November 3, 2011

Mayor Sam Allevato
City of San Juan Capistrano
32400 Paseo Adelanto
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Dear Mayor Allevato:

The City Council of San Clemente respectfully requests your support for the actions we have taken in regard to San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). 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 a supporting resolution from a community group calling for the immediate shut-down of SONGS.

We ask for your support in the actions we have taken on behalf of our citizens regarding spent fuel. Nothing has been clearer than that policy regarding nuclear power plants and the radioactive waste they produce (commonly referred to as spent fuel) is set at the Federal Level. We have written to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, and we ask that you also write letters of support.

We have written to the NRC requesting that it require utilities to move spend fuel rods to dry cask storage as soon as those rods can be safely moved. The storage of spent fuel rods onsite 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.

We have also asked Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Darrell Issa to demand the establishment of a permanent, safe, disposal site for spent nuclear fuel and the establishment of temporary sites, if necessary, to move spent fuel away from our community and to insist that a permanent off-site storage solution for spent fuel be identified before relicensing is granted to SONGS.

We respectfully request your support for the actions the City Council has taken.

Sincerely,

Lori Donchak
Mayor

cc: City Councilmembers