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March 4, 1981

S.L.O. MAR 9 1981

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington D. C. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

We urge you to deal prudently with issues you face regarding the future of nuclear power in California.

As you know, there are two nuclear facilities -- Diablo Canyon and San Onofre -- awaiting final review before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

We believe that safety considerations should be the critical factor in deciding whether or not to operate the facilities. As the California Public Utilities Commission stated recently (in a decision denying a reopening of Diablo Canyon economic issues):

"We do not believe that the economic considerations under our purview should supersede the safety issues. To the contrary, if the plants present serious risk to public health and safety, they should not be operated."

The safety issues at Diablo Canyon and San Onofre have not been resolved. We believe that any tampering with the normal regulatory process in these cases would be an abdication of governmental responsibility to insure public health and safety.

At Diablo Canyon the NRC is still reviewing seismic safety and evacuation planning. With the United States Geological Survey stating that a magnitude 7.5 earthquake is possible in the vicinity of the plant, local governments and local citizens are understandably concerned.

The city councils in San Luis Obispo, Pismo Beach and Morro Bay have all urged the NRC to look more carefully at the safety

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considerations and not license Diablo Canyon until the safety questions are resolved. Eighty physicians in San Luis Obispo County have stated a similar position.

There is much concern in California and elsewhere about reducing foreign oil imports. We heartily agree that this is a critical goal. Yet in California, only fifteen percent of the oil consumed is used to produce electricity. Since much of this oil is residual product that cannot be used elsewhere, the impact on oil imports of bringing the nuclear facilities on line is much less than it may seem.

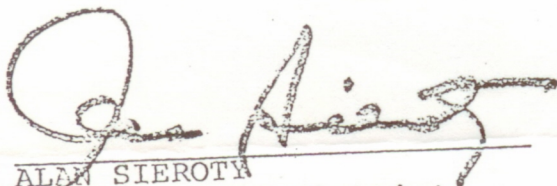
By comparison, the transportation sector uses 62 percent of the petroleum in the state. Over the last two years modest conservation efforts in the transportation sector have resulted in savings equivalent to more energy than would be produced by Diablo Canyon. Much greater savings are possible and we are actively pursuing these areas.

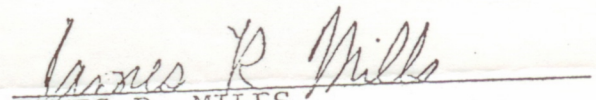
As to the need for the facilities, the best estimates are clear that there is not a critical need for new nuclear plants at this time. Electricity use in California is remaining nearly constant.


There is a serious and legitimate concern about nuclear power in California. In order to meet the needs of our citizens, we strongly urge you to deal with the issue carefully and cautiously. As an important first step, we urge you to appoint a chairman to the NRC who will carefully consider all the issues surrounding nuclear facility siting in the decision-making process.


Thank you indeed for your consideration.

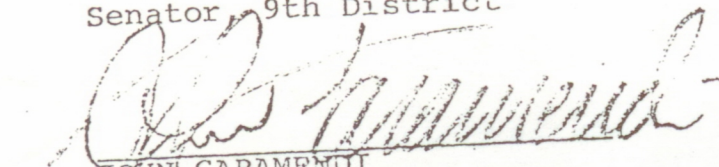
Sincerely,

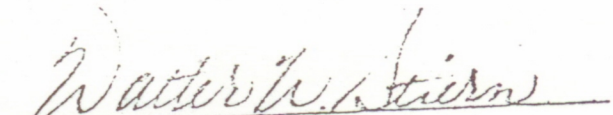

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