September 11, 2017  Media and Public Advisory

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to hold Public Participation Hearing on Joint Proposal to Retire Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in San Luis Obispo

When: Thursday September 14, 2017 at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM—Public Welcomed
Where: The Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa Street, San Luis Obispo, California.

While there is much to gain by setting a national precedent for an orderly, fair and smooth transition for the community that has hosted this facility, its workers and the ratepayers this precedent will not happen without public input. As the Joint Proposal to retire Diablo Canyon moves forward at the CPUC, it is important for the public to reinforce that:

- A confident and secure work force for the plant’s remaining years of operation, and
- A safe and sustainable community for workers and residents surrounding the plant

These are vital for continued safe, reasonable and reliable operation. There is no doubt that the loss of county revenue from the plant shutdown will impact the services and infrastructure of the community. But Diablo does not exist in a vacuum:

- Supporting excellent local schools for the students and children of the employees incentivizes those necessary and skilled veteran workers to remain.

- Workers need well-maintained roads to drive on; the same roads—and county services—residents need to depend upon in the unlikely event of an emergency evacuation, because the risk to San Luis Obispo remains.

- Diablo is a risk that San Luis Obispo has and will continue to disproportionately shoulder until all the nuclear waste is eventually removed. It is a potentially catastrophic risk—however remote—that PG&E has itself categorized as possibly threatening the entire financial viability of the whole company. Resources are vital to retaining and supporting a diligent workforce needed to mitigate those risks.

The CPUC should consider that, while all PG&E ratepayers throughout its vast service territory benefit from the energy generated at Diablo, the populations living in close proximity to the plant have and will bear an extraordinarily disproportionate risk to public safety and property damage posed by the presence of a nuclear plant. The cost to maintain their essential public services pales in comparison to the benefits provided and the risks borne.