



STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Suzy Watkins, Harbor Director

DATE: September 19, 2023

SUBJECT: Diablo Canyon Power Plant Decommissioning Draft Environmental Impact Report

Recommendation / Proposed Motion

- **Recommendation:** Provide Direction to staff on the District's comments on the draft EIR for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant decommissioning project.

Policy Implications

Port San Luis Harbor District – Port Master Plan

Port San Luis Harbor District Handbook, Policy No. 6020 Environmental Review Guidelines

Fiscal Implications / Budget Status

There is no specific budget line item to hire a consultant for any Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) land use or environmental impact review or study. Staff can dedicate limited time to this project.

Alternatives Considered

- Staff prepare and submit written comments based on past Commission action on the DCPP decommissioning project (Project).
- Do nothing on the draft EIR for the DCPP Project.

Background

The District has participated, to some degree, in the DCPP decommissioning project. District involvement has primarily been focused on potential new uses of land/facilities within the DCPP. Your Board reviewed and approved the District's interest in land/facilities within the DCPP at the August 18, and August 28, 2018 meetings. The District's interest in land/facilities has been provided to the DCPP decommissioning panel at public meetings and in written communication. In December 2021, the District reiterated interest in land/facilities within the DCPP and identified areas of concern in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

During the preparation of the draft EIR, Senate Bill (SB) 846 was adopted in September 2022. SB 846 provided a path for DCPP to seek relicensing to address the energy needs of the state. However, relicensing is not a certainty, and decommissioning will ultimately be necessary, even

if operations are extended. DCPD is continuing to plan for eventual decommissioning, and the draft EIR is an important step in that process.

Discussion

The decommissioning of DCPD is an enormous project with many procedural steps. The item under discussion at today's meeting is consideration of any District comments regarding the draft EIR of the decommissioning project. The project is broadly defined as the decommissioning of the DCPD, which will occur in two phases including:

Phase 1: (2024 – 2031) Pre-planning and decommissioning activities.

Phase 2 (2032 - 2039) Completion of soil removal, final status surveys, and final site restoration.

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, San Luis Obispo County as the lead agency for the project is required to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the application to decommission the DCPD, evaluate alternatives to the proposed plan, and specify measures to mitigate environmental impacts. The draft EIR provides detailed information about the effects associated with the project and is released for comment by the public and agencies prior to being finalized.

The draft EIR was released for review and comment on July 28, 2024. Written comments on the draft EIR are due by September 25, 2023.

The EIR also summarizes future reuse of the DCPD lands but does not evaluate the detailed impacts of potential use. The potential uses may inform the proposed project but are outside the scope of Phase 1 and Phase 2. This reuse of PG&E owned land/facilities has been the District's focus. Land reuse has a date of 2040 and beyond. There has been no approved reuse of the land at this point; thus, the EIR only reviews and summarizes potential uses. The County is developing reuse ideas and has specified the EIR may compare future uses of the land around the DCPD. These uses include everything from a university campus, an offshore wind port, and day use recreation. There likely will be a mix of many uses on the available land around the DCPD.

The comments on the draft EIR should be substantive as well as specific to the project and the environmental impacts. A generalized list of concerns not related to the specific project does not require a specific response from the lead agency.

Attachments:

1. Notice of Availability Draft EIR DCPD Decommissioning Project
2. District comments submitted in response to DCPD NOP