



ALLIANCE FOR NUCLEAR RESPONSIBILITY

PO Box 1328  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
(805) 704-1810 (858) 337-2703  
[www.a4nr.org](http://www.a4nr.org)

For Immediate Release:

Contact: David Weisman (805) 704-1810  
[David@a4nr.org](mailto:David@a4nr.org)

September 14, 2015

### **AB 361 heads to Governor's desk: emergency response funding and seismic oversight extended for Diablo Canyon nuclear plant**

AB 361 (Achadjian, R-San Luis Obispo), sponsored by the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility (A4NR) passed its final vote on the Assembly floor in Sacramento last Friday evening with 68 “Ayes” and no opposition. The legislation will maintain the ratepayer funding mechanism for the San Luis County Office of Emergency Services—vital to insuring safety at Diablo in the event of an incident—through the remaining operating licenses (until 2025). Without legislation, the funding would have expired in 2019, while the plant was still working. Similarly, the bill also continues the funding and mandate for the Independent Peer Review Panel (IPRP) which was established by the California Public Utilities Commission to oversee and review the state and federal seismic hazard studies now underway for the Diablo facility. Without the new language, the IPRP would have sunset in November 2105.

San Luis Obispo’s emergency services budget was 90 percent dependent on PG&E, and the secure funding now means they can concentrate exclusively on preparedness and not worry about possible elimination. Likewise, the IPRP has a number of technical questions and critiques regarding PG&E’s seismic conclusions that remain unresolved. This legislation now gives them the time they will need to see their review through to completion, as well as their review of PG&E’s more recent studies submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) which may require review through 2018.

The final version of AB 361 combined elements of an earlier bill, SB 657 (Monning, D-Santa Cruz), which dealt with the extension of the IPRP. AB 361 was co-authored by Senator Monning and Senator Jackson (D-Santa Barbara).

A4NR’s Executive Director Rochelle Becker is very pleased with the outcome. “That this bill moved through the legislature in a bipartisan fashion with no opposition demonstrates our state’s concerns with the ongoing costs and potential reliability of our one remaining nuclear generator. We are grateful to the author and his colleagues for their recognition that *our state* needs to have its eyes on this aging reactor, particularly since the federal NRC’s lax oversight contributed to the demise of the San Onofre reactors, and the ensuing ratepayer debacle.”

Read the bill language here: <http://a4nr.org/?p=3546>

\* \* \* \*