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November 1, 2011

The Honorable Gregory Jaczko
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

The disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan has generated world-wide concern regarding the safety of nuclear power. 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.

The Council takes our responsibility to represent our citizens with utmost seriousness, and have endeavored to educate ourselves and our community. We listened to residents strongly opposed to nuclear power and those who strongly support it. We have held special council meetings to hear presentations and have our questions answered by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), SONGS, and anti-nuclear power experts. As the final step in this process, on October 18, 2011, the City Council formally considered multiple additional steps the Council could take regarding nuclear power, including supporting a resolution from a community group calling for the immediate shut-down of SONGS.

After careful and informed deliberation, on behalf of the citizens of the City of San Clemente, we would like to specifically express our support for two recent requests from our Senators on relicensing and the findings and recommendations of the Near-term Task Force. We are also making a direct request of the NRC about spent fuel storage.

We are fortunate that our State's U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein (D-California) are informed and active on this topic. First, we would like to express support for Senator Feinstein's April 20, 2011 letter to you requesting that the NRC examine "seismic and tsunami hazards, operational issues, plant security, emergency preparedness, spent fuel storage options and other elements of a nuclear power plant's "design basis" within the scope of the relicensing process". While we are aware that SONGS operates safely, and that the NRC used best possible science of that era during the licensing process, much has been learned and

new technologies have been developed since SONGS was licensed. Should Southern California Edison (SCE) pursue relicensing, this new information may show that SONGS is safe to operate or it may cause the NRC and SCE to reach 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 taken into account.

Second, both Senators have called on the NRC to quickly adopt the "Near-term Task Force Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century". We support this effort, and are aware that the NRC is working rapidly towards this goal, as demonstrated by the Commission's approval on October 18, 2011, of the staff's recommendations to implement the short and medium term items from the Near-Term Task Force and the Commission's statement from its October 18, 2011, Memorandum that the "NRC should strive to complete and implement the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident within five years – by 2016." We support the Senators' position that these recommendations carry special urgency and must be executed without delay.

Finally, the NRC should require utilities to move spent fuel rods to dry cask storage as soon as those rods can be safely moved. The storage of spent fuel rods on site at SONGS continues to be of concern to the Council and is an area we believe that the NRC can take more immediate action. Our understanding is that the spent fuel rods stored in dry cask storage at Fukushima Daiichi were unaffected by the tsunami. Although movement of spent fuel away from the community will require many federal agencies to reach agreement, we believe the movement to dry cask storage is an area of regulation within the authority of the NRC.

On behalf of the citizens of San Clemente and my elected colleagues, I respectfully request that your agency implement the above items. As representatives of the people we serve, it is our Council's duty to be informed and to act upon our knowledge. Where we cannot exercise authority, we will advocate for the public's best interest. We greatly appreciate the assistance the NRC has provided to us during this process, and the role of the NRC as the government agency which ensures that commercial nuclear power plants operate safely.

Sincerely,



Lori Donchak
Mayor

cc: City Councilmembers