November 1, 2011

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
CPUC Public Advisor
505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2103
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Public Advisor:

The disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan has generated world-wide concern regarding the safety of nuclear power. As you are aware, the City of San Clemente, home to 63,522 is located entirely within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). The City Council, and our broader community have learned a great deal about nuclear power over the past several months as SONGS has become a focal point for concerns about the safety of nuclear power.

On behalf of the citizens of San Clemente and my elected colleagues, I respectfully request your support for the approval and quick implementation of Southern California Edison’s (SCE’s) proposed regional seismic study. While we are aware that the best possible science of the era was used during the licensing process, much has been learned and new technologies have been developed since SONGS was licensed. It is our understanding that while some of these technologies have been consistently applied by our neighbors to the north, our region is not as well studied.

Should SCE pursue relicensing, this new information may show that SONGS is safe to operate or it may support the conclusion that the plant does not meet modern standards and that it should be decommissioned at the end of its current license period. Regardless, all pertinent information should be available and taken into account.

Additionally, the proposed study will benefit the entire region by providing new information to be used by local governments to conduct hazard analysis, emergency planning, and hazard mitigation.

Sincerely,

Lori Donchak
Mayor