IN THE MATTER OF URGING THE UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION TO CONDUCT AN
ADJUDICATORY LICENSE AMENDMENT HEARING
RESOLUTION
PROCESS ON SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON’S
PROPOSAL TO RESTART SAN ONOFRE’S DEFECTIVE
UNIT 2 NUCLEAR REACTOR

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (Board) of the San Diego Unified School District believes restarting the defective Unit 2 nuclear reactor at San Onofre will have profound impacts on our children in San Diego Unified and the surrounding communities in the event of a nuclear accident regarding radiation contamination of air, water and food, evacuation plans, and long term viability of life in Southern California; and

WHEREAS, Southern California Edison’s (Edison) four replacement steam generators manufactured by Mitsubishi for the two nuclear reactors at their San Onofre site were shut down after one of their tubes failed and released radiation in January 2012, after less than two years of operation, while the original equipment operated for 28 years; and

WHEREAS, Edison informed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that the replacement steam generators would be “like for like” or “in kind,” that is, fabricated to the same design specifications as the original San Onofre Combustion Engineering steam generators, but in fact, the replacement generators have significant design changes from the original steam generators; and

WHEREAS, the NRC has reported that design flaws and erroneous model calculations have led to the malfunction of the new steam generators; and

WHEREAS, the replacement steam generators in San Onofre Unit 2 and Unit 3 are identical and are both showing excessive, early tube wear that the NRC confirms poses a serious safety problem; and

WHEREAS, a thorough NRC licensing amendment process would have provided greater opportunity to bring attention to the replacement steam generator design problems, thus increasing the likelihood of preventing use of the faulty designs and the ultimate shutdown of the San Onofre nuclear facility; and

WHEREAS, failing again now to subject the replacement steam generators at San Onofre to the rigorous and transparent review of the NRC licensing amendment process risks repeating dangerous errors; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of regulators inadequately ensuring nuclear reactor safety are potentially severe; and

WHEREAS, in a decision filed on December 15, 2005, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) allocated $680 million dollars to be paid by ratepayers for four replacement steam generators manufactured by Mitsubishi at Southern California Edison’s (Edison) San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station ($569 million for replacement steam generator installation, and $111 million for removal and disposal of the original steam generators), with a reasonableness review required for expenses beyond this amount and a maximum ratepayer collection cap of $782 million; and
WHEREAS, ratepayers are at risk of paying not only for the crippled replacement steam generators, but also potentially for costs associated with the outage and with the equipment repair or replacement; and

WHEREAS, the CPUC Division of Ratepayer Advocates reports that customers of Edison and 20% owner, San Diego Gas & Electric, are paying about $54 million a month for operating and maintenance costs of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station while the facility is not producing any power, and recommends removing the San Onofre facility from rates to prevent this from continuing; and

WHEREAS, an Order Instituting Investigation (OII) was issued by the CPUC on November 1, 2012, to determine, in a transparent, public process, which parties are responsible for paying the costs associated with the faulty replacement generators, including the costs incurred during the shutdown (for example, replacement power, inspections, monitoring) and the cost of any repairs; and

WHEREAS, it is therefore critical to create and implement strong contingency plans for alternative power sources to San Onofre, especially those deriving from conservation, energy efficiency and renewable resources, per the State of California’s Loading Order, state mandated targets, and Governor Brown’s Clean Energy Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District urges the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to require that Edison undergo a public, transparent license amendment hearing regarding the replacement steam generators, before the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station is allowed to restart, and that the costs for doing so and the responsibility for paying said costs must also be known before restart is allowed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District strongly supports the California Public Utilities Commission in: 1) expeditiously completing its Investigation regarding the costs and reliability of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, and 2) comparing the reliability and costs of the San Onofre facility to a future based on alternatives, including efficiency, load management, demand response, renewable energy, and energy storage.

Adopted and approved by the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District at the regular meeting held on the 22nd day of January 2013.

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President       Vice President

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Member        Member

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Member