involves nuclear safety embrittlement issues that are expected to be considered by the NRC as part of PG&E's forthcoming license renewal application. SLOMFP points to "substantial" costs associated with environmental permitting but does not attempt to estimate these costs or prove why they would make extended operations at DCPD fail to be cost-effective. Finally, SLOMFP highlights that D.18-01-022, the Commission's 2018 decision approving the retirement of Diablo Canyon, found continuing operation of DCPD would require NRC license renewal, and would not be cost-effective. The Commission's 2018 decision, however, was based on circumstances at the time, and did not consider the current energy market or the \$1.4 billion SB 846 loan and other government funding streams intended to address the cost of NRC license renewal.

On a related note, we find party proposals that assert DCPD extended operations are cost-effective to be materially incomplete or inconclusive, and further highlight the uncertainty of costs presented in this proceeding. For example, CGNP's use of FERC Form 1 reports and PG&E's original forecast in

¹⁴⁴ It should be noted that SLOMFP submitted hundreds of pages of testimony and exhibits in this proceeding concerning safety-related technical, operational, and license renewal issues overseen by the NRC. (See Ex. SLOMFP-01; SLOMFP-02; Ex. SLOMFP-06; Ex. SLOMFP-07; Ex. SLOMFP-28; and Ex. SLOMFP-29.) While this proceeding is scoped to consider the potential *costs* of NRC's conditions of license renewal (see Scoping Memo at 8-9), SLOMFP's underlying testimony often focuses almost exclusively on nuclear safety issues to be overseen by the NRC, with little to no information on the associated potential costs.

this case excludes a wide range of historical costs directly attributable to DCPD that were collected from ratepayers.¹⁴⁵ CUE's calculation of the "significant value" of DCPD extended operations relies on inputs into the Commission's ACC. As noted by TURN, the ACC is used "to determine the primary benefits of distributed energy resources across Commission proceedings,"¹⁴⁶ and any expansion of the ACC to value large-scale transmission connected generation would transform the limited purpose of this tool.¹⁴⁷ The purpose and design of the ACC tool was not a focus of this proceeding, and any expansion of its use would benefit from broader party participation. Lastly, it is undisputed that: (1) PG&E's May 2023 DCPD forecast cost testimony in this proceeding excludes various cost categories associated with DCPD's extended operation, including cost categories that would typically be presented as part of PG&E's GRC; and (2) the CEC's cost forecast of continued Diablo Canyon operations, as presented in its Draft Cost Comparison Report, is based on PG&E's testimony in this proceeding, and therefore similarly omits costs associated with DCPD extended operations. SBUA's cost-effectiveness evaluation is also based on PG&E's May 2023 cost forecast.¹⁴⁸ Absent a complete and transparent accounting of all DCPD extended operation costs, it is not possible for the Commission to determine at this time whether DCPD extended operations are cost-effective.

Concerning the prudence of extended operations, SLOMFP asserts a capably managed utility would not choose to extend operations at DCPD and,

¹⁴⁵ Including depreciation, return on ratebase, various taxes, amortization, employee retention programs, and a variety of shared costs PG&E allocates to DCPD. (TURN RB at 6).

¹⁴⁶ D.22-05-002 at 3.

¹⁴⁷ TURN RB at 11-12.

¹⁴⁸ Ex. SBUA-02 at 14.

therefore, continued DCCP operations are imprudent. SLOMFP's arguments are without merit. References to PG&E's position in A.16-08-006 and whether nuclear generation is "green" ignore the fact that DCCP operations are being directed by the Legislature, based on the policy determination that "seeking to extend the Diablo Canyon powerplant's operations for a renewed license term is prudent, cost effective, and in the best interest of all California's electricity customers."¹⁴⁹ Further, PG&E's position in A.16-08-006 was based on its bundled energy needs, whereas current reliability considerations are based on system needs.¹⁵⁰ As discussed elsewhere in this decision, the reliability studies presented in this proceeding support previous Commission findings that the "electric system is much closer to a supply and demand balance than is comfortable for reliability purposes,"¹⁵¹ while any recommendations or conditions by the DCISC and NRC are unknown at this time. Lastly, SLOMFP argues that keeping Diablo Canyon online will impede the production of renewable and zero-carbon power supply at the lowest possible cost. As we found in D.18-01-022:

The IRP is supposed to incorporate the analysis leading to an optimized portfolio of resources, reflecting constraints such as GHG emissions, reliability, cost, and RPS and energy efficiency requirements, while ensuring safe and reliable electricity service at just and reasonable rates. (R.16-02-007 at 13.) In short, the IRP has the ability to look at a bigger picture than this proceeding, and can better analyze the potential impacts of the retirement of Diablo Canyon and its

¹⁴⁹ Pub. Res. Code Section 25548(b).

¹⁵⁰ September 5, 2023 Reporter's Transcript at 220:7-23.

¹⁵¹ D.23-02-040 at 25.

interaction with other dynamics in the electricity markets in a manner consistent with state policies.¹⁵²

Issues concerning how renewable and zero-carbon resources contribute to the production of safe, reliable, and cost-effective generation that meets the state's GHG emissions goals are actively being considered in the Commission's IRP proceeding. Further, since SB 846 prohibits the IRP proceeding from considering the DCPD in IRP portfolios, resource stacks, or PSPs after 2024 (Unit 1) and 2025 (Unit 2),¹⁵³ the extension of DCPD operations should not impede the development of new GHG reducing energy resources. Therefore, the IRP proceeding continues to be better equipped to address general resource portfolio issues, including the production of renewable and zero-carbon generation at the lowest possible cost.

For all of the above reasons, the Commission is unable to determine whether DCPD extended operations are "too high to justify," or "not cost effective or imprudent, or both." As of the date of this decision, we find the conditions set forth in Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) and Pub. Res. Code Section 25548.3(c)(5)(C) have not been met. We discuss the Commission's continued evaluation of the prudence, reasonableness, and cost-effectiveness of extended DCPD operations, including the opportunity for further consideration of any DCISC recommendations and NRC's conditions of license renewal, in Section 4.4 of this decision.

¹⁵² D.18-01-022 at 22.

¹⁵³ Section 454.52(f)(1).

4.3. Nuclear Regulatory Commission License Renewal and Senate Bill 846 Loan

Section 712.8(c)(2)(C) allows the Commission to establish earlier retirement dates for Diablo Canyon if the \$1.4 billion loan authorized under SB 846 is terminated. In addition, Section 712.8(c)(1)(B) specifies the Commission must establish earlier retirement dates if the SB 846 loan is terminated. Meanwhile, Section 712.8(c)(2)(E) conditions any extension of operations at Diablo Canyon upon continued authorization to operate by the NRC. In the event the NRC does not extend the current expiration dates or renews the licenses for Diablo Canyon Unit 1 or Unit 2 for a shorter period of time, the Commission must modify its orders to direct a retirement date that is consistent with the NRC's license expiration date.¹⁵⁴

At the time of this decision the \$1.4 billion SB 846 loan has not been terminated.¹⁵⁵ Further, as noted previously, the NRC has allowed Diablo Canyon to continue to operate past the current license expiration dates, provided PG&E submits a new license renewal application by the end of 2023 and satisfies various regulatory requirements at the federal and state levels.¹⁵⁶ PG&E's license renewal application to the NRC was recently submitted on November 7, 2023, while the NRC's review process and timeline have yet to be determined.¹⁵⁷

Since neither of the above conditions have occurred, there is no basis to establish retirement dates earlier than October 31, 2029 (Unit 1) and October 31,

¹⁵⁴ Section 712.8(c)(2)(E).

¹⁵⁵ PG&E RB at 2.

¹⁵⁶ PG&E Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Unit 1 and Unit 2, 88 Fed. Reg. 14,395 (March 8, 2023).

¹⁵⁷ Ex. PG&E-03 at 2; November 7, 2023 Reporter's Transcript at 365:10-13.

2030 (Unit 2).¹⁵⁸ Pursuant to Section 712.8(c)(2)(E) and Section 712.8(c)(1)(B), the approval of DCPD extended operations until 2029/2030 is conditioned upon authorization by the NRC to continue to operate and continuation of the SB 846 loan agreement. In the event the NRC does not renew the licenses for Diablo Canyon Unit 1 and Unit 2, or renews for a period that is earlier than what is authorized in this decision, PG&E shall immediately file a Tier 3 advice letter to notify the Commission and to modify the retirement dates approved in this decision. Similarly, in the event the SB 846 loan is terminated, PG&E shall immediately file a Tier 3 advice letter to notify the Commission and to make a recommendation regarding earlier retirement dates for DCPD. As part of its advice letter filing, PG&E shall address the prudence and cost-effectiveness of extended operations, how PG&E intends to recover any remaining activities in connection with relicensing and transitioning Diablo Canyon from existing operations into extended operations (which SB 846 prohibits from being recovered from utility ratepayers),¹⁵⁹ as well as the length of time needed for an orderly shutdown of Diablo Canyon. A copy of the above advice letters shall be served on the service list to this proceeding.

4.4. Whether One or More Processes Should Be Established to Continue to Monitor the Ratepayer Costs, Prudence, and Reliability Need for Extended Operations at Diablo Canyon

Parties were asked to comment on whether one or more processes should be established to continue to monitor the associated ratepayer costs from, and

¹⁵⁸ Section 712.8(c)(1)(A).

¹⁵⁹ See Section 712.8(c)(1)(C); also, D.22-12-005 at 10-11 and 15-19.

reliability need for, Diablo Canyon during extended operations.¹⁶⁰ In addition, several parties provided recommendations concerning ongoing evaluation of the cost-effectiveness and prudence of DCPD extended operations.

PG&E believes a comprehensive process for monitoring ongoing ratepayer costs and establishing the reliability need for Diablo Canyon are already set forth in SB 846, and asserts it would be administratively inefficient and cause unnecessary costs to layer on additional review processes.¹⁶¹ As part of the Section 712.8(k) notification process,¹⁶² PG&E proposes to submit a report at the time of any DCISC recommendations on seismic safety upgrades or deferred maintenance, or at the time the NRC issues a renewed license, to assess any associated costs and make recommendations on whether it is prudent to incur the cost to support continued operations. PG&E proposes to submit this report through a Tier 3 advice letter filing.¹⁶³

In contrast, TURN argues the near-term statutory obligation to issue a decision by the end of 2023 does not represent the sole opportunity for the Commission to review the cost-effectiveness of extended operations, and recommends PG&E be directed to provide a more robust cost forecast in its upcoming DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application. TURN “urges the Commission to avoid falling into the trap of authorizing extended operations

¹⁶⁰ Track 2 April Ruling at 7-8.

¹⁶¹ PG&E OB at 20-24.

¹⁶² Section 712.8(k) states: “If at any point during the license renewal process or extended operations period the operator believes that, as a result of an unplanned outage, an emergent operating risk, or a new compliance requirement, the cost of performing upgrades needed to continue operations of one or both units exceed the benefits to ratepayers of the continued operation of doing so, the operator shall promptly notify the commission.”

¹⁶³ Ex. PG&E-03 at 4-5 and 20-21; PG&E OB at 21-22.

without an adequate assessment of cost-effectiveness and then being forced to provide a virtual blank check to PG&E for the actual costs over time.”¹⁶⁴ A4NR recommends a monthly reporting process be established modeled on the reports required in Investigation (I.) 12-10-013, concerning San Onofre repair costs.¹⁶⁵ SBUA recommends the Commission continue to review the costs related to ongoing operations at Diablo Canyon based on cost-effectiveness and prudence,¹⁶⁶ while GPI contends DCPD costs should be scrutinized “if the needed capital costs for the extension add more than ten percent to the total cost of energy production.”¹⁶⁷ GPI also asserts the appropriate forums for evaluating ongoing reliability need are the RA and IRP proceedings.¹⁶⁸

In reply, PG&E argues that SB 846 and the Scoping Memo for this proceeding intend the CEC’s Draft Cost Comparison Report to be the primary means of assessing the cost-effectiveness and prudence of DCPD extended operations, and recommends the Commission reject any proposal that establishes new evidentiary burdens for PG&E’s DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications.¹⁶⁹

4.4.1. Discussion

This decision finds it is well within the Commission’s authority and in ratepayers’ best interest to continue to evaluate the reasonableness and prudence of continued DCPD operations, including ongoing evaluation of the

¹⁶⁴ TURN OB at 5, 20.

¹⁶⁵ Ex. A4NR-01 at 29; A4NR OB at 8-9.

¹⁶⁶ Ex. SBUA-02 at 5-10 and 20; SBUA OB at 8-9.

¹⁶⁷ Ex. GPI-02 at 2-4; GPI OB at 3.

¹⁶⁸ Ex. GPI-02 at 7-8.

¹⁶⁹ PG&E RB at 4-6.

cost-effectiveness of extended DCPD operations. In support of this continued evaluation, PG&E is directed to produce a complete and transparent forecast of DCPD operations through 2030 as part of its 2024 DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application. In addition, PG&E's proposal to file a Tier 3 advice letter following the establishment of any conditions as a part of NRC's license renewal process is approved. This decision does not find it necessary, or an efficient use of party and Commission resources, to establish one or more new processes to continue to monitor the reliability need for Diablo Canyon. Further guidance is provided on the scope of issues to be considered as part of any future reasonableness and prudence review of continued DCPD operations.

While it is reasonable for the Commission to consider the CEC's Draft Cost Comparison Report as part of its cost-effectiveness determination, since the CEC's report is required by SB 846, includes an evaluation of DCPD and alternative resource costs, and results in an efficient use of party and Commission resources, it is clear from the record in this proceeding that the CEC's report relies on PG&E's May 2023 cost testimony in this proceeding, and therefore excludes several cost categories associated with actual DCPD extended operations. Given current available information, the CEC's report also does not reflect the costs associated with PG&E's forthcoming license renewal application or any DCISC recommendations concerning seismic safety and deferred maintenance. PG&E does not contest the relevancy of these omitted costs, but merely asserts the CEC is charged with performing the relevant cost-effective analysis.

PG&E's arguments are unpersuasive. Pub. Res. Code Section 25548.3(c)(5)(C) does not require the Commission to rely solely on the CEC's Draft Cost Comparison Report, nor does it require the Commission to

make a cost-effectiveness determination by the date of this decision. Further, as explained above, the Commission has broad authority over public utilities,¹⁷⁰ and is statutorily required to ensure utility rates associated with DCPD extended operations are just and reasonable.¹⁷¹ Therefore, it is well within the Commission's statutory authority and obligations to continue to evaluate the prudence and cost-effectiveness of continued DCPD operations.

Additionally, we find it in ratepayers' best interest to require PG&E to produce a more comprehensive and transparent forecast of the costs associated with DCPD extended operations for Commission and party review, compared to what has been presented to date in this proceeding. As discussed elsewhere, PG&E's May 2023 cost forecast excludes a variety of cost categories associated with actual extended DCPD operations. While PG&E's DCPD cost forecast is responsive to the direction in the Scoping Memo to consider the potential costs of NRC's conditions of relicensing, and the related conditions in Section 712.8(c)(2)(B), it does not reflect all of the costs associated with DCPD extended operations, and is not an adequate foundation upon which to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of extended DCPD operations. An upfront, transparent forecast of all anticipated DCPD costs through 2030 is also expected to provide a more comprehensive framework to aid parties and the Commission in determining whether the costs included in PG&E's annual DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications are reasonable and prudent.

¹⁷⁰ *San Diego Gas & Electric Co. v. Superior Court*, 13 Cal.4th 893, 915 (1996); *People v. Superior Court*, 62 Cal.2d 515 (1965); *Sale v. Railroad Commission*, 15 Cal.2d 612 (1940); *Kern County Land Co. v. Railroad Com.*, 2 Cal.2d 29 (1934).

¹⁷¹ Section 451.

For all these reasons, PG&E is instructed to provide the following information as part of its 2024 DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application:

1. Updated Diablo Canyon historical and forecast costs (2022-2030), presented using PG&E's existing GRC cost structures. This estimate shall include, or be accompanied by:
 - a. All DCPD costs to be recovered from ratepayers over time, in a single analysis, including A&G, uncollectibles, associated taxes, all funds authorized under SB 846, *etc.*¹⁷² PG&E argues several GRC cost categories would be allocated \$0 using the then-current operational cessation dates at the time of PG&E's 2023 GRC filing.¹⁷³ We reject PG&E's argument. As described later in this decision, SB 846 allocates broad cost responsibility for extended DCPD operations to ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission's jurisdiction, with corresponding funding that should be incremental to, and outside the scope of, PG&E's 2023 GRC. As such, it is reasonable for PG&E to include, in a single forecast analysis, any and all costs PG&E expects to be recovered from utility ratepayers for DCPD extended operations.
 - b. Costs associated with PG&E's 2023 license renewal application to the NRC, any DCISC recommendations on seismic safety upgrades or deferred maintenance, as well as any costs associated with NRC's conditions of license renewal. Costs associated with DCISC recommendations or NRC's conditions of license renewal shall only be included to the extent there are *actual* recommendations and conditions from the DCISC and NRC.

¹⁷² See TURN OB at 7-15.

¹⁷³ Ex. PG&E-04 at 1-5 through 1-6.

- c. Any government-funded transition costs. Since these costs will not be recovered from utility ratepayers, they are outside the Commission's purview and general mandate to ensure just and reasonable rates,¹⁷⁴ and therefore will not be considered 'costs' as part of any cost-effectiveness evaluation considered by the Commission; however, since costs that are not recovered through government funding streams may be borne by utility ratepayers, these transition costs should be clearly identified in PG&E's DCPD cost forecast.
 - d. A transparent comparison or walk-through between PG&E's cost forecast and the EUCG cost forecast presented in this proceeding. While we recognize the cost accounting formats may not perfectly align, PG&E shall present, to the best of its ability, clear information that can be used to understand and assess the evolving cost forecasts.
2. A copy of the CEC's final Cost Comparison Report.
 - a. While PG&E has the burden of proof in demonstrating all DCPD extended operation forecast costs, as identified above, are just and reasonable, PG&E shall not be held responsible for the conclusions and analysis developed by the CEC. Rather, the purpose of providing this report is to aid parties and the Commission in any cost-effectiveness evaluation of DCPD extended operations, which is reasonable given the additional cost forecast information above as well as the limited opportunity afforded for parties to comment on the CEC's report as part of this proceeding.

In addition to the above, we adopt PG&E's proposal to file a Tier 3 advice letter, following the establishment of any conditions as part of the NRC's license renewal process, to make a recommendation whether it is prudent, cost-effective, and beneficial to customers to incur the cost to support continued operations.

¹⁷⁴ Section 451.

PG&E's proposal appears to be consistent with Section 712.8(k). Further, since PG&E indicates the conditions of NRC's license renewal will not be available until at least 2025,¹⁷⁵ we find PG&E's proposal would allow for the timely consideration of any new and emergent information. Since the DCISC is expected to have access to PG&E's license renewal application to the NRC, as well as PG&E's reports/assessments on seismic safety¹⁷⁶ and deferred maintenance at Diablo Canyon, by the end of 2023, we anticipate many of the DCISC's recommendations concerning seismic safety and deferred maintenance may be available by the DCISC's next public meeting on February 21 and 22, 2024. As a result, it is reasonable and timely to consider any costs associated with the DCISC's recommendations as part of PG&E's 2024 DCP Extended Operations Cost Forecast application, rather than a separate advice letter filing. Further, since any recommendations by the DCISC are expected to help inform whether PG&E's 2024 DCP Extended Operations Cost Forecast application contains activities and associated costs that are reasonable and needed,¹⁷⁷ PG&E shall ensure the DCISC has all the information it needs to make timely and informed recommendations.

Given the adopted cost reporting processes above, we do not find it necessary to adopt an additional monthly reporting process modeled on the cost repair reports required in I.12-10-013. Further, we decline to adopt GPI's recommended 10 percent cost increase threshold for applying enhanced scrutiny to DCP extended operation costs since, as noted by TURN, it is not clear what standard would be used to distinguish between capital and operations and

¹⁷⁵ PG&E OB at 8.

¹⁷⁶ Pub. Res. Code Section 25548.3(c)(13).

¹⁷⁷ Section 712.8(h)(1).

maintenance spending, while GPI provides no compelling rationale for applying a 10 percent threshold.¹⁷⁸

Additionally, this decision does not adopt a process to continually monitor the reliability need for extended DCPD operations. As noted by parties, ongoing long-term system reliability needs are already considered and addressed through the Commission's IRP proceeding (R.20-05-003),¹⁷⁹ and no party specifically advocated for a new process to monitor the reliability need for ongoing DCPD operations. Moreover, as discussed elsewhere in this decision, the evidence presented in this proceeding is consistent with previous Commission findings that the "electric system is much closer to a supply and demand balance than is comfortable for reliability purposes,"¹⁸⁰ while the specific requirements in SB 846 – including the requirement that new renewable and zero-carbon resources be interconnected by the end of 2023,¹⁸¹ as well as the exclusion of Diablo Canyon in IRP portfolios, resource stacks, or PSPs¹⁸² – suggest that the Legislature did not intend for the Commission to continually re-evaluate the reliability need for Diablo Canyon.

Concerning the reasonableness and prudence of extended DCPD operations, we further clarify that any subsequent review by the Commission shall focus on new or updated information. This may include, for example, updated and more complete DCPD forecast cost information, the cost-effectiveness of DCPD extended operations, as well as any recommendations

¹⁷⁸ TURN RB at 11.

¹⁷⁹ Ex. CalPA-02 at 17; Ex. GPI-02 at 7-8.

¹⁸⁰ D.23-02-040 at 25.

¹⁸¹ Section 712.8(c)(2)(D).

¹⁸² Section 454.52(f)(1).

from the DCISC or conditions of NRC's license renewal. Further, this Commission will not consider nuclear safety issues under the purview of the NRC. Lastly, and for the reasons explained above, this Commission will not revisit issues concerning the electric system reliability need for Diablo Canyon.

4.5. Length of Time for an Orderly Shutdown and Recovery of Outstanding Costs and Fees

In the event the Commission establishes retirement dates earlier than 2029 (Unit 1) and 2030 (Unit 2), SB 846 provides the Commission shall provide sufficient time for an orderly shutdown of Diablo Canyon and authorize recovery of any outstanding uncollected costs and fees.¹⁸³

PG&E identified the following activities to support an orderly shutdown of Diablo Canyon: (1) ramp down and offload of spent fuel from the reactor vessel to the spent fuel pools; (2) severance to de-fueled technical specification staffing requirements; (3) retraining and redeployment programs for employees; and (4) termination of ongoing contracts. PG&E indicates these activities would occur in parallel with a duration of approximately six months.

Concerning the recovery of uncollected fees, PG&E states the timing will vary depending upon the status of activities at the time Diablo Canyon is shutdown. Further, PG&E highlights the potential for increased costs if newly established retirement dates are revised after a final Commission decision in this proceeding.¹⁸⁴

Many parties defer to PG&E on this issue, or otherwise don't provide a specific recommendation. A4NR generally supports PG&E's identified actions and associated six-month estimate for an orderly shutdown of Diablo Canyon.

¹⁸³ Sections 712.8(c)(2)(B)-(D).

¹⁸⁴ Ex. PG&E-03 at 18-19.

A4NR urges the Commission to “carefully shape its actions on retirement dates to maximize the ongoing value of the \$109.4 million PG&E ratepayers have already invested in decommissioning planning,” while maintaining flexibility for future incremental adjustments, if needed.¹⁸⁵ Additionally, A4NR notes the Commission’s ability to authorize recovery of any outstanding uncollected costs and fees would not be affected by its determination of sufficient time for orderly shutdown.¹⁸⁶ GPI recommends PG&E’s planning process for Diablo Canyon include provisions for a more rapid shutdown in case earlier retirement dates are issued.¹⁸⁷

4.5.1. Discussion

We generally find PG&E’s six-month estimate for an orderly shutdown of Diablo Canyon to be reasonable, but agree with A4NR that some additional adjustments may be warranted in the future. In the event PG&E proposes to shutdown Diablo Canyon earlier than October 31, 2029 (Unit 1) and October 31, 2030 (Unit 2), based upon the criteria set forth in Section 712.8(k), or on any of the additional review processes and requirements set forth in SB 846 and this decision, PG&E shall explain whether there are any deviations from its six-month estimate in this proceeding and why.

There is no need to establish further guidance at this time concerning the recovery of outstanding costs and fees. As noted by parties, the ability to recover outstanding uncollected costs and fees is not affected by the time needed for an orderly shutdown at DCP, and there are cost recovery mechanisms and processes in place (including those established by this decision) that will allow

¹⁸⁵ A4NR OB at 7-8.

¹⁸⁶ Ex. A4NR-01 at 26-27.

¹⁸⁷ Ex. GPI-02 at 7.

for further consideration and recovery of any outstanding uncollected costs and fees.

**5. Eligible Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant
Extended Operations Costs and Applicability to
Non-Pacific Gas and Electric Company Customers**

As a threshold matter, this decision addresses the interactions between Section 712.8(c)(4) and Section 712.8(l)(1) as they relate to the allocation of costs related to extended operations at DCP. Subsection (c)(4) states:

Except as authorized by this section, customers of load-serving entities shall have no other financial responsibility for the costs of the extended operations of the Diablo Canyon powerplant. In no event shall load-serving entities other than the operator and their customers have any liability for the operations of the Diablo Canyon powerplant.

While Subsection (l)(1) states:

Any costs the commission authorizes the operator to recover in rates under this section shall be recovered on a fully nonbypassable basis from customers of all load-serving entities subject to the commission's jurisdiction, as determined by the commission, except as otherwise provided in this section. The recovery of these nonbypassable costs by the load-serving entities shall be based on each customer's gross consumption of electricity regardless of a customer's net metering status or purchase of electric energy and service from an electric service provider, community choice aggregator, or other third-party source of electric energy or electricity service.

This decision concludes that the intent of the Legislature was to assign broad responsibility for the costs of extended operations of DCP to ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission's jurisdiction, as outlined in Section 712.8(l)(1). However, certain costs are only to be paid by PG&E

ratepayers. All of these costs and their responsible payers are defined in Section 712.8, and are set out in the table below.

Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8	Cost	Payer
Subsection (f)(1)	Reasonable costs incurred to prepare for the retirement of Diablo Canyon Unit 1 and Unit 2.	PG&E ratepayers – bundled and unbundled – via a non-bypassable charge (NBC).
Subsection (f)(1)	Any reasonable additional costs associated with decommissioning planning resulting from the license renewal applications or license renewals.	Ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction – via an NBC.
Subsection (f)(2)	Funding for the employee retention program approved in D.18-11-024, as modified to incorporate 2024, 2025, and additional years of extended operations, on an ongoing basis until the end of operations of both units.	Not specified in subsection (f)(2), so presumed to be ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction – via an NBC – per subsection (l)(1).
Subsection (f)(4)	Reasonable costs incurred to prepare for, respond to, provide information to, or otherwise participate in or engage the independent peer review panel under Section 712.	Not specified in subsection (f)(4), so presumed to be ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction – via an NBC – per subsection (l)(1).
Subsection (f)(5)	Payment in lieu of a rate-based return on investment (volumetric).	\$6.50 (2022 dollars) per MWh to be paid by PG&E ratepayers – bundled and unbundled – via an NBC. Plus \$6.50 (2022 dollars) per MWh to be paid by ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction (including PG&E’s bundled

Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8	Cost	Payer
		and unbundled ratepayers) – via an NBC.
Subsection (f)(6)(A)	Payment in lieu of a rate-based return on investment in acknowledgment of the greater risk of outages in an older plant (lump sum).	Not specified in subsection (f)(6)(A), so presumed to be ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction – via an NBC – per subsection (l)(1).
Subsection (g)	Diablo Canyon Extended Operations liquidated damages balancing account.	Ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction – via an NBC. ¹⁸⁸
Subsection (h)(1)	All reasonable costs and expenses necessary to operate Diablo Canyon Unit 1 and Unit 2 beyond the current expiration dates, including those in subsections (f) and (g), net of market revenues for those operations and any production tax credits of the operator.	Not specified in subsection (h)(1), so presumed to be ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction – via an NBC – per subsection (l)(1).
Subsection (h)(2)	Any significant one-time capital expenditures during the extended operation period amortized over more than one year for the purpose of reducing rate volatility.	Not specified in subsection (h)(2), so presumed to be ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction – via an NBC – per subsection (l)(1).
Subsection (i)(1)	Reasonable replacement power costs, if incurred, associated with	Not specified in subsection (i)(1), so presumed

¹⁸⁸ While subsection (g) does not refer to the customers of all LSEs by name, it states that these costs shall be recovered “as part of the charge under paragraph (1) of subdivision (l)” which is the subsection that assigns cost responsibility via an NBC to the customers of all LSEs.

Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8	Cost	Payer
	Diablo Canyon powerplant unplanned outage periods.	to be ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction – via an NBC – per subsection (l)(1).

This decision finds Section 712.8(c)(4)¹⁸⁹ does not forbid allocation of the eligible costs listed above to all LSEs subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction. This decision holds that the clause in subsection (c)(4) that states “[e]xcept as authorized by this section” refers to the broad cost allocation authority granted to the Commission by Section 712.8(l)(1), and therefore grants the Commission discretion to allocate many of the costs related to DCPD extended operations to the customers of all LSEs.

Furthermore, this decision finds the language of Section 712.8(l)(1) that states “except as otherwise provided in this section” does not refer to the general prohibition on cost recovery from ratepayers outlined in Section 712.8(c)(4), as this interpretation would lead to an absurd result where each exception clause negates the other. It is this decision’s holding that the general prohibition on cost recovery from ratepayers outlined in Section 712.8(c)(4) is meant to apply to costs outside of those delineated in Section 712.8, as the prohibitory language applies to “other financial responsibility for the costs of the extended operations of the Diablo Canyon powerplant” (emphasis added). For example, such

¹⁸⁹ Section 712.8(c)(4) states: “Except as authorized by this section, customers of load-serving entities shall have no other financial responsibility for the costs of the extended operations of the Diablo Canyon powerplant.”

excluded costs could include the tax payments due on lump sum performance payments highlighted by TURN.¹⁹⁰

For all of these reasons, this decision holds that it is the intent of the Legislature to allocate the costs for DCPD extended operations described in Section 712.8 among all the ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

6. Cost Allocation

As this decision determines that many of the costs of DCPD extended operations should be allocated among ratepayers of LSEs subject to the Commission's jurisdiction, it is necessary to determine how to allocate those costs among the various LSEs. Parties proposed two distinct approaches.

PG&E proposes a simple method, whereby all eligible costs not specific to PG&E customers be recovered through an equal-per-kilowatt-hour (kWh) rate from all LSE customers. Bundled and unbundled customers in PG&E's service area would pay an additional adder to recover the PG&E-specific Volumetric Performance Fee expense (*i.e.*, the additional \$6.50/MWh fee charged only to PG&E's bundled and unbundled ratepayers, as defined in Section 712.8(f)(5)). Implicitly, PG&E's approach does not allow for any differential allocation of costs among the utilities;¹⁹¹ it simply takes the total amount of electricity sales in kWh among all LSEs and divides the annual cost of DCPD extended operations by that figure. SCE supports PG&E's approach, noting its simplicity and transparency.¹⁹²

¹⁹⁰ See TURN OB at 9.

¹⁹¹ As used in this decision, utilities broadly refer to PG&E, SCE, SDG&E, Bear Valley, PacifiCorp, and Liberty. The investor-owned utilities (IOUs) refer to PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E, while the SMJUs refer to Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp.

¹⁹² Ex. SCE-02 at 12.

In contrast, CalCCA recommends each utility territory be assigned a share of DCPD costs based on each utility's contribution to the total utility 12-month coincident peak. This would allow for differential cost allocation depending on how "peaky" the utility's customers are relative to other utilities. CalCCA believes the annual costs of extended operations at DCPD and the share of each utility based on 12-month coincident peak should be calculated in a stand-alone proceeding initiated by PG&E every year. The Commission's decision in the proceeding would calculate a \$/kWh charge to be collected from the ratepayers of each LSE based on that utility's share of the 12-month coincident peak among all the utilities.¹⁹³ AReM/DACC agree with CalCCA's proposal.¹⁹⁴

SCE objects to CalCCA's proposal, arguing it would be unworkable to attempt to differentially allocate costs among all the utilities each year, and may create customer confusion if a volumetric charge for DCPD is higher in some utility territories than in others.¹⁹⁵ PG&E also opposes the 12-month coincident peak revenue allocation model, arguing that because DCPD is a baseload plant that runs at the same power level 24 hours per day, it would not comport with cost causation principles to apply more of the DCPD extended operations costs to those customers (or utilities) with more peak demand.¹⁹⁶ For its part, SDG&E objects to the CalCCA proposal as well, arguing the coincident peak allocation process would be inefficient and unnecessary. SDG&E believes the extension of DCPD operations was a "legislatively mandated policy that benefits customers

¹⁹³ Ex. CalCCA-02 at 2.

¹⁹⁴ Ex. AREM-02 at 9.

¹⁹⁵ Ex. SCE-02 at 12.

¹⁹⁶ Ex. PG&E-02 at 2-3.

statewide,” and therefore a simple volumetric NBC that has the same price statewide would be a fair and equitable way to allocate and collect costs.¹⁹⁷

PG&E presents the view that cost allocation principles can be divorced from the methods used for benefit allocation. PG&E states “[a]llocation of benefits, if any, should not drive the rate design in the case of the [DCPP extended operations] NBC, particularly when benefit allocation is not the reason extended operations of DCPP is being considered. It is not necessary for rate design to align with the benefit allocation if one is adopted. Instead, rate design should be established independent of any benefit allocation.”¹⁹⁸ CalCCA disagrees, stating:

[C]osts and benefits of DCPP extended operation should flow to customers as consistently as possible. Following the existing [Cost Allocation Mechanism] framework, DCPP’s RA capacity would be allocated to LSEs based on their respective contribution to the monthly coincident peak demand. To be consistent, DCPP’s net costs should also be allocated based on the coincident peak demand in each IOU service territory. Each IOU would then be responsible to calculate and implement the DCPP NBC as a delivery charge to customers of all LSEs in its service territory and remit the proceeds to PG&E. Due to differences in customer usage in unique IOU service territories, the allocated net costs and recovery from customers should be tracked separately for each IOU.¹⁹⁹

The SMJUs offer the view that extended operations of DCPP will provide minimal benefits, if any, to the SMJUs, and therefore customers of the SMJUs should be allocated less costs than other California LSEs that are more likely to

¹⁹⁷ Ex. SDG&E-02 at GM-3.

¹⁹⁸ Ex. PG&E-02 at 2-6.

¹⁹⁹ Ex. CalCCA-02 at 17.

benefit from the continued operation of DCP. ²⁰⁰ They argue such treatment would be consistent with statute, as “nothing in Section 712.8(l)(1) requires the Commission to apply identical rates for DCP extension costs to all LSEs and nothing restricts the Commission from adjusting how costs are allocated to different LSEs.” ²⁰¹

The SMJUs reason that they are entitled to a lower share of the DCP costs because Liberty and PacifiCorp operate outside the CAISO, and Bear Valley only has limited connections to the CAISO, meaning that the reliability of CAISO’s system is essentially irrelevant for these utilities. Further, the SMJUs assert they are “winter-peaking” utilities and therefore extended operations of the CAISO-located DCP are unlikely to benefit the SMJUs from either a reliability or a GHG reduction perspective. ²⁰²

6.1. Discussion

As stated by PG&E, “the public policy underlying the extended operations at Diablo Canyon must be considered when developing a rational rate design proposal. Diablo Canyon’s extended operation costs are being incurred over a multi-year period (2025 to 2030) to ensure the State can seamlessly transition its generation supply portfolio to GHG-free energy without compromising system reliability.” ²⁰³ This decision concurs with PG&E that the Commission should look toward public policy and the Legislature’s intent to settle the question of cost allocation, but disagrees with PG&E’s application of it. Given that ensuring system reliability is a key legislative rationale for the billions of ratepayer dollars

²⁰⁰ Ex. SMJU-01 at 8.

²⁰¹ *Id.* at 9.

²⁰² *Id.* at 10.

²⁰³ Ex. PG&E-02 at 2-6 and 2-7.

that may be spent to keep DCPD operating, it follows that allocating the costs of those extended operations based on an IOU's share of a 12-month coincident peak load is fair and equitable.²⁰⁴

PG&E argues the baseload nature of DCPD makes the use of a peak-based cost allocation contradictory with the principles of cost causation. While ordinarily PG&E would be correct, this is an exceptional case where the Legislature believes DCPD is of utmost importance to maintaining *system reliability*,²⁰⁵ which is highly correlated with coincident peak (and net peak) demand, not with energy consumption. This decision has previously addressed the question of whether DCPD is necessary to ensure system reliability and will not revisit that discussion here. What matters is that the Legislature determined that DCPD extended operations are necessary to address reliability, and this decision therefore finds that it should allocate the statutorily defined costs of DCPD extended operations among the three large electrical corporations (*i.e.*, PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E) using the 12-month coincident demand methodology as proposed by CalCCA. The three large electrical corporations shall collectively do so in each of PG&E's annual DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application proceedings. The IOUs may use public load data to determine each electrical corporation's share of 12-month coincident peak demand.

The process for allocating these eligible costs to the LSEs *within* each IOU's territory should mirror the Cost Allocation Mechanism (CAM), as recommended

²⁰⁴ See Ex. AREM-02 at 10 (“[b]y not reflecting the underlying fact that the operating life of the DCPD is being extended because of the reliable capacity it provides, [PG&E's] equal-cents rate design is neither fair nor equitable. Rate design should, to the extent possible, reflect cost causation. The CalCCA proposal does this while PG&E's does not”).

²⁰⁵ SB 846, Section 18 (finding that DCPD extended operations are necessary to ensure “electrical reliability in the California electrical system”).

by CalCCA and others. The CAM was established by the Commission in D.06-07-029, where the Commission designated each IOU to procure new generation capacity in its own territory, with the costs and benefits allocated to all customers in the territory (including bundled and unbundled customers). The CAM was further expanded and refined in decisions subsequent to D.06-07-029.²⁰⁶ Use of a process that mirrors CAM also aligns well with cost allocation among IOUs based on their share of 12-month peak coincident demand. When establishing the CAM, the Commission determined that “[a]ll RA counting benefits and net costs are spread to the LSEs whose customers are allocated costs based on [their] share of 12-month coincident peak, adjusted on a monthly basis to facilitate load migration. The contract costs paid and RA benefits received by [departed load] and bundled customers should be based on a share basis equal to the credit share received.”²⁰⁷

Because LSEs are familiar with the CAM and it is a proven mechanism for allocating costs among the LSEs in a large electrical corporation’s territory, it is reasonable to use a process that mirrors the CAM process to allocate DCPD extended operations costs within each IOU’s territory. Each large electrical corporation shall mirror the CAM process, as defined in D.06-07-029 and subsequent decisions, to allocate its own share of the DCPD extended operations costs to LSEs in its territory.

²⁰⁶ Generally, once a CAM resource becomes operational (or the contract start date begins), LSEs in the IOU’s service territory are allocated capacity allocations which are applied towards meeting the LSE’s resource adequacy requirements. These allocations are done annually and quarterly and are based on each LSE’s load ratio share. Costs are allocated directly to the LSE’s customers through the IOU’s distribution charge. Customers pay only for the net cost of the capacity, determined as the net of the total cost of the contract less the energy revenues associated with dispatch of the contract.

²⁰⁷ D.06-07-029 at 31.

This decision further holds that Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp should be allocated DCPD costs differently than the large electrical utilities. While the majority of California LSEs are summer-peaking, the SMJUs are winter-peaking utilities and face different reliability concerns and requirements. Given their locations and winter-peaking nature, CAISO-centric reliability concerns do not present the same challenges for the SMJUs as they do for most California LSEs. Indeed, in the Commission's proceeding to ensure reliable electric service and address extreme weather events, R.20-11-003, none of the SMJUs were required to undertake additional procurement or adopt any supply- or demand-side requirements given their unique positions. Similarly, in the Commission's IRP proceedings, R.16-02-007 and R.20-05-003, none of the SMJUs were subjected to procurement requirements ordered to address reliability concerns.²⁰⁸

Because statute grants no discretion as to whether Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp customers should contribute to eligible DCPD costs, these three utilities must be assigned some share of the costs, even if they do not benefit from extended operations at DCPD. However, in light of the historic differential treatment received by the SMJUs with respect to reliability and planning requirements, the fact that an additional reliability resource within CAISO offers little benefits to these utilities, and in order to promote equity and fairness, this decision finds that Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp should each be allocated a nominal \$10,000 in eligible DCPD extended operations revenue responsibility in each year such revenues are allocated among the LSEs subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. This total amount of \$30,000 shall be deducted from

²⁰⁸ See D.19-11-016, D.20-12-044, D.21-06-035, and D.23-02-040.

the total revenue responsibility that would otherwise be assigned to PG&E ratepayers. Each year that DCPD extended operations costs are collected from PG&E ratepayers, Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp shall each collect \$10,000 through a non-bypassable, equal-cents-per-kWh charge and remit the collected amount to PG&E on an annual basis. This decision agrees with the SMJUs that Section 712.8(l)(1) grants the Commission discretion to allocate DCPD extended operations costs amongst the LSEs as it sees fit, including as outlined above.²⁰⁹

7. Benefit Allocation

Potentially billions of dollars in costs may be accrued for extended operations at DCPD, and those costs should be allocated to the utilities and other LSEs as described above. However, there are also benefits that accrue from extended operations; this section of the decision discusses how to allocate those benefits across the LSEs.

7.1. Resource Adequacy Benefits

In its opening testimony, AReM/DACC argue the Commission should allocate the RA benefits associated with DCPD extension in the same way that the current CAM capacity is allocated. Specifically, AReM/DACC believe that because DCPD provides for reliability, and in light of the fact that DCPD is currently a source of net qualifying capacity for the RA market, it should be treated as an RA resource allocated to LSEs using existing mechanisms. Language in SB 846 forbidding the use of DCPD for IRP processes should not, in AReM/DACC's view, be used to prevent DCPD from being utilized for RA purposes.²¹⁰ Furthermore, AReM/DACC argue that allocating the RA benefits of

²⁰⁹ SMJU OB at 6-7.

²¹⁰ Ex. AREM-01 at 2-3.

DCPP to LSEs does not relieve LSEs of their respective capacity procurement requirements per Commission orders.

CalCCA supports this position and argues the allocation of RA benefits to LSE customers paying for DCPP extended operations is a matter of equity. CalCCA estimates payments to PG&E for DCPP extended operations will more than double the existing ratebase payments to PG&E shareholders, and argues it would be unfair to impose these costs on all LSE customers “without realizing the corresponding benefits of the plant’s extended operation.”²¹¹ CalCCA believes those benefits should be distributed to each LSE to lower the LSE’s rates generally and provide benefits to customers paying for DCPP’s extended operations.²¹²

PG&E opposes the allocation of RA benefits to LSEs, arguing it would be counter to the intent and direction of SB 846. Specifically, PG&E believes the statute’s prohibition of utilizing DCPP attributes for IRP purposes, and its focus on promoting reliability, means that RA benefits should not be allocated. PG&E reasons that by denying the allocation of RA benefits, other LSEs would be incentivized to continue robust RA procurement and thereby enhance system reliability.²¹³ PG&E’s testimony clarifies that it did not believe RA benefits should be allocated to any LSE, including PG&E itself.²¹⁴ WEM also opposes the allocation of RA benefits, similarly claiming it is contrary to statute.²¹⁵

²¹¹ Ex. CalCCA-01 at 5.

²¹² *Id.* at 3-4.

²¹³ Ex. PG&E-01 at 5-1 to 5-2.

²¹⁴ *Id.* at 5-2.

²¹⁵ Ex. WEM-01 at 2-3.

CalCCA disagrees with these positions in rebuttal testimony, as did AReM/DACC, arguing that SB 846 only prohibits the allocation of RA benefits for IRP purposes (which is a long-term planning process) and not for the separate purpose of meeting RA capacity obligations (which is designed to ensure grid reliability in the near-term).²¹⁶ Furthermore, AReM/DACC argue that allocating the RA benefits of DCCP to LSEs would not disincentivize LSE procurement of additional resources, noting “[i]ncremental procurement being performed by LSEs are for resources with on-line dates many years in the future and based on direction in the IRP which already does not count Diablo; [and] those decisions are not impacted by the determination of if Diablo’s RA can be counted in the near-term.”²¹⁷

In its rebuttal testimony, SCE argues the Commission should allocate the RA benefits of extended Diablo Canyon operations to the customers of all LSEs that pay for extended operations. SCE reasons it is reasonable to do so “to ensure that customers receive the value they are paying for and to minimize the substantial costs of extended operations.”²¹⁸ For support, SCE cites to the language of SB 846, claiming that Section 712.8(q) grants the Commission authority to allocate benefits or attributes generally from Diablo Canyon’s extended operations while Sections 454.52(f)(1)-(2) specifically exclude the allocation of certain elements of Diablo Canyon’s attributes to LSEs. SCE reasons that, since RA benefits are not included in the list of attributes specifically

²¹⁶ Ex. AREM-02 at 3.

²¹⁷ *Id.* at 7.

²¹⁸ Ex. SCE-02 at 1.

excluded from allocation, such benefits should be included in the general authority to allocate benefits granted to the Commission by statute.²¹⁹

SCE and PG&E disagree as to whether the allocation of Diablo Canyon RA benefits to LSEs will reduce the incentives for those LSEs to build out or procure needed RA resources. SCE asserts that allocating RA benefits “will minimize LSEs’ short-term RA procurement costs and provide rate relief to customers as new resources are being developed and brought online and help address any delays in bringing new ordered resources online...”²²⁰ AReM/DACC also disagree with PG&E’s conclusions, arguing statute only prohibits DCCP RA attributes from being used for IRP purposes instead of prohibiting their use in the RA market.²²¹

Finally, SCE suggests allocating RA benefits to the paying LSEs will provide relief to ratepayers that will be asked to pay for the “substantial” costs of extended operations at Diablo Canyon.²²²

Functionally, SCE believes the Commission should allocate the RA benefits associated with extended operations at DCCP in the same way the Commission currently allocates the benefits of CAM resources among LSEs.²²³ Cal Advocates takes a different position, arguing RA benefits should be allocated to paying LSEs in proportion to their share of Diablo Canyon extension costs.²²⁴

²¹⁹ *Id.* at 4-5 (“[t]he Legislature expressly excluded counting [Diablo Canyon] attributes in the IRP process during extended operations and could have easily done the same for RA compliance and power content labeling”).

²²⁰ Ex. SCE-02 at 6.

²²¹ Ex. AREM-01 at 2.

²²² Ex. SCE-02 at 8.

²²³ *Ibid.*

²²⁴ Ex. CalPA-01 at 5.

The SMJUs point out that two of their members – Liberty and PacifiCorp – are currently not subject to RA requirements or other CAISO reliability requirements. While Bear Valley is located within the CAISO, it has no direct interties to a CAISO bus bar, but rather is served via SCE’s system. None of the SMJUs are subject to Commission RA requirements.²²⁵ In the Commission’s proceeding to ensure reliable electric service and address extreme weather events, R.20-11-003, none of the SMJUs were required to undertake additional procurement or adopt any supply- or demand-side requirements given their unique positions. Similarly, in the Commission’s IRP proceedings, R.16-02-007 and R.20-05-003, none of the SMJUs were subjected to procurement requirements ordered to address reliability concerns.²²⁶ The SMJUs ultimately argue that “continued operation of DCPD is unlikely to provide benefits to customers of the SMJUs.”²²⁷

7.1.1. Discussion

It is fair and reasonable to allocate RA benefits to the large electrical corporations in the same manner that eligible costs for extended operations at DCPD are allocated to them (*i.e.*, by each large electrical corporation’s share of 12-month coincident peak demand). As outlined above, RA benefits constitute a substantial financial value and are already attributed to DCPD operations. Those ratepayers that are paying for extended operations at DCPD should, as a matter of equity, realize the financial benefits of those extended operations, and those benefits should be distributed to each utility in the same manner of DCPD

²²⁵ Ex. CASMU-01 at 5-6, while also noting that “[Bear Valley] complies with CAISO RA and reliability requirements.”

²²⁶ *Id.* at 6.

²²⁷ *Id.* at 7.

extended operations costs. Regarding PG&E's arguments that the intent and language of SB 846 do not provide for RA benefit allocation, this decision disagrees. No language in SB 846 forbids the allocation of RA benefits to LSEs. The language cited by PG&E regards the use of DCPD attributes for IRP purposes, but that is not the same thing as allocating the RA compliance benefits of DCPD extended operations.²²⁸ SB 846 authorizes the Commission to "allocate any benefits or attributes from extended operations of the Diablo Canyon powerplant,"²²⁹ and this decision concludes that this includes the RA benefits of DCPD extended operations.

Furthermore, in response to party arguments that allocating RA benefits may unduly influence the RA market, it should be noted the implementation track of the (now closed) RA proceeding increased the RA-related PRM to 17 percent, "[g]iven the realities of available RA supply and persistent delays in development projects decision...."²³⁰ This decision recognizes that extending the RA credits for a 2,300 MW resource such as DCPD may have impacts on the RA market and, potentially, the PRM established for LSEs in a future RA proceeding, and that the extension of DCPD and the availability of these RA credits in the RA market may help inform PRM decisions in future RA proceedings. On the other hand, this decision also notes that recognizing the availability of DCPD for RA and PRM purposes will have no impact on the IRP proceeding in which the

²²⁸ See AReM/DACC OB at 3-4 ("The language of SB 846 prevents DCPD extension period attributes from being used in three circumstances: (1) integrated resources plans, (2) preferred system plans, and (3) resource stacks. RA compliance does not belong to any of these three categories").

²²⁹ Section 712.8(q).

²³⁰ D.23-06-029, Finding of Fact 4.

planning for and ordering of new resources takes place, as that proceeding is prohibited by statute from including DCPD as an existing resource.

As with the cost allocation discussion above, Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp are afforded special treatment with respect to RA benefit allocations. Because Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp are not required by the Commission to procure RA capacity, it would be nonsensical to allocate RA capacity to them. However, Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp are each required to contribute \$10,000 toward the costs of extended operations at DCPD, and because the allocation of RA attributes and their benefits to LSEs is grounded in the equity of affording benefits of extended operations at DCPD to those LSEs that pay for the costs of extended operations, it is equitable that Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp receive an equivalent amount of financial benefits from the RA attributes related to extended operations at DCPD.

Therefore, PG&E shall ensure on an annual basis that \$30,000 in financial benefits from PG&E's portion of the RA attributes of extended operations at DCPD are set aside for Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp. PG&E shall distribute \$10,000 annually to each of Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp in consideration of the RA attributes they would have received for DCPD extended operations had they been required by the Commission to procure RA capacity. Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp shall credit these funds to their ratepayers using the same rate element used to collect their allocated portion of the costs of extended operations at DCPD. This approach is consistent with CalCCA's proposal that RA benefits for SMJUs be accounted for by "apply[ing] the value of

SMJUs' allocated portion of DCPD RA as a credit against their allocated share of DCPD net costs...."²³¹

7.2. Using the Cost Allocation Mechanism to Allocate Resource Adequacy Benefits

Once RA benefits are allocated to each large electrical corporation on the basis of 12-month coincident peak demand, it is necessary to allocate the RA capacity among each large electrical corporation's LSEs. Several of the parties supporting the allocation of RA benefits to LSEs argue that the Commission should utilize the CAM in allocating those benefits, just as this decision determines should be done for the costs of extended operations at DCPD. Even PG&E grants that, if the Commission were to allocate RA benefits to LSE, then it should use "existing Commission processes" to do so while not naming the CAM specifically.²³²

The CAM was established by the Commission in D.06-07-029, where the Commission designated each large electrical corporation to procure new generation capacity in its own territory, with the costs and benefits allocated to all customers in the territory (including bundled and unbundled customers). The LSEs in the large electrical corporation's service territory are allocated rights to the capacity, which can in turn be applied toward each LSE's RA capacity requirements. All customers pay for the net cost of this capacity (*i.e.*, the cost of procurement minus the revenue collected from selling energy and ancillary services) through an NBC. All RA benefits are allocated to the LSEs based on their share of 12-month coincident peak.

²³¹ Ex. CalCCA-02 at 12.

²³² Ex. PG&E-01 at 5-3.

The CAM is a proven system that LSEs currently use and understand. Allocating DCPD-related RA benefits using a process that mirrors the CAM process would therefore be efficient and require the least amount of new program design. While agreeing that RA benefits should be allocated to LSEs, CalCCA and AReM/DACC disagree as to how exactly the RA attributes of DCPD extended operations should be allocated. AReM/DACC advocate for the fungible RA capacity itself to be allocated to the LSEs, while CalCCA believes DCPD extended operations should be treated as a load decrement for LSEs to use against their RA compliance obligations. CalCCA argues that treating the RA benefit allocated to LSE as a load decrement is more efficient and would eliminate the need for a new contracting process. In order to make RA benefit allocation efficient and consistent with existing mechanisms, CalCCA's proposal is adopted. The RA benefits of DCPD extended operations shall be allocated to LSEs, including SCE and SDG&E but not PG&E,²³³ as a load decrement using a process that mirrors the CAM process, once RA benefits have been allocated to each electrical corporation service area on the basis of 12-month coincident peak demand.²³⁴

Regarding PG&E's argument that the costs of RA substitution capacity would be necessary to include in any DCPD-related RA benefits, this decision

²³³ PG&E is expected to show DCPD in its RA compliance filings to count toward PG&E's system RA compliance requirements, and as such does not need to be 'allocated' additional credits.

²³⁴ CalCCA also advised that, following the CAM procedures already in place for the Commission's RA compliance program, Energy Division should include an allocation of DCPD's RA capacity in the RA template for each LSE, reducing the System RA requirement for each LSE by its share of DCPD capacity for compliance periods during extended operations. (CalCCA OB at 33.) This proposal is reasonable and Energy Division should endeavor to do so.

notes the argument of CalCCA that the Commission's CAM process already accounts for these costs. As stated by CalCCA:

PG&E is... already required to provide substitution capacity for the CAM eligible resources in its portfolio. PG&E follows the same process to provide substitution capacity for CAM resources as it does for other resources in its portfolio, *i.e.*, it reserves RA capacity from existing resources and/or makes purchases in the RA bilateral market as needed. In D.14-06-050, the Commission determined that the cost to provide substitution capacity for CAM-eligible resources is recoverable through the CAM balancing account."²³⁵

Therefore, this decision concludes that using a process that mirrors the CAM process to distribute RA benefits to LSEs will account for the substitution capacity costs cited by PG&E.

In comments on the proposed decision, PG&E argues the Commission "should suspend RA allocations during any month in which there is an outage, or when existing outages extend beyond the planned period, so that the operational and safety needs of DCPD are not compromised in favor of reducing RA compliance obligations of LSEs."²³⁶ PG&E's comments focus primarily on needed maintenance, cleaning, and refueling performed during planned outages.²³⁷ As demonstrated by CalCCA, SCE, and Cal Advocates, PG&E already reserves RA capacity from its existing portfolio and makes purchases in the RA bilateral market, as needed, to provide substitute capacity during DCPD maintenance outages;²³⁸ PG&E's current practice is to conduct DCPD

²³⁵ Ex. CalCCA-02 at 9.

²³⁶ PG&E opening comments on the proposed decision at 9.

²³⁷ *Id.* at 10.

²³⁸ Ex. CalCCA-03, Attachment A.

maintenance outage work outside of peak months, when it is much less expensive to procure substitution capacity, and this practice should continue to be encouraged; and other LSEs lack visibility into planned outages at Diablo Canyon.²³⁹ For all these reasons, we find it reasonable for PG&E to retain responsibility for obtaining substitute capacity during DCPD outages, and do not believe there is a need to suspend RA allocations during planned outages. However, to promote the safe operation of DCPD and ensure costs are not shifted to PG&E bundled customers, PG&E is authorized to recover, from all LSEs that are allocated RA benefits in this decision, the reasonable administrative and procurement costs associated with meeting DCPD substitution capacity obligations, including associated penalties and costs borne by non-DCPD resources.

Lastly, while the above approach appears reasonable for planned outages, based on the record of this proceeding, there is a much more limited record in this proceeding concerning how RA penalties or the RA penalty point structure consequences might be applied in the event PG&E would need to attempt to secure sufficient replacement RA during an unplanned summer outage of one or both units. An unplanned, emergency outage is fundamentally different than the circumstance of PG&E using DCPD to provide RA for its bundled customers and being responsible for replacement RA for its bundled load responsibilities. This scenario is another example of the impact that extending the RA credits for such a large resource may have on the RA market, as discussed in Section 7.1.1, and similarly, may warrant further consideration in a future RA proceeding.

²³⁹ CalCCA OB at 27-29; SCE OB at 19-20; Cal Advocates opening comments on the proposed decision at 4.

7.3. Greenhouse Gas Benefits

SCE, CalCCA, and AReM/DACC all support the Commission authorizing voluntary allocations of DCP's GHG-free attributes to LSEs for power content label purposes. SCE proposes all LSEs whose customers pay for extended operations should receive a voluntary allocation of GHG-free attributes from DCP for use on their power content labels. SCE reasons that this treatment is justified, as "all LSE customers will pay substantial costs for [Diablo Canyon's] extended operations and should receive all benefits and attributes generated by [Diablo Canyon] that are permitted by statute."²⁴⁰

TURN does not oppose the allocation of GHG attributes to LSEs that pay a share of Diablo Canyon costs subject to the following constraints: (1) the allocation should not affect any GHG emissions forecasting or reporting by LSEs in the IRP program; (2) any public claims by the LSE should be limited to those permitted under the regulations for the Power Source Disclosure Program; and (3) LSEs must execute a power purchase agreement with PG&E in advance of any DCP generation to receive credit for a zero GHG specified purchase pursuant to Power Source Disclosure Program regulations.²⁴¹ TURN asserts these conditions are necessary to ensure compliance with Section 712.8(q) and Section 454.53(a).²⁴²

WEM opposes any allocation of GHG-free attributes, claiming such an allocation violates SB 846 and that the CEC's power content label regulation does

²⁴⁰ Ex. SCE-02 at 11.

²⁴¹ TURN RB at 17-18.

²⁴² Section 712.8(q) establishes a prohibition on the extension of Diablo Canyon operations from undermining the achievement of California's GHG reduction goals. Section 454.53(a) specifies that the achievement of California's electric sector GHG emissions targets may not "increase carbon emissions elsewhere in the western grid and shall not allow resource shuffling."

not allow unbundled renewable energy credits (REC) to count toward the GHG intensity of an LSE's electricity supply. SCE retorts that LSEs will not be using *unbundled* RECs to count on their power content labels and, in any event, RECs are not created by Diablo Canyon.²⁴³ Cal Advocates believes the Commission should demur on this issue and leave it for the CEC to determine how the GHG-free attributes of DCPD should be used for power content label purposes.²⁴⁴

PG&E opposes the allocation of DCPD GHG attributes to LSEs on the basis that the costs to administer an allocation framework would be too great to justify. SCE disagrees and argues "[t]he potential administrative burden to implement any allocation framework should not outweigh the fundamental fairness of reimbursing LSEs and their customers for part of the substantial costs of extended operations."²⁴⁵ PG&E also asserts that offering to assign the GHG attributes of DCPD to LSEs may reduce the incentive for LSEs to procure other resources to meet their GHG-free sourcing requirements.²⁴⁶ However, as noted by other parties including SCE, SB 846 does not allow the long-term IRP planning and procurement process that guides the LSEs towards meeting their GHG-free sourcing requirements to consider DCPD GHG attributes, thus obviating PG&E's concern.

As a matter of law, SB 846 prohibits including the GHG attributes of Diablo Canyon in the Commission's IRP process. However, as noted by SCE, SB 846 does not prohibit the Commission from allocating the GHG attributes of Diablo Canyon for the purpose of helping to construct an LSE's power content

²⁴³ *Id.* at 10.

²⁴⁴ Ex. CalPA-01 at 2.

²⁴⁵ Ex. SCE-02 at 11.

²⁴⁶ Ex. PG&E-02 at 2-23.

label.²⁴⁷ Even more, SCE points out that SB 846, by way of Section 454.52(g), states “[f]or a thermal powerplant that uses nuclear fission technology not constructed in the twenty-first century, all resource attributes shall be retired on January 1, 2031, and shall be reported as a separate, line item resource for purposes of complying with Section 398.4.”²⁴⁸ This suggests that SB 846 places an affirmative requirement to include the GHG attributes of Diablo Canyon as a part of power content labeling, at least until January 1, 2031. Ultimately, those LSEs that pay for extended operations at DCPD should be allowed to access the benefits of extended operations, including the GHG attributes of DCPD.

Therefore, PG&E shall offer to LSEs that are paying for extended operations of DCPD the ability to use their share of DCPD’s GHG-free attributes for their power content label. The process for making and accepting these offers, as described by AReM/DACC and CalCCA in their testimony, is adopted. The existing process for voluntarily offering the GHG attributes of certain resources to LSEs, as adopted in D.22-06-066, should be used as a model.

As noted by CalCCA, Commission Resolution (Res.) E-5111 approved PG&E’s current interim allocation process that allocates GHG attributes from resources in PG&E’s Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) portfolio. According to CalCCA, PG&E offers LSEs within its service territory an allocated amount of GHG-free energy generated by specified facilities corresponding to each LSE’s “Allocation Ratio.” Once a year PG&E offers each LSE its Allocation Ratio which, after execution of a Sales Agreement, corresponds to an allocated quantity of GHG-free energy sold to the LSE during the delivery year. Under

²⁴⁷ Ex. SCE-02 at 9-10.

²⁴⁸ *Ibid.* Section 398.4 is a section specific to power content labeling requirements that includes nuclear power as a reportable resource at Section 398.4(h)(4).

this framework, LSEs that accept the allocations may report the corresponding GHG-free energy on their annual Power Content Label under the CEC's Power Source Disclosure Program.²⁴⁹

CalCCA's proposal based on this existing process shall be used by PG&E to allocate the GHG attributes of DCPD during extended operations. Specifically, PG&E should modify its Bundled Procurement Plan (BPP) Appendix P to accommodate an annual allocation and offer process for DCPD as a stand-alone specified resource. PG&E shall calculate DCPD GHG-free generation separate from PG&E's other resources, and expand eligibility to receive an allocation of DCPD generation to all California LSEs paying for eligible DCPD extended operations costs, including PG&E and other utilities, but excepting Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp.²⁵⁰ LSEs may confirm their acceptance of an allocation by executing a sales agreement with PG&E subject to the conditions in PG&E's BPP Appendix P. Unclaimed allocations, if any, would be unused for that delivery year and would not be reported on any individual LSE power content label or other communications.²⁵¹ PG&E shall file a Tier 2 advice letter no later than 180 days after the issuance date of this decision formalizing the process to allow LSEs to be allocated GHG attributes of extended operations at DCPD.

This decision also clarifies that these orders with respect to DCPD's GHG attributes do not prejudice any regulatory changes to the Power Source

²⁴⁹ Ex. CalCCA-01 at 18-19.

²⁵⁰ Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp are excluded as their financial contributions to DCPD extended operations will likely be zero after netting their quantified RA benefits from their defined cost contribution.

²⁵¹ Ex. CalCCA-01 at 19. PG&E notes that only six of the 22 LSEs in its territory currently accept GHG attributes of DCPD for purpose of their power content labels, suggesting that not all LSEs will agree to accept DCPD GHG attributes (Ex. PG&E-02 at 2-22).

Disclosure Program that may be made by the CEC, as such changes are not within the Commission's jurisdiction. This decision only seeks to address the narrow issue of how to allocate DCP's GHG-free attributes to LSEs whose customers are paying for extended operations for the purpose of power content labeling. Further, as argued by TURN, we clarify that GHG attributes subject to allocation may not be resold.

8. Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Extended Operations Ratesetting

8.1. Calculating a Non-Bypassable Charge

Statute requires the use of a volumetric NBC to collect DCP extended operation costs specified in Section 712.8 from the ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. However, the price of the NBC to be charged will vary depending on the LSE. For example, unbundled and bundled PG&E customers are responsible for paying all costs spelled out by Section 712.8, while non-PG&E ratepayers are only responsible for a subset of those costs. The price for PG&E and non-PG&E customers will also vary depending on each large electrical corporation's share of 12 months' worth of coincident peak demand, as this is the inter-IOU cost and benefit allocation methodology adopted by this decision (intra-IOU cost and benefit allocation among an IOU's LSEs and among rate classes proceeds according to the CAM).²⁵² Further, as noted above, ratepayers of the SMJUs will only be charged an NBC price that corresponds to their set share of the DCP extended operations costs (*i.e.*, \$10,000 per SMJU).

PG&E proposes a statewide DCP extended operations NBC be an equal-cents-per-kWh rate paid for by all Commission-jurisdictional customers,

²⁵² As noted by AReM/DACC and others, the CAM requires differential treatment of customer classes within a large electrical corporation's territory.

except that customers in PG&E's service area will pay an additional adder to recover the PG&E-specific Section 712.8(f)(5) expense. SCE and SDG&E support PG&E's proposal.²⁵³ However, due to the findings made previously in this decision and recited above, it is not possible to charge each customer the same, statewide price for the DCPD extended operations NBC. Instead, the price of each DCPD extended operations NBC for each customer class in each LSE will be determined in the DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application proceeding on an annual basis, using the cost and benefit allocation methodologies adopted by this decision.

This is admittedly a more complex option than the one recommended by PG&E, but it reflects the legislatively determined purpose of using DCPD extended operations to ensure system reliability. It is also consistent with the historic treatment of cost and benefit allocation for CAM resources, which DCPD will closely resemble as of November 3, 2024, and is consistent with the allocation of RA benefits discussed elsewhere in this decision.

As an alternative to an equal-cents-per-kWh rate, TURN recommends DCPD costs be split with capacity costs allocated pursuant to the CAM method and energy costs subject to a different allocator.²⁵⁴ TURN's proposal is rejected for all the reasons above. Further, we are not convinced the additional granularity benefits gained through TURN's proposal outweigh the administrative complexity it would require.

PG&E argues the rate design adopted by this decision is inconsistent with statute.²⁵⁵ This is not so. Section 712.8(l)(1) states "[a]ny costs the commission

²⁵³ Ex. SCE-02 at 12; SDG&E opening comments on the proposed decision at 4-5.

²⁵⁴ TURN RB at 14-15.

²⁵⁵ PG&E OB at 32.

authorizes the operator to recover in rates under this section shall be recovered on a fully nonbypassable basis from customers of all load-serving entities subject to the commission's jurisdiction, as determined by the commission..." The final clause is instructive. The Commission is granted the authority to determine the nature of the DCPD extended operations NBC, and the Commission exercises that authority in this decision by: (1) setting a fixed amount of DCPD extended operations costs and benefits to be recovered from SMJU customers, (2) allocating the costs and benefits of DCPD extended operations among the large electrical corporations on the basis of 12-month coincident peak demand, and (3) utilizing a process that mirrors the CAM process to allocate the costs and benefits of DCPD extended operations among LSE customers within the territories of each of the large electrical corporations.

All DCPD extended operations costs established by statute as eligible for collection from all ratepayers of LSEs subject to the Commission's jurisdiction must be pooled, and then allocated to the large electrical corporations on the basis of their share of 12-month coincident peak demand. The \$30,000 owed collectively by Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp will be subtracted from PG&E's total each year.

The allocation of these attributes among the LSEs of each large electrical corporation service territory should utilize a process that mirrors the CAM process. In PG&E's case, they will need to calculate additional volumetric fee responsibility for their ratepayers given that statute requires PG&E ratepayers alone to shoulder a \$6.50/MWh volumetric performance fee. This PG&E-specific volumetric fee should be allocated to PG&E's LSE customers in the same manner as other DCPD costs (*i.e.*, the CAM) for the reasons stated previously.

In the event actual conditions cause retail customers to be over-charged, since the DCPD extended operations NBC will be based on forecasted expenses and market revenues, CalCCA and PG&E agree there should be no floor on the statewide DCPD NBC, and that customer overcollections in one year should be returned to customers as an offset to the NBC over the following year. Further, in certain circumstances, these parties agree the offset could result in the NBC going below zero (*i.e.*, a credit to customers).²⁵⁶ We agree there should be no floor on the statewide DCPD NBC, and clarify that customer overcollections in one year should be returned to customers as an offset to the NBC over the following year.

8.2. Billing and Remittance of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Extended Operations Non-Bypassable Charge

PG&E proposes to require PG&E and Commission-jurisdictional utilities to enter into the Servicing Order Agreement attached as Attachment A to PG&E's June 9, 2023 testimony. PG&E claims its proposed form of Servicing Order Agreement provides for prompt remittance of the DCPD extended operations NBCs collected by the utilities to PG&E consistent with Section 712.8(1)(2).²⁵⁷

PG&E proposes a timely remittance of revenues from the Diablo Canyon extended operations NBC from all utilities, specifically the use of a daily remittance schedule. SCE supports this proposal since it mirrors SCE's current remittance schedule for its DWR Wildfire Fund NBC. SCE argues the

²⁵⁶ CalCCA OB at 42-44. In reply comments on the proposed decision, PG&E indicates it would not agree with this accounting treatment if the proposed decision is not revised to treat the volumetric performance payment as a cost and compensation to PG&E. (PG&E reply comments at 3-4.) Since the decision has been revised on this point in response to comments, we assume PG&E once again agrees there should be no floor on the statewide DCPD NBC.

²⁵⁷ PG&E OB at 39.

Commission should not adopt a different proposal as doing so would result in increased costs and time for implementation of the DCP extended operations NBC, as well as increased financing costs for PG&E that are ultimately borne by all Commission-jurisdictional customers.

SCE proposes to provide monthly reports – as opposed to daily reports – to PG&E along with remittances, given that billed kWh data may not be available on a daily basis but could be provided in monthly reporting. SCE further suggests modifying PG&E’s template for a Servicing Order Agreement to provide that “Operator and Utility agree” rather than “Operator agrees, and Utility is ordered.” SCE believes this language better reflects the relationship between the utilities in the context of the DCP extended operations NBC.

SCE’s proposal is reasonable and should be adopted. PG&E’s remittance proposal shall be utilized by SCE and SDG&E, except as modified per SCE’s suggestion. With respect to the language of the Servicing Order Agreement, PG&E shall make any changes necessary to the Servicing Order Agreement to comply with the cost allocation, benefit allocation, ratesetting process, and rate design for the DCP extended operations NBC adopted by this decision, including SCE’s recommended changes. PG&E shall seek approval of revisions to the Servicing Order Agreement through a Tier 2 advice letter to be filed within 90 days of the issuance date of this decision.

8.3. Bill Presentment

SCE argues any DCP extended operations NBC be presented to customers via a separate line-item on their bills. PG&E concurs that the DCP extended operations NBC should appear on customer bills as a stand-alone

charge, with PG&E's implementation of such charge to follow completion of its billing system modernization project.²⁵⁸ SDG&E supports these arguments.

The Commission is not persuaded it is necessary to include the DCPD extended operations NBC as a separate line item on customer bills. Current public purpose program (PPP) rates already include a variety of state-mandated programs, and it is not clear how a separate, stand-alone DCPD extended operations charge on customer bills would improve customer understanding of this charge, or why DCPD extended operations should be presented in a different manner than other state-mandated programs. Therefore, for bill presentment purposes, each of the large electrical corporations and the SMJUs are instructed to include the DCPD extended operations NBC in their PPP rates.

8.4. Incremental Costs Associated with Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Extended Operations Non-Bypassable Charge

SCE seeks Commission approval for the establishment of a memorandum account to track "any unforeseen DCPD-specific costs that may arise in the future, such as, but not limited to, DCPD NBC customer notification or support costs."²⁵⁹ PG&E makes a similar request.²⁶⁰ While we anticipate the incremental costs associated with the implementation of the DCPD NBC to be limited, these costs were not considered or addressed in prior utility GRCs. Therefore, SCE's and PG&E's request is approved. PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E are authorized to establish a new DCPD Extended Operations Memorandum Account to track incremental, IOU-specific costs incurred related to the implementation, billing,

²⁵⁸ PG&E OB at 26.

²⁵⁹ SCE OB at 7.

²⁶⁰ Ex. PG&E-02 at 2-9.

and communication of the new DCPNBC. As explained by SCE, this approach equitably keeps the incremental costs within each IOU's service area, as there may be differences in costs for each IOU to implement the new DCPNBC.²⁶¹ The IOUs shall file Tier 2 advice letters within 30 days of the effective date of this decision to establish their respective DCPNBC Extended Operations Memorandum Account. The IOUs may, through an application, request reasonableness review and recovery of the DCPNBC implementation costs, as recorded in its IOU-specific memorandum account, only from customers in its service area.²⁶² In their respective applications, the IOUs must demonstrate recorded costs are incremental, just, and reasonable. Further, pursuant to Section 712.8(c)(1)(C), PG&E's activities to prepare for DCPNBC extended operations are not eligible to be recovered from utility ratepayers. Therefore, to the extent PG&E's DCPNBC implementation and support costs are to prepare for DCPNBC extended operations, PG&E must also demonstrate that the recovery of such costs from ratepayers is not prohibited by Section 712.8(c)(1)(C).

8.5. Annual Energy Resource Recovery Account-Like Process for Allocating Costs and Benefits, and Setting the Price of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Extended Operations Non-Bypassable Charge

PG&E proposes a standalone DCPNBC Extended Operations Cost Forecast application that closely resembles its annual Energy Resource Recovery Account (ERRA) Forecast proceeding. The objective of PG&E's annual DCPNBC Cost Forecast Application would be to forecast costs of extended operations, provide

²⁶¹ SCE OB at 7.

²⁶² The request for cost review and recovery may be submitted through a stand-alone application, or consolidated with another application (such as a Test Year GRC application).

for a forecast of market revenues for Diablo Canyon in the relevant ratemaking period, and annually establish the DCPD extended operations NBC applicable to all Commission-jurisdictional customers based on forecast net costs, and any applicable true-up amounts.²⁶³

PG&E proposes to file its annual DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application by March 31 of each year, with the first application to address all extended operations costs from November 3, 2024 through December 31, 2025. Consistent with its ERRA Forecast proceedings, PG&E proposes to update its prepared testimony (including updated forecast DCPD Extended Operations Balancing Account (DCEOBA) balances) in the fourth quarter of the year in which it submits its application, and recommends a final decision resolving its application by the last business meeting in November to allow rate changes to go into effect on January 1 of each year.

PG&E also recommends the Commission direct Commission-jurisdictional utilities coordinate with PG&E to appropriately notice PG&E's extended operation cost recovery consistent with the requirements of Rule 3.2.

With respect to the statute's required true-up process, PG&E proposes to use a Tier 3 advice letter to request Commission authorization of true-up amounts for costs recorded to the DCEOBA, to the extent that such true-up amounts do not exceed 115 percent of its forecast costs approved as part of a prior application. Specifically, PG&E proposes to include over- or under-collections resulting from actually incurred expense project costs and O&M expenses, so long as such costs are at or below 115 percent of PG&E's forecast costs. Under PG&E's proposal, over- or under-collections within such

²⁶³ *Id.* at 25.

115 percent threshold would be amortized in rates on January 1 of each year, subject to any final adjustments through the Commission's advice letter process.²⁶⁴

SCE supports PG&E's overall cost recovery application proposal in order to ensure that an annual Diablo Canyon Extended Operations Forecast proceeding would result in annual rates that go into effect on January 1 of each year. SCE stresses that a Commission decision in such a proceeding would be required no later than the end of November in order to make a rate change by January 1 of each year "as SCE requires approximately four weeks to implement a rate change in its billing system when sales adjustments or structural changes are involved."²⁶⁵

SCE also supports the use of a "Fall Update" for the Diablo Canyon forecast proceeding in October of each year. SCE asserts a Fall Update would allow for the use of each IOU's latest available load forecast by PG&E for the calculation of the single equal-cents-per-kWh rate to be used by all IOUs.²⁶⁶

CalCCA supports PG&E's proposal, and asks the Commission to adopt PG&E's proposed structure for the annual DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application process. CalCCA believes PG&E's proposal is consistent with SB 846, which requires PG&E to structure its DCPD forecast proceeding to resemble its annual ERRRA forecast proceeding, and no party disputes the structure of PG&E's proposed annual DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application process.²⁶⁷

²⁶⁴ PG&E OB at 26-30.

²⁶⁵ Ex. SCE-02 at 15.

²⁶⁶ SCE OB at 5.

²⁶⁷ CalCCA OB at 45; PG&E OB at 27.

However, CalCCA recommends the Commission require PG&E to present detailed projections of all costs and revenues associated with DCPD extended operations, in a manner similar to PG&E's presentation in its GRC and ERRA Forecast proceedings. For example, CalCCA would like to see PG&E provide details of DCPD fixed costs by Major Work Category and FERC account. CalCCA reasons that detailed generation output projections, nuclear fuel procurement costs, and other related forecast inputs would support PG&E's forecasts for variable costs.²⁶⁸

CalCCA further recommends the Commission require PG&E to demonstrate in its DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application that its forecasts include common cost assumptions that are consistent with its 2023 GRC. CalCCA argues that since the 2023 PG&E GRC includes attrition years extending beyond the original DCPD expiration dates to 2026 and assumes DCPD is retired, PG&E should quantify the impact of DCPD's extended operations on its common costs relative to the amount approved in its 2023 GRC and demonstrate it will not double count the common costs it proposes for recovery in its GRC and DCPD Forecast proceedings.²⁶⁹

CalCCA also believes PG&E should be required to submit an update to forecasted costs, during the pendency of the annual DCPD forecast application, to capture the most recent market conditions available prior to establishing the final net cost forecast. CalCCA asks the Commission require PG&E to prepare its annual DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application based on the same forecast assumptions used to develop the ERRA Forecast for the corresponding

²⁶⁸ CalCCA OB at 45-46.

²⁶⁹ *Id.* at 46-47.

period (including, for example, forecasted market revenues, fuel costs, generation output, and other variables), and procedural milestones in the DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application should follow a timeline that runs in parallel with the ERRA Forecast proceeding.²⁷⁰

8.5.1. Discussion

Section 712.8(h)(1) requires the establishment of an ERRA-like process to authorize PG&E to recover forecast DCPD extended operations costs, with a subsequent true-up to actual costs and market revenues for the prior calendar year via an expedited Tier 3 advice letter process.²⁷¹ In general, PG&E's proposal complies with this statutory obligation and should be adopted.²⁷² PG&E shall file the first of these DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications no later than March 29, 2024, and the first application shall address forecasted DCPD extended operations costs from November 3, 2024 through December 31, 2025. PG&E shall file annual DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications no later than March 31 beginning in 2025, and ending the year before extended operations are complete; each of these applications shall consider the following calendar year's forecasted DCPD extended operations costs. PG&E's proposed Tier 3 advice letter process for considering annual true-ups is consistent with statute and therefore should be approved. PG&E shall file its annual Tier 3 DCPD Extended Operations Costs True-Up advice letter annually until the end of DCPD extended operations, so long as over- or under-collections are within the statute's defined 115 percent threshold.

²⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁷¹ Section 712.8(h)(1).

²⁷² This decision does not require the specific schedule proposed by PG&E other than the deadline for filing of the application itself.

Because this decision directs other utilities to bill their customers for DCPD-related costs and remit those funds to PG&E, each of SCE, SDG&E, Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp shall coordinate with PG&E and the Commission's Public Advisor's Office so that each utility may ensure that it complies with the Rule 3.2 noticing requirements triggered by PG&E's application in the applicable utility service territory. SCE and SDG&E shall each file responses to each of PG&E's annual DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications to ensure that they are parties to the proceeding and contribute as needed to ensure that they are allocated their share of DCPD extended operations costs.

As recommended by CalCCA, and as discussed in Section 4.4 of this decision, PG&E shall present in its DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications detailed projections of all costs and revenues associated with DCPD extended operations, in a manner similar to PG&E's presentation in its GRC and ERRA Forecast proceedings. PG&E shall, in its DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application, also quantify the impact of DCPD's extended operations on its common costs relative to the amount approved in its 2023 GRC, and demonstrate it will not double count the common costs it proposes for recovery in its GRC and DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications.

This decision previously determined that a process mirroring the CAM process should be used to allocate DCPD extended operations costs and benefits within the service territories of PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E, and that each large electrical corporation's share of 12-month peak coincident demand should be used to allocate costs and benefits among the large electrical corporations. Therefore, the Diablo Canyon Extended Operations Cost Forecast proceeding shall annually: (1) determine the allocation of costs and benefits of DCPD

extended operations among the large electrical corporations' service areas; and (2) utilize a process that mirrors the CAM process to determine the price of the volumetric NBC to be charged by each of the large electrical corporations. Since Energy Division currently allocates, as part of the CAM process, RA credits to individual LSEs based on confidential load forecast information, Energy Division is instructed to utilize the CAM process to determine the allocation of DCPD RA benefits to SCE and SDG&E and among the LSEs in each large electrical corporation's territory. Energy Division staff should endeavor to provide all LSEs with allocations of DCPD's RA benefits for the upcoming compliance year sufficiently in advance of the October 31 year-ahead RA compliance filing deadline.

9. Surplus Performance-Based Fees

Section 712.8(s)(1)²⁷³ establishes several conditions on PG&E's use of the volumetric payment for energy produced by DCPD established by Section 712.8(f)(5). PG&E must submit a plan to the Commission explaining how it proposes to use the funds remitted, on an annual basis. The funds may not be paid out to shareholders. The funds may be spent on several public purpose priorities defined by statute, "to the extent it is not needed for Diablo Canyon..."²⁷⁴ The funds collected pursuant to Section 712.8(f)(5) are known informally as "surplus performance-based fees."²⁷⁵

²⁷³ Prior to July 2023 this section of the Pub. Util. Code was known as Section 712.8(t)(1).

²⁷⁴ Section 712.8(s)(1). The public purpose priorities are defined as: accelerating customer and generator interconnections, accelerating actions needed to bring renewable and zero-carbon energy online and modernize the electrical grid, accelerating building decarbonization, workforce and customer safety, communications and education, and increasing resiliency and reducing operational and system risk.

²⁷⁵ In the Scoping Memo and party testimony, the "surplus performance-based fees" are also referred to as "surplus ratepayer funds."

PG&E believes the statutory language of Section 712.8(s)(1) is clear enough to implement on its face, without additional guidance from the Commission. PG&E also states that detailed questions regarding the use of surplus performance-based fees could be held over to Phase 2 of this proceeding, while this decision need only concern itself with the timing of the spending plan's annual submittal.²⁷⁶ PG&E proposes the plan be submitted to the Commission for review via a Tier 2 advice letter to be filed on or before March 31 of each year.²⁷⁷

SCE proposes any performance-based fees received in 2024 be used to reduce the costs of extended operations and minimize rate impacts to all customers, before any surplus funds are spent on critical public purposes priorities. SCE reasons that the language of Section 712.8(s)(1) only allows expenditures on critical public purposes priorities to the extent surplus performance-based fees are not needed for extended operations at DCP. ²⁷⁸ SDG&E and Cal Advocates concur with SCE on this point.²⁷⁹ PG&E disagrees and argues that, while the Legislature may have contemplated a scenario whereby volumetric performance funds may be spent on DCP, Section 712.8(s)(1) should not be read as requiring the use of these funds to first offset operational costs as a matter of standard, annual practice.²⁸⁰

Cal Advocates is concerned the statutory language could be interpreted to allow PG&E to use funds collected from the ratepayers of all LSEs to fund its

²⁷⁶ Ex. PG&E-01 at 6-2, 6-3.

²⁷⁷ Ex. PG&E-01 at 6-4.

²⁷⁸ Ex. SCE-01 at 18.

²⁷⁹ Ex. SDG&E-02 at GM-5.

²⁸⁰ Ex. PG&E-02 at 2-28.

own public purposes priorities, which would not benefit other LSE ratepayers. Cal Advocates considers this outcome inequitable and argues the Commission should require PG&E to return any surplus performance-based fees equitably to all customers that would contribute payments for extended operations at DCP. Cal Advocates further recommends the critical public purpose priorities identified by statute be interpreted to mean those that are necessary to comply with Commission orders, resolutions, and decisions.²⁸¹

TURN served ample rebuttal testimony on this issue. In general, TURN argues the Commission should adopt requirements in this proceeding to ensure any surplus performance-based fees are “constructively” applied for the benefit of ratepayers, including by providing direction to PG&E regarding spending priorities and accounting requirements in this proceeding or a successor proceeding.²⁸²

TURN criticizes PG&E’s proposal to use an annual advice letter to outline the proposed use of surplus performance-based fees, arguing such a process would not afford discovery rights to parties, would not permit critical examination of spending proposals, and would be poorly suited to the consideration of alternative proposals.²⁸³ TURN grants that an annual advice letter process may be appropriate for retrospective reporting on the use of surplus performance-based fees, so long as the Commission employs a more robust process to determine which uses are appropriate.²⁸⁴

²⁸¹ Ex. CalPA-01 at 9-10.

²⁸² Ex. TURN-02 at 3.

²⁸³ *Id.* at 4.

²⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

TURN expands somewhat on the proposals made by SCE and SDG&E to spend surplus funds on DCPD extended operations, first by adding an additional emphasis on affordability, stating that “[a]bsent a demonstration of *compelling need* to use funds in the current year for an allowable critical public purpose priority, the Commission should require funds to be applied as a credit against the costs of operating Diablo Canyon funded by ratepayers” (emphasis added).²⁸⁵ TURN’s proposal essentially seeks a Commission determination that Section 712.8(s)(1) should be interpreted to not only prioritize spending ratepayer funds on DCPD extended operations costs, but also to elevate affordability as a primary concern. TURN argues doing so would allow the Commission to return surplus performance-based fees to ratepayers each year unless a “compelling need” for one of the public purpose priorities arose.²⁸⁶ TURN also recommends that, regardless of any compelling need, no surplus performance-based fees sourced from non-PG&E customers should be used to support critical public purpose priorities on PG&E’s system.²⁸⁷

TURN proposes the following guidelines be applied to any use of surplus performance-based fees:

- Surplus performance-based fees collected from PG&E’s customers should be applied to fund critical public purpose priorities found reasonable by the Commission and subject to Commission approval. PG&E should file an application every two years demonstrating the

²⁸⁵ *Id.* at 5.

²⁸⁶ As described by TURN, “[t]he Commission should require that any Surplus Ratepayer Funds collected but not spent in each year on critical public purpose priorities be automatically credited to the amount of DCPD operational costs eligible for recovery from ratepayers. Any credits should be included in the Annual Electric True-up advice letter filing” (Ex. TURN-02 at 5).

²⁸⁷ *Id.* at 7.

reasonableness, incrementality, and compliance with Commission requirements for use of surplus performance-based fees. According to TURN, this would help ensure compliance with statutory language forbidding shareholder benefit or double recovery using surplus performance-based fees. This application process would consider both prospective spending and actual spending in the past to determine compliance with statute and Commission direction.²⁸⁸

- Any surplus performance-based fees used by PG&E to fund eligible critical public purpose priorities should offset shareholder equity capital and be accounted for as Contributions in Aid of Construction (CIAC).
- Of the critical public purpose priorities listed by Section 712.8(s)(1), priority should be given to capital expenditures for wildfire mitigation and customer connections or energization efforts.
- Commission oversight of spending using surplus performance-based fees should be ongoing, and include identifying multi-year spending priorities, establishing specific requirements governing the allocation of funds between work areas, and prohibiting funds from being spent on certain types of work.
- All surplus performance-based fees collected from ratepayers located outside PG&E's service territory, and any funds collected from ratepayers located in PG&E's service territory that are not spent on critical public purpose priorities, should be used to reduce the costs of extended operations at DCP.
- PG&E should report and record the use of surplus performance-based fees in a detailed manner. While a Tier 2 advice letter process can be utilized for this purpose, according to TURN, the reporting should include a reconciliation of revenue collections with spending,

²⁸⁸ *Id.* at 10.

demonstrate that PG&E's spending did not deviate from advance Commission guidance, and show compliance with other requirements adopted by the Commission. This reporting obligation should not replace the retrospective compliance analysis conducted in the application process, according to TURN.

- A separate memorandum account should be created to record the receipt and use of surplus performance-based fees. This would be an appropriate mechanism to assist the Commission in determining if the funds were spent reasonably.

TURN also speculates that PG&E's proposed process would not prevent surplus performance-based fees from being used to backfill underspending on work unrelated to DCPD that is approved in prior GRCs, or allocated to cover overspending on expense categories that would otherwise be the responsibility of shareholders.²⁸⁹

9.1. Discussion

While the Commission agrees with SCE and Cal Advocates that the plain meaning of Section 712.8(s)(1) requires funds collected pursuant to Section 712.8(f)(5) to be spent on costs associated with DCPD extended operations, before any surplus performance-based fees are used for critical public purpose priorities,²⁹⁰ we also agree with PG&E that the Legislature did not envision applying these funds as a full offset to any and all DCPD operational costs as a matter of standard, annual practice. As noted by PG&E, this approach

²⁸⁹ *Id.* at 13.

²⁹⁰ "Such compensation, to the extent it is not needed for Diablo Canyon, shall be spent to accelerate, or increase spending on, the following critical public purpose priorities..." (emphasis added). In briefs TURN also clarified that it supported this position, "so long as this application [of funds] does not relieve PG&E of any risk that DCPD spending would otherwise be deemed imprudent and assigned to shareholders." (TURN OB at 38.)

would result in little to no funding for the public purpose priorities enumerated in Section 712.8(s)(1), effectively rendering this section moot.²⁹¹

As to the meaning of the phrase “needed for Diablo Canyon,” this decision interprets this part of Section 712.8(s)(1) to mean costs that are over 15 percent (which Section 712.8(h)(1) defines as the amount for which no reasonableness review would be required) above PG&E’s approved annual DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application. We find this interpretation to be consistent with the plain language in Section 712.8(h)(1), which expressly recognizes the volumetric payments as a cost of operations, while giving meaning to the public purpose priorities enumerated in Section 712.8(s)(1). At the same time, this interpretation provides a level of ratepayer protection against unexpected DCPD extended operation cost increases, and is consistent with the Legislative direction that the volumetric fees “must be used to first meet needs at [Diablo Canyon] and then to accelerate, or increase spending on, critical priorities.”²⁹²

To be clear, while we interpret Section 712.8(s) as providing PG&E some amount of discretion on the use of surplus performance-based fees, subject to the statutory conditions and review discussed below, in the event actual recorded costs are more than fifteen percent above PG&E’s approved forecast then PG&E

²⁹¹ PG&E OB at 51; PG&E comments on the proposed decision at 6. Cal Advocates asserts there is no conflict, since “[i]n a year with exceptionally high market revenues, PG&E would find itself in a position to spend the volumetric fee revenue on “critical public purpose priorities” while also returning surplus market revenues to customers.” (Cal Advocates reply comments on the proposed decision at 3.) Cal Advocates’ assertion is based on the extraordinary gas price spikes observed in February 2022, and is devoid of any actual analysis specific to DCPD operations. Further, this argument is contrary to Cal Advocates’ earlier assertion that it is “highly unlikely that market revenues for DCPD will exceed expenses” since the Commission has taken action to address spikes in market prices. (Cal Advocates OB at 12.)

²⁹² Ex. CalPA-02 at 3-4, citing SB 846 Senate Third Reading at 4 and SB 846 Senate Rules Committee Senate Floor Analysis at 12.

must first use the volumetric performance-based fees to offset any costs above that amount before they be used for another purpose.

In practical application, the DCEOBA shall be used to track the amount of volumetric fees collected pursuant to Section 712.8(f)(5). The amount collected pursuant to Section 712.8(f)(5) may not be spent on the critical public purpose priorities in Section 712.8(s)(1) until the Commission has reviewed and approved PG&E's proposed use of the funds, as described later in this decision. PG&E shall file a Tier 2 advice letter no later than 90 days following the issuance date of this decision to make any necessary changes to the DCEOBA.

9.2. Surplus Performance-Based Fees Application

Section 712.8(s)(1) requires annual Commission review of the use of funds collected by PG&E pursuant to Section 712.8(f)(5). The Commission agrees with TURN's recommendation that a formal application be used to review and plan for PG&E's use of surplus performance-based fees, which is in accord with the requirements of Section 712.8(s) for an annual review and planning process, and maximizes transparency and party review of PG&E's past and planned use of funds collected pursuant to Section 712.8(f)(5).

PG&E attempts to argue that "[t]he statute does not direct the CPUC to approve the usage of funds before they are spent, but instead requires only that PG&E present information for CPUC review."²⁹³ We disagree. There would be no purpose in having the Commission review PG&E's proposed usage of funds if the Commission did not also have the ability to modify or reject PG&E's proposed spending, as needed. Further, given the hundreds of millions of dollars that are expected to be collected every year from the volumetric fee, we

²⁹³ PG&E opening comments on the proposed decision at 7.

find a formal application process is best suited to ensure any surplus performance-based fees are spent in accordance with the directives in Section 712.8. The Commission may revisit the direction to conduct its review through a formal application process if it determines, after having reviewed one or more of PG&E's applications, that the appropriate guidelines have been put into place.

Therefore, PG&E shall submit an application (hereinafter, Surplus Performance-Based Fees Application) to the Commission, on an annual basis no later than March 1, 2026,²⁹⁴ reporting on the amount of ratepayer funds collected under Section 712.8(f)(5), how it was spent, and a plan for prioritizing the uses of such funds the next year. In its application, PG&E shall demonstrate that the performance-based fees were not "paid out to shareholders,"²⁹⁵ and that PG&E did not "earn a rate of return for any of the expenditures."²⁹⁶ In addition, PG&E shall describe how any future proposed spending is reasonable, incremental to

²⁹⁴ This date is chosen as the existing retirement date for DCP Unit 1 is November 2, 2024. Because surplus performance-based fees are collected on a volumetric basis only during the period of DCP extended operations, PG&E will not know how much revenue they have collected under Section 712.8(f)(5) until after November 2, 2024. The application date of March 1, 2026 gives PG&E approximately one year to collect surplus funds under Section 712.8(f)(5), perform a true-up of actual DCP extended operation costs, and develop a plan for any remaining funds collected pursuant to Section 712.8(f)(5). This does not preclude PG&E from applying earlier if PG&E wishes to request an earlier approval of its plan for prioritizing the uses of funds collected under Section 712.8(f)(5). PG&E's application may also include one or more proposals that would allow PG&E to spend the performance-based fees while ensuring sufficient funding for the true-up process, as discussed elsewhere in this decision. Consistent with the discussion elsewhere, PG&E may not use the volumetric performance-based fees on the critical public purpose priorities in Section 712.8(s)(1) until the Commission has reviewed and approved PG&E's proposed use of the funds; therefore, PG&E's first Surplus Performance-Based Fees Application will focus on the planned usage of any surplus funds.

²⁹⁵ Section 712.8(s)(1).

²⁹⁶ Section 712.8(s)(2).

existing authorized expenditures, and complies with Commission decisions, resolutions, and orders.

For retrospective reporting on the use of surplus performance-based fees, PG&E shall cite to the DCEOBA and the costs recorded there to demonstrate how the funds were used, and also whether any of the funds were used to offset costs in excess of PG&E's approved DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application. PG&E shall include in the Surplus Performance-Based Fees Application a declaration, under penalty of perjury, from PG&E's Chief Financial Officer that:

- None of the funds collected pursuant to Section 712.8(f)(5) were paid out to shareholders.
- None of the funds collected pursuant to Section 712.8(f)(5) earned a rate of return for PG&E.
- No profit was realized by PG&E's shareholders through the expenditures of funds collected pursuant to Section 712.8(f)(5).
- Neither PG&E nor any of its affiliates or holding company increased public earning per share guidance as a result of compensation provided under Section 712.8.

In light of TURN's concern that surplus performance-based fees could be used to offset shareholder cost obligations, and thus increase shareholder earnings in contravention of statute, PG&E shall include in its retrospective reporting on the use of surplus performance-based fees a detailed report on how the fees were used solely for the purpose of covering DCPD extended operations costs or critical public priorities authorized by the previous year's Surplus Performance-Based Fees Application proceeding. The Commission may render a decision in the Surplus Performance-Based Fees Application proceeding that sanctions PG&E if it finds that PG&E did not comply with the requirements of

Section 712.8 that prohibit using funds collected under Section 712.8(f)(5) to enrich shareholders.

If there are any funds collected pursuant to Section 712.8(f)(5) that remain after the true-up of actual DCPD extended operations costs, as discussed above, then PG&E may in a Surplus Performance-Based Fees Application propose how to use the remainder to accelerate, or increase spending on, the following critical public purpose priorities identified by the Legislature in Section 712.8(s)(1):

- Accelerating customer and generator interconnections.
- Accelerating actions needed to bring renewable and zero-carbon energy online and modernize the electrical grid.
- Accelerating building decarbonization.
- Workforce and customer safety.
- Communications and education.
- Increasing resiliency and reducing operational and system risk.

Notably, Section 712.8(s)(1) does not purport to rank or prioritize the identified public policy priorities. Accordingly, while the Surplus Performance-Based Fees Application shall detail PG&E's spending proposals, PG&E is not required to justify how it intends to allocate surplus funds among the listed categories. The Commission's review of PG&E's Application will be focused on determining whether the proposed spending properly falls within one or more of the categories identified in Section 712.8(s)(1), and that the spending would not result in double recovery in rates, cause compensation to be paid out to PG&E shareholders, or cause PG&E to earn a rate of return on any of the expenditures.²⁹⁷

²⁹⁷ Sections 712.8(s)(1) and 712.8(s)(2).

This decision does not define in greater detail the critical public purpose priorities defined by statute, except to state its conclusion that the critical public purpose priorities relate only to such priorities in PG&E's service territory. If the statute was read to apply potential spending to public purpose priorities in other utility service territories, as posited by Cal Advocates and TURN, this would create considerable administrative complexity that the Commission does not believe the Legislature intended.

Parties will litigate, and the Commission will ultimately determine, whether PG&E's proposal actually conforms with the activities defined in statute. The Commission may render a decision that replaces or modifies the PG&E proposal utilizing proposals made by other parties to the proceeding, if those party proposals comply with statute as interpreted by this decision. Parties are encouraged to offer a variety of proposals, including those incorporating concepts such as CIAC and Customer Advances for Construction in each Surplus Performance-Based Fees Application, as applicable.

Lastly, as noted by PG&E and A4NR, the Scoping Memo limits the provision of guidance on the use of surplus performance-based fees in this proceeding to calendar year 2024.²⁹⁸ Parties presented extensive arguments in this proceeding concerning the use of the volumetric fees in Section 712.8(f)(5) and Section 712.8(s)(1), including broader policy and legal interpretations that go well beyond 2024, and as such it is appropriate and reasonable for this decision to address the full extent of party arguments presented. However, in recognition of the specific language in the Scoping Memo, and in order to ensure due process, parties will be afforded an opportunity in Phase 2 of this proceeding to

²⁹⁸ PG&E opening comments on the proposed decision at 8-9; A4NR opening comments on the proposed decision at 10.

comment on whether any changes should be made on the use of surplus performance-based fees for the calendar years following 2024.

10. Summary of Public Comment

Rule 1.18 allows any member of the public to submit written comment in any Commission proceeding using the “Public Comment” tab of the online Docket Card for that proceeding on the Commission’s website. Rule 1.18(b) requires that relevant written comment submitted in a proceeding be summarized in the final decision issued in that proceeding.

As of October 1, 2023, over 330 public comments have been submitted in this proceeding. Comments generally focus on the potential extension of operations at Diablo Canyon, with a majority (approximately 65 percent) supporting some form of extension. Comments in support of an extension generally cite the need for clean, reliable, and carbon-free electricity in the state, as well as the safety and cost-effectiveness of nuclear generation generally, and at Diablo Canyon in particular. Comments in opposition to extended operations at Diablo Canyon largely focus on concerns over nuclear safety, cost, the storage of nuclear waste, as well as the desire for increased spending on renewable energy and energy storage technologies. Some comments also express concerns with PG&E being the operator of the plant.

11. Motions

All previous rulings made during this proceeding are affirmed.²⁹⁹ All other outstanding motions or requests for which rulings have not been issued are deemed denied.

²⁹⁹ Note: A minor correction to the June 14, 2023 assigned ALJ’s Ruling on A4NR’s showing of significant financial hardship (June 14, 2023 Ruling) is expected to be included as part of the Commission’s decision addressing A4NR’s October 9, 2023 request for intervenor compensation

12. Comments on Proposed Decision

The proposed decision of ALJ Ehren D. Seybert in this matter was mailed to the parties in accordance with Section 311 of the Pub. Util. Code and comments were allowed under Rule 14.3. Comments were filed on November 15, 2023, by A4NR, AReM/DACC, CalCCA, CARE, CGNP, CUE, GPI, PG&E, SBUA, SCE, SDG&E, SLOMFP, SMJUs, TURN, and WEM. Reply comments were filed on November 20, 2023, by A4NR, AReM/DACC, Cal Advocates, CalCCA, CGNP, CUE, PG&E, SBUA, SCE, SDG&E, and TURN.

Pursuant to Rule 14.3(c), “[c]omments shall focus on factual, legal or technical errors in the proposed decision and in citing such errors shall make specific references to the record or applicable law. Comments which fail to do so will be accorded no weight.” Pursuant to Rule 14.3(d), replies to comments “shall be limited to identifying misrepresentations of law, fact or condition of the record contained in the comments of other parties.”

We have carefully reviewed and considered the parties’ comments and made appropriate changes to the proposed decision where warranted. We find that all further comments not specifically addressed by revisions to the proposed decision do not raise any factual, legal, or technical errors that would warrant modifications to the proposed decision.

13. Assignment of Proceeding

Karen Douglas is the assigned Commissioner and Ehren D. Seybert is the assigned ALJ in this proceeding.

in this proceeding. These minor corrections are not expected to change the overall findings in the June 14, 2023 Ruling.

Findings of Fact

1. The NRC's March 3, 2023 exemption allows the DCPD to continue to operate under its current licenses past their expiration dates (*i.e.*, November 2, 2024 (Unit 1) and August 26, 2025 (Unit 2)), provided PG&E submits a new federal license renewal application by the end of 2023, and satisfies various regulatory requirements at the federal and state levels.

2. PG&E filed its license renewal application with the NRC on November 7, 2023.

3. The NRC's process and timeline for reviewing PG&E's license renewal application has yet to be determined.

4. At the time of this decision the \$1.4 billion loan authorized under SB 846 has not been terminated.

5. The considerations at play in this proceeding address a relatively narrow set of circumstances based on the specific language set forth in Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8.

6. As determined in D.21-06-035, rapid changes in the electricity market are being driven by the large number of new LSEs, the major shifts in the resource mix, weather and climate uncertainty, and increasing acceleration of electrification of building and transportation energy use.

7. The deterministic stack analyses presented in this proceeding indicate shortfall conditions could exist as early as 2023 under extreme heat wave conditions that approximate those experienced in California in 2020 and 2022.

8. More recent probabilistic LOLE results prepared by the Commission and CAISO point to narrow resource margins or potential shortfalls, including a LOLE result close to 0.1 in 2026 without an extension of Diablo Canyon, as well

as a potential shortfall in 2025 when considering the levels of capacity required by the Commission's procurement orders.

9. The reliability studies presented in this proceeding are consistent with the Commission's findings in D.23-02-040 that the electric system is much closer to a supply and demand balance than is comfortable for reliability purposes.

10. All of the reliability studies in this proceeding assume continued procurement during the 2024-2028 time period based on the procurement orders and associated compliance deadlines adopted in the IRP proceeding.

11. The "planning track" of the Commission's IRP proceeding results in the adoption of a PSP, or an optimal portfolio of resources for meeting the state's electric sector policy objectives at least cost, which is then used to set requirements for LSEs to plan toward that future.

12. D.21-06-035 requires LSEs to bring online at least 2,500 MWs of resources with specified zero-emitting attributes by June 1, 2025, as an explicit showing of replacement capacity for Diablo Canyon.

13. On August 9, 2023, a Joint Expedited Petition for Modification of D.21-06-035 was filed to extend the compliance deadline for the 2,500 MWs of Diablo Canyon replacement capacity from 2025 to 2027.

14. A4NR, SLOMFP, WEM, and CARE fail to demonstrate that new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources meet all of the following criteria: (a) are an adequate substitute for DCPP; (b) meet the state's planning standards for reliability; and (c) will be online and interconnected by the end of 2023.

15. At the time of this decision there are no recommendations from the DCISC for seismic safety upgrades or deferred maintenance activities associated with extended Diablo Canyon operations, nor does the Commission have before it any NRC license renewal commitments or conditions.

16. SLOMFP's arguments that extended DCPD operations are not cost-effective are unsubstantiated, undefined, or are not specifically tied to DCPD.

17. D.18-01-022 did not consider the current energy market, or the \$1.4 billion SB 846 loan and other government funding streams intended to address the cost of NRC license renewal.

18. The cost-effectiveness arguments presented by CUE, CGNP, and SBUA are materially incomplete or inconclusive.

19. PG&E's position in A.16-08-006 was based on its bundled energy needs, whereas the reliability considerations set forth in SB 846 are based on system needs.

20. Pub. Res. Code Section 25548(b) states "it is the policy of the Legislature that seeking to extend the Diablo Canyon powerplant's operations for a renewed license term is prudent, cost effective, and in the best interests of all California electricity customers."

21. The IRP proceeding is broader in scope than this proceeding, and is considering how optimized portfolios of generation resources will meet the state's GHG emissions goals at the lowest cost.

22. Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(c)(2)(A) requires the Commission to issue its decision directing and authorizing extended operations at DCPD no later than December 31, 2023.

23. PG&E's May 19, 2023 testimony in this proceeding excludes a variety of cost categories associated with actual extended DCPD operations.

24. The CEC's Draft Cost Comparison Report relies on PG&E's May 19, 2023 testimony to forecast DCPD extended operations costs, and does not reflect the

costs associated with PG&E's forthcoming license renewal application or any DCISC recommendations concerning seismic safety and deferred maintenance.

25. Party comments on the CEC's Draft Cost Comparison Report in this proceeding were provided on an expedited timeframe.

26. No party in this proceeding disputes that the omitted costs in PG&E's May 19, 2023 testimony are relevant to the cost-effectiveness of DCPD extended operations.

27. Since SB 846 allocates broad cost responsibility for extended DCPD operations to ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission's jurisdiction, any corresponding funding should be incremental to, and outside the scope of, PG&E's 2023 GRC.

28. PG&E's proposal to file a Tier 3 advice letter, following the establishment of any conditions during the NRC's license renewal process, allows for the timely consideration of new and emergent information.

29. The DCISC is expected to have access to PG&E's license renewal application to the NRC, as well as PG&E's reports on seismic safety and deferred maintenance at Diablo Canyon, by the end of 2023.

30. Ongoing long-term system reliability needs are being considered and addressed through the Commission's IRP proceeding, R.20-05-003.

31. No party advocated for the development of a new process to monitor the reliability need for ongoing DCPD operations.

32. There are cost recovery mechanisms and processes in place, including those established by this decision, that will allow for further consideration and recovery of any outstanding DCPD uncollected costs and fees.

33. System reliability is highly correlated with coincident peak and net peak demand.

34. LSEs are familiar with the CAM process, and it is a proven mechanism for allocating costs among the LSEs in a large electrical corporation's territory.

35. The SMJUs (Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp) are winter-peaking utilities and face different reliability concerns and requirements than the majority of other LSEs in California.

36. In the Commission's proceeding to ensure reliable electric service and address extreme weather events, R.20-11-003, none of the SMJUs were required to undertake additional procurement or adopt any supply- or demand-side requirements given their unique positions; similarly, in the Commission's IRP proceedings, R.16-02-007 and R.20-05-003, none of the SMJUs were subjected to procurement requirements ordered to address reliability concerns.

37. RA benefits constitute a substantial financial value and are already attributed to DCPD operations.

38. There is no language in SB 846 that forbids the allocation of RA benefits to LSEs, while Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(q) authorizes the Commission to "allocate any benefits or attributes from extended operations of the Diablo Canyon powerplant."

39. Allocating DCPD-related RA benefits as a load decrement using a process that mirrors the CAM process requires the least amount of new program design.

40. Costs and penalties may be incurred if DCPD RA allocations, as contemplated in this decision, are not suspended during any month in which there is an outage at DCPD.

41. PG&E has experience procuring substitute capacity for CAM resources, including for planned outages at DCPD.

42. PG&E's current practice is to conduct DCPD maintenance outage work outside of peak summer months, when it is less expensive to procure substitute capacity.

43. There is limited record in this proceeding concerning the procurement of replacement RA during a potential unplanned summer outage of one or both units at DCPD.

44. Energy Division currently allocates, as part of the CAM process, RA credits to individual LSEs based on confidential load forecast information.

45. Res. E-5111 approved an interim allocation process for PG&E to allocate GHG attributes from resources in PG&E's PCIA portfolio to other LSEs within PG&E's service territory.

46. Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(l)(1) grants the Commission the authority to determine the nature of the DCPD extended operations NBC.

47. Because the DCPD extended operations NBC will be set based on forecasted expenses and market revenue, it is possible actual conditions may cause retail customers to be over-charged.

48. Given the different cost and benefit methodologies adopted by this decision, it is not possible to charge each customer the same statewide price for the DCPD extended operations NBC.

49. In its June 9, 2023 testimony, PG&E provides a Servicing Order Agreement for the remittance of the DCPD extended operations NBCs collected by utilities to PG&E, and proposes a daily remittance schedule.

50. The IOU's billed kWh data may not be available on a daily basis.

51. SCE's proposed changes to the Servicing Order Agreement better reflect the relationship between the utilities in the context of the DCPD extended operations NBC.

52. The large electric IOUs provided various recommendations in this proceeding concerning how the DCPD extended operations NBC should appear on customer bills.

53. Current PPP rates include a variety of state-mandated programs.

54. There are incremental costs related to the implementation of the DCPD extended operations NBC on customer bills that were not considered or addressed as part of prior utility GRCs.

55. PG&E proposes a standalone DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application, to be submitted by March 31 of each year, that closely resembles its annual ERRA Forecast proceeding.

56. PG&E proposes to use a Tier 3 advice letter to request Commission authorization of true-up amounts for costs recorded to the DCEOBA, to the extent that such true-up amounts do not exceed 115 percent of its forecast costs approved as part of a prior application.

57. CalCCA recommends the Commission require PG&E to present detailed projections of all costs and revenues associated with DCPD extended operations, in a manner similar to PG&E's presentation in its GRC and ERRA Forecast proceedings, and to demonstrate that its forecasts include common cost assumptions that are consistent with its 2023 GRC.

58. Applying the funds in Section 712.8(f)(5) as a full offset to any and all DCPD operational costs as a matter of standard, annual practice would result in little to no funding for the public purpose priorities enumerated in Section 712.8(s)(1).

59. Section 712.8(h)(1) expressly recognizes the volumetric payments in Section 712.8(f)(5) as a cost of operations.

60. The Senate Rules Committee Senate Floor Analysis, SB 846 Senate Third Reading, states the volumetric payment for energy produced by DCPD “must be used to first meet needs at [Diablo Canyon] and then to accelerate, or increase spending on, critical priorities.”

61. It would be a direct violation of statute if surplus funds pursuant to Section 712.8(f)(5) were used to offset shareholder cost obligations.

62. Section 712.8(s)(1) does not rank or prioritize the critical public policy priorities, as provided.

63. The Assigned Commissioner’s Scoping Memo and Ruling limited the consideration of additional guidance for the implementation of Section 712.8(s)(1) to the use of any surplus performance-based fees PG&E receives for Diablo Canyon in 2024.

64. Parties presented extensive arguments in this proceeding concerning the use of surplus performance-based fees PG&E receives for Diablo Canyon, including broader policy and legal interpretations on the intended application and use of such funds.

Conclusions of Law

1. In Commission rulemakings, all parties have equal standing where their proposals are concerned.
2. The standard of proof in this proceeding is preponderance of the evidence.
3. Based on the evidence presented in this proceeding, none of the conditions set forth in Pub. Util. Code Sections 712.8(c)(2)(B)-(E) have been met.
4. PG&E should be directed and authorized to extend operations at DCPD until October 31, 2029 (Unit 1) and October 31, 2030 (Unit 2).
5. Consistent with Pub. Util. Code Sections 712.8(c)(2)(B)-(E) and Pub. Res. Code Section 25548.3(c)(5)(C), the approval in this decision should be

conditioned upon continued authorization to operate by the NRC, the \$1.4 billion loan agreement authorized by SB 846 not being terminated, and the Commission not making future determination that DCPD extended operations are imprudent, unreasonable, or not cost-effective.

6. This decision is not intended to inform, or serve as a precedent to, other Commission proceedings tasked with addressing broader planning processes and implications, including the Commission's RA and IRP proceedings.

7. Focusing on the current portfolio of resources expected to achieve interconnection by the end of 2023 is not only consistent with the plain language in Section 712.8(c)(2)(D), but enables parties and the Commission to incorporate the most up-to-date resource planning assumptions, grid conditions, and policy developments/procurement orders.

8. To the extent there are potential risks and shortfalls associated with the entire PSP portfolio, which is designed to meet the state's GHG reduction goals and ensure electric grid reliability, it is not necessary to define, with specificity, what is meant by new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources in Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(c)(2)(D), since these resources are assumed to be a subset within the larger PSP portfolio.

9. It is unlikely new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources with contracted commercial online dates in 2024 or later will be constructed and interconnected by the end of 2023.

10. Issues concerning the production of renewable and zero-carbon power supply should be addressed in the Commission's IRP proceeding.

11. The review required in Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(c)(2)(B) and Pub. Res. Code Section 25548.3(c)(5)(C) is consistent with the Commission's reasonableness and prudence standard.

12. Absent any actual recommendations and conditions from the DCISC and NRC, it is not possible for the Commission to assess at this time whether associated, unknown costs render the extension of Diablo Canyon operations “too high to justify.”

13. PG&E should be directed to file a Tier 3 advice letter in response to any of the following events: (a) NRC’s conditions of license renewal become known; (b) the NRC approves retirement dates for Diablo Canyon that are earlier than what is approved in this decision; and (c) the \$1.4 billion loan authorized in SB 846 is terminated.

14. Pub. Res. Code Section 25548.3(c)(5)(C) does not require the Commission to rely solely on the CEC’s Draft Cost Comparison Report or make a cost-effectiveness determination by the end of 2023, while the Commission has broad authority to ensure just and reasonable rates under Pub. Util. Code Section 451.

15. It is well within the Commission’s authority, and in ratepayers’ best interest, to continue to evaluate the prudence and cost-effectiveness of continued DCPD operations.

16. PG&E’s cost forecast does not reflect all of the costs associated with DCPD extended operations, and therefore is not an adequate foundation upon which to evaluate the cost-effectiveness, prudence, or reasonableness of DCPD operations.

17. PG&E should be directed, as part of its 2024 DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application, to provide certain DCPD historical and forecast cost information as well as a copy of the CEC’s Cost Comparison Report.

18. It is reasonable for PG&E to provide, in a single forecast analysis, any and all costs PG&E expects to be recovered from utility ratepayers for DCPD extended operations.

19. It is reasonable to assume many of the DCISC's recommendations concerning seismic safety and deferred maintenance will be available by the DCISC's next public meeting on February 21-22, 2024.

20. Specific requirements in SB 846 – including the requirement that new renewable and zero-carbon resources be interconnected by the end of 2023, as well as the exclusion of DCPD in IRP portfolios, resource stacks, or PSPs – suggest that the Legislature did not intend for the Commission to continually re-evaluate the reliability need for DCPD.

21. Any subsequent DCPD prudency review by the Commission should focus on new or updated information.

22. PG&E's six-month estimate for an orderly shutdown of DCPD is reasonable.

23. In the event earlier retirement dates for DCPD are approved or requested, PG&E should be directed to explain whether and why there are any deviations from the six-month timeframe for an orderly shutdown of DCPD.

24. It is reasonable to interpret the clause in Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(c)(2) stating “[e]xcept as authorized by this section” as referring to the cost allocation authority granted to the Commission by Section 712.8(l)(1), resulting in the broad cost responsibility of DCPD extended operations costs to ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission's jurisdiction, and with certain, specified, costs to be paid only by PG&E ratepayers.

25. It is reasonable to interpret Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(l)(1), which states “except as otherwise provided in this section,” as not referring to the general prohibition on cost recovery from ratepayers outlined in Section 712.8(c)(4), as this interpretation would lead to an absurd result where each exception clause swallows the other.

26. The Legislature intended to allocate the costs for DCPD extended operations described in Section 712.8, excepting those reserved solely for customers of PG&E, among all the ratepayers of all LSEs subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

27. Ensuring system reliability is a key legislative rationale for the extension of DCPD operations.

28. Allocating the costs of DCPD extended operations, excepting those reserved solely for customers of PG&E, based on an IOU's share of a 12-month coincident peak load is fair and equitable.

29. The three large electrical corporations (PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E) should collectively allocate the statutorily defined costs of DCPD extended operations in each of PG&E's annual DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application proceedings. PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E may use public load data to determine each electrical corporation's share of 12-month coincident peak demand.

30. Each large electrical corporation should use a process that mirrors the CAM process, as defined in D.06-07-029 and subsequent decisions, to allocate its own share of the DCPD extended operations costs to LSEs in its territory.

31. Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp should be allocated DCPD costs differently than the large electrical corporations.

32. Because the statute grants no discretion as to whether SMJU customers should contribute to eligible DCPD costs, these three utilities should be assigned some share of the costs, even if they do not benefit from extended operations at DCPD.

33. In light of the historic differential treatment of SMJUs with respect to reliability and planning requirements, and in order to promote equity and fairness, it is reasonable to require Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp to each

collect \$10,000 through a non-bypassable, equal-cents-per-kWh charge and remit the collected amount to PG&E on an annual basis.

34. Ratepayers that are paying for extended operations at DCPD should, as a matter of equity, realize the financial benefits of those extended operations, and those benefits should be distributed to each utility and its customers in the same manner of DCPD extended operations costs.

35. It is reasonable, and consistent with SB 846, to allocate the RA benefits of DCPD extended operations to each large electrical corporation service area on the basis of 12-month coincident peak demand.

36. Because Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp are not required by the Commission to procure RA capacity, it would be nonsensical to allocate RA capacity to them.

37. To ensure the SMJUs receive equivalent financial benefits from the RA attributes related to extended operations at DCPD, PG&E should be instructed to distribute \$10,000 annually to each of Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp in consideration of the RA attributes that they would have received for DCPD extended operations had they been required by the Commission to procure RA capacity.

38. It is reasonable to allocate RA benefits to LSEs, including SCE and SDG&E but not including PG&E, as a load decrement using a process that mirrors the CAM process, once RA benefits have been allocated to each large electrical corporation service area on the basis of 12-month coincident peak demand.

39. PG&E should be allowed to recover, from all LSEs that are allocated DCPD RA benefits in this decision, the reasonable administrative and procurement costs associated with meeting DCPD substitute capacity obligations, including associated penalties and costs borne by non-DCPD resources.

40. SB 846 does not prohibit the Commission from allocating the GHG attributes of DCPD for the purpose of helping to construct an LSE's power content label, while Pub. Util. Code Section 454.52(g) suggests an affirmative requirement to include the GHG attributes of DCPD as a part of power content labeling, at least until January 1, 2031.

41. LSEs that pay for extended operations at DCPD should be allowed to access the benefits of extended operations, including the GHG attributes of DCPD.

42. PG&E should offer to LSEs that are paying for extended operations of DCPD the ability to use their share of DCPD's GHG-free attributes for their power content label using the interim allocation process approved in Res. E-5111.

43. It is reasonable, and consistent with SB 846, to allocate the revenue associated with the \$6.50/MWh volumetric fee under Section 712.8(f)(5) to each large electrical corporation on the basis of 12-month coincident peak demand.

44. The price of each DCPD extended operations NBC for each LSE customer class should be determined in the DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application proceeding on an annual basis, using the cost and benefit allocation methodologies adopted by this decision.

45. Where the DCPD extended operations NBC results in an overcollection in one year, the overcollection should be returned to customers as an offset to the DCPD extended operations NBC in the following year.

46. Where overcollections through the DCPD extended operations NBC are returned to customers in the following year, there should be no floor on the DCPD extended operations NBC (*i.e.*, the charge can be negative).

47. PG&E's remittance proposal should be utilized by SCE and SDG&E, except as modified per SCE's suggestion to provide monthly, as opposed to daily, reports.

48. PG&E should make changes to its Servicing Order Agreement to comply with the cost allocation, benefit allocation, ratesetting process, and rate design for the DCPD extended operations NBC adopted by this decision.

49. For bill presentment purposes, each of the large electrical corporations and the SMJUs should include the DCPD extended operations NBC in their PPP rates.

50. SCE's and PG&E's request for the establishment of a memorandum account to track the incremental costs of implementing the DCPD extended operations NBC should be granted.

51. In general, PG&E's proposed ERRR-like forecast to recover forecast DCPD extended operations costs, with a subsequent true-up to actual costs and market revenues for the prior calendar year via an expedited Tier 3 advice letter process, complies with Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(h)(1) and should be adopted.

52. PG&E should file the first DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application no later than March 29, 2024, to address forecast DCPD extended operations costs from November 3, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

53. Subsequent DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications should be filed no later than March 31 every year thereafter, and should consider the following calendar year's forecasted DCPD extended operations costs, with the last application filed in 2029.

54. As part of its annual DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications, PG&E should: (a) provide detailed projections of all costs and revenues associated with DCPD extended operations, in a manner similar to PG&E's presentation in its GRC and ERRR Forecast proceedings; (b) quantify the

impact of DCPD's extended operations on its common costs relative to the amount approved in its 2023 GRC; and (c) demonstrate it will not double count the common costs it proposes for recovery in its GRC and DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications.

55. The Diablo Canyon Extended Operations Cost Forecast proceeding should: (a) determine the allocation of costs and benefits of DCPD extended operations among the large electrical corporations' service areas; and (b) utilize a process that mirrors the CAM process to determine the price of the volumetric NBC to be charged by each of the large electrical corporations. Energy Division should utilize the CAM process to determine the allocation of RA benefits to SCE and SDG&E and among the LSEs in each large electrical corporation's territory, and should endeavor to provide all LSEs with allocations of DCPD's RA benefits for the upcoming compliance year sufficiently in advance of the October 31 year-ahead RA compliance filing deadline.

56. SCE and SDG&E should each file responses to each of PG&E's annual DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications to ensure that they are parties to the proceeding and contribute as needed.

57. PG&E should file its Tier 3 DCPD Extended Operations Costs True-Up advice letter annually until the end of DCPD extended operations, so long as over- or under-collections are within the statute's defined 115 percent threshold.

58. Because this decision directs other utilities to bill their customers for DCPD-related costs and remit those funds to PG&E, each of SCE, SDG&E, Bear Valley, Liberty, and PacifiCorp should coordinate with PG&E and the Commission's Public Advisor's Office to ensure compliance with the Rule 3.2 noticing requirements triggered by PG&E's application in the applicable utility service territory.

59. As used in Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(s)(1), the phrase “needed for Diablo Canyon” is interpreted to mean costs that are over 15 percent (which Section 712.8(h)(1) defines as the amount for which no reasonableness review would be required) above PG&E’s approved annual DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application.

60. The compensation earned under Section 712.8(f)(5) should be used to offset any costs in excess of 15 percent above PG&E’s approved annual DCPD Extended Operations Cost Forecast application, as considered in the annual true-up process adopted in this decision, before these funds can be used for the public purpose priorities in Section 712.8(s)(1).

61. PG&E should be directed to submit an annual application, no later than March 1, 2026, to report the amount of compensation earned under Section 712.8(f)(5), how it was spent, and a plan for prioritizing the uses of such compensation the next year.

62. PG&E should not be precluded from submitting an application earlier than March 1, 2026, if PG&E wishes to request an earlier approval of its plan for prioritizing the uses of funds collected under Section 712.8(f)(5). PG&E’s application may also include one or more proposals that would allow PG&E to spend the performance-based fees while ensuring sufficient funding for the true-up process, as discussed elsewhere in this decision.

63. PG&E should demonstrate, in its retrospective reporting on the use of surplus performance-based fees, how the funds were used solely for the purpose of covering DCPD extended operations costs to borne by ratepayers pursuant to Section 712.8 or critical public priorities authorized by the previous year’s Surplus Performance-Based Fees Application proceeding.

64. The critical public purpose priorities in Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(s)(1) are interpreted to mean priorities in PG&E's service territory.

65. It is reasonable to adopt a general framework and guidance on the use of any surplus performance-based fees PG&E receives for Diablo Canyon during extended operations, along with the opportunity for parties to comment on whether there should be any changes made post-2024 as part of Phase 2 of this proceeding.

66. Any outstanding motions or requests that have not been addressed in this decision or elsewhere are deemed denied.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Pacific Gas and Electric Company is directed and authorized to extend operations at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCPP) until October 31, 2029 (Unit 1) and October 31, 2030 (Unit 2), subject to the following conditions: (a) the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission continues to authorize DCPP operations, (b) the \$1.4 billion loan authorized by Senate Bill 846 is not terminated, and (c) the Commission does not make a future determination that DCPP extended operations are imprudent or unreasonable.

2. Pacific Gas and Electric Company is directed to present the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCPP) historical and forecast cost information described in this decision as part of its 2024 DCPP Extended Operations Cost Forecast application.

3. Pacific Gas and Electric Company is directed to immediately file a Tier 3 advice letter to reevaluate the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant retirement dates approved in this decision in response to any of the following events: (a) the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approves

retirement dates that are earlier than what is approved in this decision; (b) the NRC's conditions of license renewal become known; and/or (c) the \$1.4 billion loan authorized in Senate Bill 846 is terminated.

4. Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) proposed Energy Resource Recovery Account-like process to authorize forecast Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCPP) extended operations costs, with a subsequent true-up to actual costs and market revenues for the prior calendar year via an expedited Tier 3 advice letter process, is approved as modified by this decision. PG&E shall file the first of these DCPP Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications no later than March 29, 2024, and shall file subsequent annual DCPP Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications no later than March 31 beginning in 2025, and ending the year before extended operations are complete.

5. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc., Liberty Utilities, and PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power shall coordinate with each other and the Commission's Public Advisor's Office so that each utility may ensure that it complies with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure Rule 3.2 noticing requirements triggered by PG&E's Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications in the applicable utility service territory.

6. Southern California Edison Company and San Deigo Gas & Electric Company are directed to file responses to each of Pacific Gas and Electric's annual Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications.

7. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison Company (SCE), and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) are directed

to provide joint testimony proposing an allocation among themselves of the statutorily defined Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCPP) extended operations costs applicable to all load serving entities, and the revenue associated with the \$6.50 per megawatt-hour volumetric fee under Public Utilities Code Section 712.8(f)(5), in each of PG&E's DCPP Extended Operations Cost Forecast application proceedings, using the processes and methodologies described in this decision. PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E may use public load data to determine each electric corporation's share of the 12-month coincident peak demand.

8. For every year that Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant extended operations costs are collected, Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc., Liberty Utilities, and PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power, are directed to collect \$10,000 each through a non-bypassable charge and remit the collected amount to Pacific Gas and Electric Company on an annual basis.

9. Excepting Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc., Liberty Utilities, and PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power, the resource adequacy benefits (RA) associated with Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant extended operations shall be allocated among Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison Company (SCE), and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) service areas on the basis of 12-month coincident peak load in each of PG&E's annual Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Extended Operations Cost Forecast applications. Energy Division will then allocate the RA benefits among all load-serving entities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction in each utility's territory, including SCE and SDG&E, as a load decrement using a process that mirrors the Cost Allocation Mechanism process.

10. Pacific Gas and Electric Company is directed to file a Tier 2 advice letter no later than 180 days after the issuance date of this decision formalizing the process to allow load-serving entities to be allocated greenhouse gas attributes of extended operations at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, as described in this decision.

11. For every year that Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant extended operations costs are collected, Pacific Gas and Electric Company shall distribute \$10,000 annually to each of Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc., Liberty Utilities, and PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power (collectively, the small and multi-jurisdictional utilities or SMJUs), in consideration of the resource adequacy attributes that the SMJUs would have received for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCPP) extended operations, and the SMJUs shall each credit these funds to its ratepayers using the same rate element used to collect its allocated portion of the costs of extended operations at DCPP.

12. Pacific Gas and Electric Company shall file a Tier 2 advice letter no later than 90 days following the issuance date of this decision to make any necessary changes to the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Extended Operations Balancing Account as a result of this decision.

13. Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) proposed Servicing Order Agreement is adopted as modified by this decision. PG&E shall seek approval of revisions to the Servicing Order Agreement through a Tier 2 advice letter to be filed within 90 days of the issuance date of this decision.

14. Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc., Liberty Utilities, and PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power, are each authorized to establish a new non-bypassable charge (NBC) to collect Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant

extended operations costs, as described in this decision. For bill presentment purposes, each of these electrical corporations shall include the NBC in their public purpose program rates.

15. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is directed to file an annual application, as described in this decision, no later than March 1, 2026, until the retirement of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Unit 1 and Unit 2, to report the amount of compensation earned under California Public Utilities Code Section 712.8(f)(5), how it was spent, and a plan for prioritizing the uses of such compensation the next year. PG&E is not prohibited from filing an application earlier than March 1, 2026, to request an earlier approval of its plan for prioritizing the uses of funds collected under California Public Utilities Code Section 712.8(f)(5). PG&E's application may also include one or more proposals that would allow PG&E to spend the performance-based fees while ensuring sufficient funding for the true-up process, as discussed elsewhere in this decision.

16. Within 30 days of the effective date of this decision, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and San Diego Gas & Electric Company are authorized to submit Tier 2 advice letters to establish memorandum accounts to track their incremental costs of implementing the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant extended operations non-bypassable charge.

17. All motions not previously addressed are deemed denied.
18. Rulemaking 23-01-007 remains open.

This order is effective today.

Dated December 14, 2023, at San Francisco, California.

ALICE REYNOLDS
President
JOHN REYNOLDS
KAREN DOUGLAS
Commissioners

Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma,
being necessarily absent, did not
participate.

I abstain.

/s/ DARCIE L. HOUCK
Darcie L. Houck
Commissioner

From: [Jim Vandegriff](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Diablo Canyon nuclear power in our energy mix
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 10:05:26 AM

As a long time consumer of RCEA's clean energy mix, I want to express my complete opposition to the idea of adding Diablo Canyon's nuclear power to our energy mix. To be blunt, anyone who thinks we can safely store nuclear waste for the next 10,000 years is "out of their effing mind." We should not be encouraging this technology for any reason (and to boardmember Natalie Arroyo, we should not be doing this solely for monetary reasons. This is one of those instances where money takes a back seat to general human and earth creature safety.) Best wishes to all, and thanks for your service to all of us. Jim Vandegriff, Trinidad, CA

From: [Dave Ryan](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Agenda item no. 7.2 (nuclear energy) Sept. 26, 2024
Date: Thursday, September 26, 2024 1:09:29 PM

To: Members of the RCEA Board of Directors

Subject: Nuclear Power

As a local resident committed to doing everything that I can personally do to exercise responsible energy usage, I oppose any consideration of taking part in additional involvement of nuclear power. This is a massive step backwards from where we need to be going. This is such a bad option, there are no so-called cost savings that can justify consideration of this idea.

Although there is this recent narrative to classify nuclear energy as “green” or carbon neutral, that’s a completely incorrect characterization. The mess left behind for thousands of years cannot be characterized as clean, or “green”.

We’ve not yet discovered a good solution to the storage of the highly toxic and dangerous substances that are the residual effects of generating nuclear power. We cross our fingers and breathe a sigh of relief every day that goes by without a disaster, and that we’ve dodged a bullet - for now.

I'm mostly concerned with the storage aspect of the radioactive waste, while also being aware of the obvious safety concerns of a natural disaster or otherwise that could affect the integrity of a nuclear plant itself. Storage of waste was a major concern when these plants were built and has still not been resolved. The options for safe storage on earth are finite, and crazy ideas such as blasting it to space have been floated.

The best way I can describe how I see the issue of all the waste generated by these plants without a real solution of what to do with it, is like building an airplane that flies perfectly well (most of the time) but deciding to invent the landing gear while it's in flight. We've yet to devise the landing gear that won't ultimately result in a fiery crash.

When the San Onofre and Diablo Canyon nuclear power plants were the focus of controversy many decades ago, a number of 7% was kicked around as what was needed in terms of energy use reductions to eliminate the need for any nuclear power. I would venture a guess that that number is still relevant in terms of conservation efforts required to obviate the supposed necessity of this source of energy. Is that too much to ask of ourselves to reduce our usage for the benefit of our planet? Big solutions are not needed for our energy crisis. We don’t need the government or legislation to solve these issues. The efforts of each individual in small ways can collectively, and effectively solve our energy needs.

RCEA needs to continue its past practices of operating with integrity and with the health of our planet as the ultimate driver of its mission. Participating in this acceptance of nuclear energy is a bad idea in every which way. Let's don't go down that road. You can't convince me there are any financial justifications. The true cost is in the harm to our environment, our planet, and our future. Please reject the acceptance of this offer, and let's put our efforts in other places to improve our energy behavior and culture.

Dave Ryan,

Arcata, Ca.



From: [Jennifer Marlow](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: RCEA Meeting 9/26/24 Agenda Item 7.2
Date: Thursday, September 26, 2024 2:11:04 PM

Dear RCEA,

Thank for you engaging publicly on questions about whether or not RCEA should make a short-term exception to the RCEA Energy Risk Management Policy's prohibition on nuclear power procurement. I appreciate notice of the meeting.


Nuclear waste has a lasting future legacy. How will RCEA reconcile this reality with the "short-term exception" it is requesting? Is RCEA planning to ask ratepayers for their input on this question and on the broader question of whether to issue the exemption? If so, how will you factor in ratepayer preferences, if at all?

Also, does RCEA plan to advocate for increased investment in solutions for spent nuclear fuel management as a condition of any decision to amend its nuclear allocation policy? Additional resources are required to further progress on spent nuclear fuel management, protection, siting, and removal prioritization (particularly for stranded SNF sites such as the one on Humboldt Bay).

Further, does the cost of responsible, long-term spent nuclear fuel management factor into the cost savings of a nuclear allocation you've estimated thus far? If not, would RCEA consider conducting an alternative cost-benefit analysis that includes the long-term inevitable costs of responsible spent nuclear fuel management to the ratepayer, and weigh those costs against the gains of a "short-term" exemption? Such information could guide a more informed and well-balanced decision that accounts for the back-end management of waste that RCEA would also be accepting by amending its policy.

Thank you,
Jen Marlow

Jennifer Marlow (she/her/hers)
Associate Professor
Dept. of Environmental Science & Management
Cal Poly Humboldt
Arcata, CA 95521



From: [J Taylor](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Diablo Canyon reboot?
Date: Thursday, September 26, 2024 9:01:19 AM

Don't you dare
That is not clean energy, in any way, shape, or form.
You know this.
And please don't let Arroyo gaslight.

You will lose my participation if you move to nuclear
Jennifer F Taylor
Arcata

Sent from my iPhone

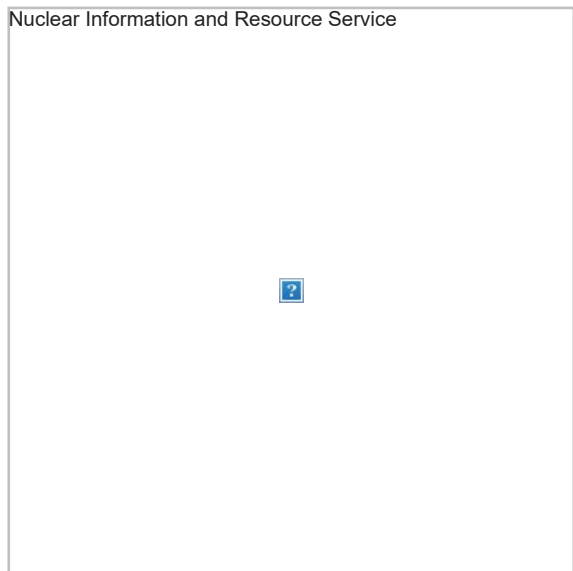
From: [J Taylor](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Fwd: Help Stop Nuclear Expansion!
Date: Thursday, September 26, 2024 9:03:29 AM

Please attend this information below
Nuclear is not the solution
Just change your goals
Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nuclear Information & Resource Service <nirs@nirs.org>
Date: September 26, 2024 at 8:58:00 AM PDT
To: Jennifer Taylor [REDACTED]
Subject: Help Stop Nuclear Expansion!
Reply-To: nirs@nirs.org



Dear Jennifer,

Nuclear power is being **falsely presented** as a solution to the climate crisis, but the truth is that it creates far more problems than the ones it *fails to solve*. Nuclear energy is not only dangerous and costly, but it also leaves behind radioactive waste that will haunt generations to come. And yet, governments and corporations across the globe are pushing for a *massive expansion* of nuclear power plants—risking our safety and the environment.

At NIRS, we know that real solutions to climate change lie in clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar—not in outdated, hazardous, and wasteful nuclear technology. That's why we are on the frontlines, fighting alongside you, to stop this dangerous nuclear expansion in the U.S. and around the world.

Here's what's at stake:

- **Billions in Taxpayer Dollars** are being funneled into pro-nuclear policies and projects, while affordable and safe renewable energy solutions are being neglected thanks to huge amounts of pro-nuclear lobbying on the Hill.
- **Communities at Risk:** The construction of nuclear reactors puts countless communities—often low-income and marginalized populations—in danger of radiation leaks, accidents, and long-term health impacts.
- **Nuclear Waste:** New reactors will produce more toxic, radioactive waste, which STILL has no safe,

long-term storage solution and threatens ecosystems, wildlife, and human health.

We cannot allow this dangerous industry to grow unchecked. That's why we are working tirelessly to expose the true costs of nuclear power and advocate for real climate solutions.

[But we need your support.](#)

Your donation will help us:

- Challenge and halt new nuclear projects across the US.
- Mobilize communities and policymakers to support renewable energy alternatives.
- Provide education and resources to inform the public about the dangers of nuclear energy and the benefits of sustainable, safe power.
- Push for stronger regulations and hold the nuclear industry accountable for its environmental and health impacts.
- Fight back against the pro-nuke lobbyists flooding politicians' time and opinions with dangerous and deceitful rhetoric about a so-called "nuclear renaissance."

Will you stand with us? Your contribution today will make a critical difference in our fight to stop nuclear expansion and champion a future powered by clean, renewable energy.

[Donate Now to help us build a nuclear-free, sustainable future for generations to come.](#)

Together, we can stop the nuclear industry's dangerous expansion and create a world where clean, renewable energy is the norm. Thank you for standing with us in this fight

DONATE HERE TO MAKE YOUR DONATION MATCH!

Join the fight and follow us on social media!



P.S. Your donation is tax-deductible and will directly support our efforts to promote Energy Democracy, a renewable energy grid future, and workers' rights in the energy sector. Please consider giving today!

In solidarity,

The NIRS Team

Diane D'Arrigo

Denise Jakobsberg

Tim Judson

Ann McCann

Nuclear Information and Resource Service

6930 Carroll Avenue Suite 340 | Takoma Park, Maryland 20912

3012706477 | nirs@nirs.org | nirs.org

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Sept. 26, 2024 Redwood Coast Energy Authority Board of Directors Meeting
Comments on agenda item 7.2

Hello, and thanks for this opportunity. This is the official statement from Redwood Alliance, Humboldt County's safe energy organization. We have been in operation since 1978, and are largely credited with instigating the permanent closure and dismantling of Humboldt Bay Nuclear Power Plant. We have also started our communities' and local governments' discussions of human-caused climate change, and have promoted the use of safe, clean renewable energy wherever practical.

We encourage RCEA's Board to say "No" to energy from Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, and to stick to its long term policy of not using nuclear-made energy.

Without exception, we have been hearing from our constituents that they oppose this move. Nuclear-made energy is neither clean nor green, and produces significant amounts of the most long-lasting and dangerous waste known to humanity. Some of that waste is being stored right here in our community, on a bluff above Humboldt Bay.

Further, we believe that any statement of "yes" to nuclear energy only furthers the goals of the nuclear industry. Those goals include building more nuclear power plants, and repowering or continuing the use of nuclear plants like Diablo Canyon that are past their design life and often sited in dangerous or otherwise inappropriate places.

We understand how attractive it is to get free, and supposedly carbon-free energy, but to us that doesn't outweigh the signal that saying "yes" will send to the public and to the nuclear industry.

The nuclear industry is in reality a government welfare-supported industry which spends millions of dollars every year in an effort to make people believe that nuclear-made energy is clean, green, and cost effective – in order to continue receiving public funding. And to too large a degree their public relations campaigns are working.

It is practically impossible for grass roots organizations like ours to counter those well-funded efforts – we only have limited access to media and government decision-makers, and we only have our voices.

So it is important for those who feel nuclear power plants are not appropriate additions to our electrical energy mix to always say "no" when the question comes up. Any amount of saying "yes" to nuclear energy only bolsters the efforts of the nuclear industry.

So again, we ask that the RCEA Board deny adding nuclear-made energy to our community's energy mix.

Thank you for listening.

Michael Welch, volunteer
Redwood Alliance

From: [Ryan Pickering](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Board Meeting Comment
Date: Thursday, September 26, 2024 11:17:42 AM

Good evening, Redwood Energy Board Members.

My name is Ryan Pickering, and I am a solar installer supporting projects in Humboldt County. I am here to express my strong support for Redwood Energy's acceptance of nuclear energy into its standard offering. This decision presents a critical opportunity to lower the cost of clean energy for all customers while positioning Redwood Energy as one of the cleanest Community Choice Aggregations (CCAs) in California.

As someone who has worked in solar energy for the past 14 years, I've been deeply committed to a clean energy future. For much of my life, I was opposed to nuclear energy. However, after gaining a comprehensive understanding of our electricity grid, I now see that nuclear energy plays a vital role in ensuring sustainability, affordability, and reliability alongside renewable sources.

Air pollution is a pressing issue, particularly for low-income and marginalized communities, who suffer from higher rates of respiratory illness. By incorporating nuclear energy into Redwood Energy's portfolio, we can significantly reduce our reliance on out-of-state, carbon-intensive electricity imports, lower emissions, and improve transparency in our energy mix—all without adding costs for ratepayers.

This decision preserves the option for customers to choose a 100% renewable plan, but for most customers, integrating nuclear energy offers the opportunity for millions in savings over the coming years.

I'd like to note that both AVA Energy and Marin Clean Energy voted just last week to accept nuclear energy into their standard offerings. Redwood Energy now has the chance to join them in leading California toward a cleaner and more affordable energy future.

I urge the Board to accept nuclear energy into Redwood Energy's standard offering, making clean energy accessible and equitable for all.

Ryan Pickering

From: [Louis Rodriguez](#)
To: [Lori Taketa](#)
Subject: FW: No nukes
Date: Friday, September 27, 2024 11:33:09 AM

Hi Lori, I'm finding many people are hearing the news that went out over KMUD before the board meeting. They played it again this morning.

Louis Rodriguez

Customer Service Coordinator | Redwood Coast Energy Authority

Office (707) 269-1700 x 306 | [REDACTED] | www.RedwoodEnergy.org

Email: lrodriguez@redwoodenergy.org

Pronouns: he/him/his

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From: Melissa Stansberry [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2024 9:36 AM
To: Redwood Coast Energy Authority <info@redwoodenergy.org>
Subject: No nukes

Dear RCEA,

Years ago energy users, PG&E customers in Humboldt County, (myself included) were told that if we pay a small bit of money monthly into your program that ultimately it would be "clean energy". I've been paying into this since day one and I don't seem to be getting much benefit from you all that I can see.

Of course PG&E want's to over charge every one to the point of running businesses out of business. Anyhow, my dream is to get off grid and to heck with all these other energy companies. I have spoken with some of your workers or what ever you call them, at fairs and public places and I ask for help to no avail.

Anyhow, now on the radio I hear that you all want to connect with the Mount Diablo nuke plant, which is supposed to be decommissioned in five years.

I am utterly floored to hear this. I think you all need to pay me back for all the money I have paid into your program. You all have betrayed me, and the whole purpose of clean energy.

We all know what happens when the nukes have leaks, are built on fault lines, etc. Honestly, how greedy is the human species?

You have betrayed all the people in this county who have believed your false promises.

Yes, we need clean energy. Nukes are completely out of the question.

Thank you

Have a good life.

Sincerely
Melissa Stansberry

From: [Richard Engel](#)
To: [Lori Taketa](#)
Subject: community member comment on nuclear allocation
Date: Monday, October 7, 2024 12:19:32 PM


Hi Lori,

Louis asked me to speak to a community member about the nuclear allocation. I called her back – Deborah Lynn Gregory Fisher of Rio Dell. She told me she is opposed to RCEA taking the nuclear allocation. I offered to pass that on to our CAC and Board and she said yes, please. She does not plan to attend the CAC meeting but may attend the Board meeting.

Can you please include her opposition in the public comment to both bodies as being received by staff via telephone?

Thanks,
Richard

Richard Engel

Director of Power Resources | Redwood Coast Energy Authority
Office (707) 269-1700 x 354 |  | www.RedwoodEnergy.org

Pronoun: he

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From: [Julie McNiel](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Please NO nuclear-produced energy. Thank You.
Date: Saturday, October 12, 2024 3:27:32 PM

Dear RCEA,

Thank you for all you are doing to procure cleaner energy sources!

I recently read the article in NCJ that there is a proposal to push for the use of energy from the Diablo Valley Nuclear Plant. Please refuse to participate. Until the nuclear industry cleans up the toxic mess on Humboldt Bay and at other sites around California, and the world, we need to resist their lure, and find other options.

Reducing energy use should be a priority. There is a lot of waste in our society. By reducing consumption, we will save money.

Ultimately, it is immoral to pass on the toxic waste left by PG & E's nuclear power plant on Humboldt Bay, to the children of today and tomorrow. By doing so, we ensure their destruction.

Thank you for your time! Be Strong. Keep the focus.

Best,

Julie McNiel,
Eureka

From: [Sequoia Semperviren](#)
To: [Lori Taketa](#)
Subject: Re: Your vote to refuse the PG&E offer of FREE nuclear generated electricity was a wholly and completely irresponsible financial action against your constituents.
Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 1:14:55 PM

Thank you Ms. Taketa for your expeditious reply.

But sadly, your decision has already been made.

Best regards,

Douglas P. Jackson, PE
Arcata

On Wed, Oct 2, 2024 at 12:47 PM Lori Taketa <LTaketa@redwoodenergy.org> wrote:

Hello Mr. Jackson,

Thank you for your email. It will be included as public comment for the September 26, 2024, RCEA Board of Directors meeting.

Best Regards,

Lori Taketa

Executive Support Specialist & Clerk of the Board | Redwood Coast Energy Authority

(707) 269-1700 [REDACTED] | www.RedwoodEnergy.org

Pronouns: she, her, hers

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From: Louis Rodriguez <lrodriguez@redwoodenergy.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 12:08 PM

To: Eileen Verbeck <EVerbeck@redwoodenergy.org>; Lori Taketa

<LTaketa@redwoodenergy.org>

Cc: Brytann Busick <bbusick@redwoodenergy.org>

Subject: FW: Your vote to refuse the PG&E offer of FREE nuclear generated electricity was a wholly and completely irresponsible financial action against your constituents.

Louis Rodriguez

Customer Service Coordinator | Redwood Coast Energy Authority

Office (707) 269-1700 x 306 | [REDACTED] | www.RedwoodEnergy.org

Email: lrodriguez@redwoodenergy.org

Pronouns: he/him/his

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From: Sequoia Semperviren [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 11:20 AM

To: Sarah Schaefer <sschaefer@cityofarcata.org>; Meredith Matthews <mmatthews@cityofarcata.org>; escafani@bluelake.ca.gov; ashull@bluelake.ca.gov;

Arroyo, Natalie <narroyo@co.humboldt.ca.us>; Wilson, Mike

<mike.wilson@co.humboldt.ca.us>; Scott Bauer <sbauer@eurekaca.gov>;

rcontreras@eurekaca.gov; Skip Jorgensen <skipj@suddenlink.net>;

leonardlundcitycouncil@gmail.com; Kris Mobley <kmobley@ci.fortuna.ca.us>;

mlosey@ci.fortuna.ca.us; Sher Woo <woo@hbmwd.com>; Michelle Fuller

<fuller@hbmwd.com>; Frank Wilson <wilsonf@cityofriodell.ca.gov>;

garnesd@cityofriodell.ca.gov; jtuttle@trinidad.ca.gov; jwest@trinidad.ca.gov; Frankie

Myers <fmymers@yuroktribe.nsn.us>; info@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov; Redwood Coast

Energy Authority <info@redwoodenergy.org>

Cc: news@lostcoastoutpost.com; melissa@northcoastjournal.com; jrichmond@times-standard.com; jolszewski@redwoodnews.tv; news@kaftv.com; Kym Kemp

<mskymkemp@gmail.com>

Subject: Your vote to refuse the PG&E offer of FREE nuclear generated electricity was a wholly and completely irresponsible financial action against your constituents.

This e-mail is being directed to the following recipients:

The entire Board for the Redwood Coast Energy Authority including:

City of Arcata

Sarah Schaefer, Chair

sschaefer@cityofarcata.org

Meredith Matthews, Alternate

MMatthews@cityofarcata.org

City of Blue Lake

Elise Scafani

escafani@bluelake.ca.gov

Angela Shull, Alternative

ashull@bluelake.ca.gov

County of Humboldt

Natalie Arroyo

narroyo@co.humboldt.ca.us

Mike Wilson, Alternate

mike.wilson@co.humboldt.ca.us

City of Eureka

Scott Bauer, Vice-Chair

sbauer@eurekaca.gov

Renee Contreras-DeLoach, Alternate

rcontreras@eurekaca.gov

City of Ferndale

Skip Jorgensen

skipj@suddenlink.net

Leonard Lund, Alternate

leonardlundcitycouncil@gmail.com

City of Fortuna

Kris Mobley

kmobley@ci.fortuna.ca.us

Mike Losey, Alternative

mlosey@ci.fortuna.ca.us

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

Sheri Woo, Chair

woo@hbmwd.com

Michelle Fuller, Alternate
Fuller@hbmwd.com

Frank Wilson
City of Rio Dell
wilsonf@cityofriodell.ca.gov

Debra Garnes, Alternate
garnesd@cityofriodell.ca.gov

City of Trinidad
Jack Tuttle
jtuttle@trinidad.ca.gov
Jack West, Alternate
jwest@trinidad.ca.gov

Yurok Tribe
Frankie Meyers
fmyers@yuroktribe.nsn.us

Blue Lake Rancheria via:
info@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov
PLEASE FORWARD E-MAIL TO:
Jason Ramos
Heidi Moore-Guynup, Alternate

Thank you.

The following members of the RCEA staff via:

info@RedwoodEnergy.org
PLEASE FORWARD E-MAIL TO:
Eileen Verbeck
Interim Executive Director

Lori Taketa
Executive Support Specialist, Board Clerk

Faith Yakovleva
Regulatory & Legislative Policy Manager

NO NAME OFFERED
Power Resources Director

Jocelyn Gwynn
Power Resources Senior Manager

Forrest Novotny

Power Resources Specialist

Joseph Sloan
Power Resources Specialists

With all of that so stated above, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Doug Jackson. I am a native of Eureka. My ancestors, Thomas and Abigail Dean, with their family, were the second white family to settle in Eureka in 1852. We married into the Wiyot Tribe. Members of my family have relatives who survived the 1860 Wiyot Massacre:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1860_Wiyot_massacre

Matilda Spear (nee James), and her cousin, Nancy Spear (nee Roberts), the grandmother and step-grandmother of Olive Loretta Dean-Davis, daughter of Winflied Dean, the first white child born in Eureka on January 20th, 1854, were two survivors.

My Great-great Grandfather Thomas Dean was 1/4 Penobscot from Maine. Thomas Dean was the first appointed supervisor for the Eureka Township from 1852 to 1855. He was responsible for the construction of roads and bridges over the sloughs to get to the settlements up Elk River and Freshwater where the majority of the population lived at the time. I refer to Thomas Dean as our first generation civil engineer in our family. My late father the second, me the third, and my son, a lieutenant in the Coast Guard serving at the Civil Engineering office in Oakland, currently the fourth, so far.

Before returning home I worked at Bechtel Petroleum on many oil and gas production and refinery projects including up in Prudhoe Bay and the New Zealand Gas to Gas Project. When design work slowed I was farmed out to Bechtel Power working on the construction of the Hope Creek Unit 1, and Limmick Unit 2 nuclear generating stations.

Enough about me.

Now about you.

What qualifications do you elected officials possess to claim the nuclear waste issue is a basis to reject PG&E's offer?

Let me attempt to educate you. First and foremost, global warming by human consumption of fossil fuels is a hoax. Plain and simple.

You don't believe me?

Then please take just one hour and thirteen minutes out of your important lives and watch the 2007 documentary that came out of the United Kingdom titled:

The Great Global Warming Swindle

It is available on YouTube. Simply click the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYhCQv5tNsQ>

And lern yerself sumpthin'.

The whole shame about "sustainable energy" is a sham. It is a ruse to enable the misnomer "green energy" to carve out market share. Plain and simple.

You folks are tools for the RCEA's activist body to steer you, elected officials of public bodies, to make irresponsible, wrongful, uninformed decisions based upon misinformation fed to you by RCEA staff. PERIOD.

I can go on about the solar sunspot cycle, the fact the sun since the end of Solar Sunspot Cycle 23 had entered a state of minimal activity where the solar maximum during Solar Sunspot Cycle 24 was just half of Cycle 23, and Solar Sunspot Cycle 25's solar maximum was just some 5/8ths the solar maximum for Cycle 23, but you already knew that, right?

The earth has been factually physically cooling ever since.

Global Warming 101 for dummies:

When the sun is hot, the earth warms, we all benefit from a warming earth.

When the sun is not hot, the earth freezes in the northern latitudes. We are literally screwed in the northern latitudes.

It is the sun, along with minor influences from Milankovich Cycles (the orbit of the earth around the sun changes over thousands of years due to the gravitational attraction of the sun and adjacent planets including Jupiter, a massive planetary body) and the precession, or wobble of the earth's axis that determine the earth's weather/climate. Not us.

I could go on about the human urbanization of this planet, where over 90% of our carbon footprint composes just three percent of the earth's land mass that composes just twenty five percent of the earth's surface area. To determine the ratio of human urbanization of the earth to the total surface area of the earth, simply multiply "0.03" by "0.25"

The product is **0.0075!**

We humans occupy just seventy-five one-hundredths of one percent of the earth's surface area where we consume at least some ninety-percent of our carbon fuels. **WE ARE INSIGNIFICANT!**

OK, enough about the hoax of global warming.

On to the issue of nuclear waste disposal.

How many of you elected officials have read the book published in 1983 titled:

"Before It's Too Late: A Scientist's Case for Nuclear Energy"??

A hardcover copy by the author, Bernard L. Cohen, PhD, a nuclear health scientist, whose profession career involved the biological effect of radiation, had zero involvement in the nuclear power industry, is referenced here on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Before-Its-Too-Late-Scientists/dp/0306414252>

A copy of this book is available in the stacks at the Cal Poly Humboldt library.

Check it out.

Read it.

Lern yerself sum facts.

Dr. Cohen mentions many issues regarding nuclear waste disposal.

How many of you are aware a fuel rod ceases to be able to conduct nuclear fission when just three percent, THREE PERCENT of the nuclear fuel is spent in the rod? I bet none.

In the mid 1980's Bechtel designed and built a nuclear waste reprocessing facility in, I believe, Savannah, South Carolina. I cannot locate at least a wikipedia website regarding this facility. I did find this wikipedia page, highly infused with opines like:

" The [reprocessed uranium](#), also known as the spent fuel material, can in principle also be re-used as fuel, but that is only economical when uranium supply is low and prices are high."

can be accessed at this web address:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_reprocessing

along with a storage facility in the Yucca Mountains in Nevada:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yucca_Mountain_nuclear_waste_repository

These facilities have been rendered inoperable not because of technology reasons, but by political interference by Congress.

Again, from before, a "spent" fuel rod become "spent" when just three percent (3%) of the fuel is "spent". The remaining ninety-seven percent can be reprocessed into new fuel rods.

The technology is available and ready to go.

But the fuel rods are stuck in safe, dry cask storage at nuclear generating stations all across the United States.

Dr. Bernard Cohen, in his book stated we had at the time in 1983, hundreds of years of available nuclear fuel to power our generating stations. The time is most likely over a millennium by now.

Disposal of the actual "waste" is actually quite simple. The Yucca Mountains facility is one alternative. Another alternative is discussed by Dr. Bernard Cohen:

Simply encapsulate the waste in a glass obsidian composition within a stainless steel canister shaped like a missile with a pointed end and fins. Release such elements above the Mariana Trench:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mariana_Trench

NASA sends their defunct satellites to a "spacecraft cemetery" in the southern Pacific Ocean:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spacecraft_cemetery

If you have a problem with this simple, effective solution to dispose of nuclear waste, you should not be an elected official representing citizens in Humboldt County including those of Native American sovereign nations.

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority is nothing more than a Marxist group hell bent on the redistribution of taxpayers' funds to "green energy" that will destroy America's energy efficiency.

The "capacity factor" for nuclear power is NINETY-TWO PERCENT!

The "capacity factor" for wind is at best 40 to 45 percent.

The "capacity factor" for solar is at best just some 25 percent.

You as members of the Board of Directors for the RCEA, a publicly funded agency, are being misinformed by the RCEA. The RCEA is not acting in the best interests of the citizens of Humboldt County, including the citizens of sovereign Native American communities.

We here in Humboldt County could be harvesting extensive supplies of natural gas and oil right off our coast. Petrolia in fact, was one of the locations in California where oil was commercially harvested. "Oil Creek" is aptly named.

As I stated above, when working at Bechtel I was involved in the structural design of pre-fabricated process modules constructed in Japan that were barged to the gas to gas facility just north of Wellington on the North Island of New Zealand. New Zealand, one of the greenest countries on earth, like Norway, have extensive oil and gas extraction facilities in the Tasman Sea. A water body with extensive seismic activity just like our North Coast of California.

We could have a thriving oil and gas industry based out of Humboldt Bay that would restore the once grand economic boom of the 1950's when Humboldt County had the highest per-capita income in California.

Enough said on the subject.

Douglas P. Jackson, PE

Arcata, California

To state for the record, my professional license as a civil engineer has no relationship whatsoever to the information, the facts, I have endeavored to offer to you above.

From: [Richard Engel](#)
To: [Lori Taketa](#)
Subject: FW: Board decision on nuclear energy
Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 4:46:30 PM

Hi Lori,

Please see a public comment below. I had a fairly long conversation with this customer about the nuclear allocation (and her high electric bill).

Richard

Richard Engel

Director of Power Resources | Redwood Coast Energy Authority
Office (707) 269-1700 x 354 | [REDACTED] | www.RedwoodEnergy.org
Pronoun: he

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From: Liz Stefanik-Webb [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 4:33 PM
To: Richard Engel <REngel@redwoodenergy.org>
Subject: Board decision on nuclear energy

Richard,

Thanks for all your feedback today about the board's decision to reject the bid to use nuclear energy. Please pass along to the board that I disagree with their decision. Their clean energy standard appears inconsistent and is applied fairly willy-nilly. I understand the concern about nuclear waste. However, every power source has some type of waste – whether you're building solar panels, windmills, or drilling for gas. Thank you for listening and passing along my sentiments.

Per our conversation, please send me the intake form so I can look further into the energy consumption that doesn't seem consistent with my usage.

Thanks again,

Liz Webb



From: [Louise Minor/Bob Fischer](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: nuclear power
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 4:12:06 PM

I am writing to protest your decision on nuclear power. Carbon dioxide is a much greater risk than nuclear power. Until we have wave and wind some compromises are necessary.

Louise Minor, PhD, MD

From: [Richard Engel](#)
To: [Lori Taketa](#)
Subject: community member comment on nuclear allocation
Date: Monday, October 7, 2024 12:19:32 PM

Hi Lori,

Louis asked me to speak to a community member about the nuclear allocation. I called her back – Deborah Lynn Gregory Fisher of Rio Dell. She told me she is opposed to RCEA taking the nuclear allocation. I offered to pass that on to our CAC and Board and she said yes, please. She does not plan to attend the CAC meeting but may attend the Board meeting.

Can you please include her opposition in the public comment to both bodies as being received by staff via telephone?

Thanks,
Richard

Richard Engel

Director of Power Resources | Redwood Coast Energy Authority

Office (707) 269-1700 x 354 [REDACTED] | www.RedwoodEnergy.org

Pronoun: he

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From: [Julie McNiel](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Please NO nuclear-produced energy. Thank You.
Date: Saturday, October 12, 2024 3:27:32 PM

Dear RCEA,

Thank you for all you are doing to procure cleaner energy sources!

I recently read the article in NCJ that there is a proposal to push for the use of energy from the Diablo Valley Nuclear Plant. Please refuse to participate. Until the nuclear industry cleans up the toxic mess on Humboldt Bay and at other sites around California, and the world, we need to resist their lure, and find other options.

Reducing energy use should be a priority. There is a lot of waste in our society. By reducing consumption, we will save money.

Ultimately, it is immoral to pass on the toxic waste left by PG & E's nuclear power plant on Humboldt Bay, to the children of today and tomorrow. By doing so, we ensure their destruction.

Thank you for your time! Be Strong. Keep the focus.

Best,

Julie McNiel,
Eureka

From: [sheri woo](#)
To: [Lee Dedini](#); [Lori Taketa](#)
Cc: [Sher Woo](#)
Subject: Re: RCEA Board of Directors meeting October 24
Date: Sunday, October 20, 2024 9:42:48 PM

Thank you for your input, Lee. We will include this in our public comment for the next meeting.

Sheri

On Sun, Oct 20, 2024, 9:19 PM Lee Dedini <dedinilee@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Sheri,

The RCEA Board of Directors should approve a motion to reconsider the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power plant, allocation. There would be no additional cost if RCEA opened its portfolio to the power. A large vocal minority of people believe that abundant, low-carbon nuclear power is necessary to curb catastrophic climate change.

Then the Board should provide guidance on use of the nuclear allocation for cost savings or greenhouse gas reduction.

Thank you, Lee Dedini, Bayside

From: [Gary Falxa](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Lori Taketa](#)
Subject: Diablo Canyon nuclear power decision
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 8:39:05 AM

Dear RCEA Board and staff,

I am an RCEA customer, and know that you will be revisiting whether to accept, at no added cost, power from the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. I ask you to consider an exemption to the RCEA policy of not using nuclear power to take advantage of this existing power source.that we are already paying for via subsidies to PG&E.

Here is my reasoning: Nuclear power comes with the serious issue of toxic, long-lasting waste, and risk of catastrophic meltdown. For most of my life I opposed nuclear power for these reasons, so I understand the RCEA's no-nuke policy. However, given the ongoing and increasing impacts of human-caused climate change, I think we may need to reconsider whether nuclear power might play a short-term role (time scale of decades) in weaning ourselves off fossil fuels as an energy source. In the long-term, we must end our dependence on fossil fuels and transition to cleaner energy sources (and, IMO, reduce our energy consumption, per capita and as a whole). And let's not fool ourselves, all energy sources have impacts, with energy conservation (reducing our consumption) being the only true "clean" energy option.

Also, I believe this would be fiscally responsible, given the RCEA's forecast of a budget shortfall. If RCEA accepts this no-added-cost energy, the savings could be used to offset the budget shortfall.

Thank you.
...gary

Gary Falxa
Eureka, CA

From: [Wendy Ring](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public comment on agenda item 6.2
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 12:08:20 PM

The Diablo Canyon nuclear plant is currently operating under a 5 year extension of its existing license granted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and a state law authorizing continued operation until 2030, but PGE has applied to the NRC for a 20 year license renewal. Given the rate at which clean energy and storage prices are falling and capacity is expanding there is no need to gamble on an aged nuclear plant in a seismically active area for another 20 years.

This nuclear energy may look "free", but accepting it supports PGE's intentions to keep the plant generating shareholder profits at the expense of ratepayers far beyond any justifiable social need. At best, this misdirects billions of dollars from clean energy, climate adaptation, and other essential needs. At worst, it could result in a nuclear disaster. A recent updated [evaluation of the risk of seismic damage to the plant's nuclear core](#) by Dr Peter Bird, a UCLA geophysicist, found the risk to be 35 times higher than what PGE has claimed.

Abandoning its principled stance on nuclear energy is not the right way for RCEA to address its financial problems. Other CCAs in California are dealing with the same PCIA charges, energy market, and supply chain issues as RCEA but, as far as I can tell, are not in as bad a financial position. This is not the first time that RCEA has had to compromise its portfolio goals for financial reasons. The RCEA board has fiduciary responsibility for an agency with a budget larger than any jurisdiction in the county except for the county itself. When something goes wrong and the stakes are that high, the appropriate response is to search for preventable causes and missed opportunities so the problem won't be repeated. If the board hasn't done so, it should invest in an outside expert evaluation of the agency's management, planning, and procurement practices as they compare to other CCAs and take action to address any issues that are identified. This is not the same as the fiscal audit which RCEA already undergoes. It may not turn up any avenues for improvement but it is the responsible thing to do.

Thanks,

Wendy Ring

From: [Dave Ryan](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Agenda item no. 6.2- consideration of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant nuclear allocation
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2024 10:17:34 AM

October 24, 2024

To: Members of the RCEA Board

Subject: Agenda item no. 6.2- consideration of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant nuclear allocation

Dear Board members:

There is no need to consider a motion to accept a Diablo Canyon Power Plant nuclear allocation. If you reopen this issue, I urge you to reject the allocation. RCEA needs to continue its past practices of operating with integrity and with the health of our planet as the ultimate driver of its energy mission. Participating in this acceptance of nuclear energy would be at a huge cost to our environment, our planet, and our future. There are no justifiable short-term financial benefits. Do not make an exception to your RCEA Energy Risk Management Policy's prohibition on nuclear power procurement

This will certainly be a principled decision, much like one you would make concerning the health of your child. You would exercise the utmost of integrity and base your decisions on their health over financial considerations.

Others have pointed out the specific dangers of nuclear power and why it is not "clean energy". I would like to emphasize the facts surrounding the extreme permanent toxicity of the stored nuclear waste and the catastrophic effects that a disaster would result in. The percentages surrounding the chance of a disaster are unknown, but it's a fact that the nature of a storage leak or damage to the reactor itself would be an extreme disaster. It's simply not worth the gamble. Regardless of if the plant continues to operate or not based on your decisions, participation in it is essentially support for the nuclear energy industry. RCEA should not throw its support behind the nuclear energy industry.

Act with integrity and reject the allocation.

Sincerely,

Dave Ryan,
Arcata, Ca.



From: [Taylor W](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Take the Nuclear Energy
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2024 8:28:46 AM

Hi,

I am a resident of Eureka and have been an RCEA customer for years. Please take take the free nuclear energy. We are facing a climate crisis that will kill millions if not billions of people and we need to be doing EVERYTHING we can do reduce carbon emissions or there won't even be a future to be concerned about nuclear waste in.

Thank you,
Taylor Watson

From: [steve luttig](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Nuclear Allocation
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2024 4:07:00 PM

Attn: RCEA Board Members

RE: Agenda Item 6.2 [old CCE business]

Comment: Please direct staff to TAKE the nuclear allocation for cost savings / greenhouse reduction measures.

Thank you,

Sincerely Curtis Clark / rcea customer.

From: [Timothy Smyth](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Comment on Item 6.2
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2024 3:14:47 PM
Attachments: RCEA Support the Inclusion of Diablo - Letter.docx

All please find the attached comments from the following organizations.

Thank You

Tim Smyth

Dear Redwood Coast Energy Authority Board members,

We are writing as clean energy advocates to urge you to support the inclusion of Diablo Canyon's GHG-free electricity in your planning procurement portfolio and power content label. The customers of Redwood Coast Energy have an opportunity for lower electricity bills and higher GHG-free electricity in their service plans if this nuclear generation allocation is accepted. The CCA's mission is to transition to a cleaner, more efficient energy supply, and accepting Diablo Canyon's low-carbon energy supports this goal and will allow for more clean energy to be developed.

Opposition to this decision has repeatedly referenced the SB100 policy, stating that it calls for 100% renewables, disqualifying nuclear energy - but this is incorrect. The bill text [states](#) that "it is the policy of the state that eligible renewable energy resources AND zero-carbon resources supply 100% of retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers and 100% of electricity procured to serve all state agencies by December 31, 2045." And according to bill [SB846](#) nuclear energy is a zero-carbon electricity source that "currently supplies approximately 17 percent of California's zero-carbon electricity supply and 8.6 percent of California's total electricity supply."

In a state recovering from an energy crisis, plagued with the [second-highest](#) electricity prices in the nation, and [not on track](#) to meet its climate mandates, we have the duty to deliver clean affordable energy.

RCEA commits itself under its [Joint Powers Formation Agreement](#) to pursuing a lower total amount of greenhouse gas emissions for its power portfolio than comparable service from PG&E, calling for greater zero-carbon resources than PG&E in its CPUC-filed implementation plan. Though, ironically, by not accepting nuclear in its portfolio, RCEA has fallen behind PG&E in this pursuit. In fact this year, PG&E announced in its [10-K filing](#) with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission that it has reached a zero carbon power content label for 2023.

With the inclusion of electricity procurement from Diablo Canyon, RCEA can maintain a competitive advantage of price and clean energy portfolio; without it, your portfolio's fossil fuel portion will be higher.

Despite statements claiming low support for Diablo Canyon and nuclear energy, [recent polling](#) suggests otherwise, finding that:

- Support for Diablo Canyon is highest in the Bay Area at **66%**
- Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ citizens support the continued operation and in SLO County **76%** support
- California voters have become more comfortable with nuclear energy over time, with solid majorities saying they approve of the use of nuclear energy to generate electricity and that its benefits outweigh its risks.

The local YTT Northern Chumash tribe, whose land the plant lies on, is also [supportive](#) of the continued operation of Diablo Canyon. But your acceptance of this power does not necessarily mean you support the extension of Diablo but demonstrates an understanding that for the next five years, communities can benefit from its clean and affordable electricity.

As California does its part alongside the United States and the rest of the world to continue the energy transition, there is consensus among the top energy and climate organizations that nuclear does and will continue to play a major role in decarbonization.

- In the latest [IPCC WG3 Climate Report](#), it states that a doubling of nuclear capacity is needed by 2050 to limit the warming to 1.5 degrees.
- According to the [UN Economic Commission for Europe](#), “nuclear energy is demonstrably a source of low carbon energy and a vital tool for successfully helping the world mitigate the effects of climate change.”
- In a report by the [International Atomic Energy Agency](#), they found that nuclear energy has made significant contributions to carbon avoidance in the past, and in order “to support the Paris Agreement 2°C goal, nuclear capacity must more than double the current level worldwide.”
- In a summary by the [World Economic Forum](#), they conclude, “Nuclear technology could sustain the deployment of renewables, provide a stable and secure baseload, and allow the planet to meet the necessary carbon-free targets set by the Paris Agreement.”
- In 2021, the European Commission’s research center, the JRC, conducted a report and found [no scientific evidence](#) that nuclear power harms people and nature more than other energy sources - including wind and solar power.

We do acknowledge the unique circumstances regarding the former Humboldt Bay Nuclear Power Plant in the RCEA community and want to re-iterate our support and commitment to obtain a spent fuel management solution at the Federal level as mandated by Federal law.

On October 24th, RCEA can secure savings benefits and accelerate its carbon-free generation and emissions reductions to its customers by accepting the carbon-free allocation from nuclear generation.

Sincerely,



From: [Kathleen Marshall](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Nuclear Energy as Clean (?) Energy
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2024 1:41:37 PM

Dear RCEA Board Members,

I can't believe this issue is coming around one month after I thought the matter had been laid to rest for at least another year!

As I am unable to attend today's meeting because I have to work (shame on you for scheduling meetings during work hours), I will have to make due with this email.

Once again I must emphasize that nuclear energy is neither clean nor green. After all the trouble that this community went through to decommission our own nuclear power plant, I must again point out that:

1. Diablo Canyon is also on an earthquake fault line, which does, in earthquake prone California, leave it as vulnerable as the Eureka plant was, to a natural disaster that would destroy California as we know it.
2. This community, as a whole, is one that overwhelmingly values environmental preservation and conservation, something that is encoded in RCEA's own values-based origins.
3. Nuclear Power is neither clean, nor green. It is dirty; the type of dirty that goes on, and on, and on as the nuclear half-life of plutonium, uranium, etc goes on for hundreds of decades. Not to mention mining practices for the raw materials is highly polluting and dangerous.
4. You are talking about going against this community's, and theoretically your own, values for a mere \$500,000 which is a drop in the bucket of your/our \$9.5 million dollar debt.
5. I was told by a staff member at the last meeting that in order to raise that \$500,000 from rate increases, those rate increases would amount to a measly \$8.00/year/customer. To put that into perspective, it is equivalent of one less latte plus goodie per year per rate payer.
6. I understand that many energy authorities across California are buying into the Nuclear-Power-is-Green bullshit, but that is no reason to follow suit. What are we, lemmings?

Sincerely,
Kathleen Marshall, BSRN

[REDACTED]
Arcata, CA 95521
[REDACTED]

I implore you to please, please, please continue to say NO TO NUCLEAR POWER.

From: [craig.knox](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Nuclear Electrical Generation is a mistake
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 3:58:37 PM

Dear RCEA:

Please reconsider your decision to purchase electricity generated from Atomic Energy.

Nuclear power plants generates around 500 lbs of high level waste each year. This material remains destructive to life for over 250,000 years. That means no human being can go near this waste for that length of time.

Diablo Canyon, for instance, puts this high level waste in "swimming pools" on the facility's grounds. Cold water must constantly circulate throughout the pool (for 250,000 years) in order to prevent this material from a spontaneous melt down.

Regards,
Craig Knox
Arcata