

# **No Bailout for Diablo Canyon Power Plant Letter to the Editor / Op-Ed Guide**

## **Background**

We need all hands on deck to make sure that PG&E, Governor Newsom, and the Department of Energy DO NOT succumb to pressure to apply for subsidies to keep Diablo Canyon open.

The Department of Energy has launched a new program, called the Civil Nuclear Credit, to provide billions of dollars in subsidies and support for uneconomical nuclear reactors that are at risk of closure due to being unprofitable. Governor Newsom is on record pushing for Diablo Canyon to apply for these subsidies, undermining the just transition closure agreement at the power plant.

Awarding this subsidy to Diablo Canyon and extending the life of this dirty, unsafe, and aging nuclear power plant would be a massive failure for California's climate goals, ratepayers, and communities. The suggestion to extend the operational life of the Diablo Canyon with a bailout program these reactors may not even qualify for is an outrage and a betrayal to those of us seeking a clean and safe energy future.

Federal funds would be better spent invested in clean and safe energy resources, conservation, and efficiency.

**Say NO to Nuclear Bailouts and YES to the Just Transition at Diablo Canyon.**

## **Why We're Writing**

There are many ways to take action and stand up for a just transition at Diablo Canyon. Writing a letter to the editor (LTE) or op-ed to your local paper is one of the most important advocacy tools. Letters to the editor are very effective for calling attention to the issues that matter to you and your community, swaying public opinion, and catching the eye of your local, state, and even federal leaders. This guide will help you craft an impactful letter and give you the background information and resources you need to be a persuasive advocate.

**You can also send a letter to Governor Newsom (California residents only) and the Secretary of Energy [here](#).**

## Tips for Writing

**Make one topic your focus.** Don't try to cover everything in your LTE.

**Tell your story and use your voice.** Make your letter personal to your experiences and beliefs. Draw on your identity, knowledge, and experience to show readers who you are and help them relate to your point of view.

**Show why you care.** Why does the issue of Diablo Canyon matter to you and your community?

**Keep it short.** Most papers accept LTEs around 300 words. If you are submitting an op-ed, your piece can be longer. Be sure to check the submission guidelines of the paper you are submitting it to (see information on page 5).

### **End with a call to action.**

- For example - "Governor Newsom, please stop this charade and uphold the just transition closure agreement at Diablo Canyon for the sake of the climate and our communities.
- For example - "Please join me in taking action. Write or call Governor Newsom and the Secretary of Energy telling them to stop this nonsense effort to keep Diablo Canyon open."

## Talking Points

The following talking points are sample paragraphs that you can use in crafting your letter to the editor or op-ed. Feel free to use these points or other facts or topics that you find meaningful and persuasive.

**Diablo Canyon does not qualify for the DOE funding.** The DOE program in question is designed to award federal funding to nuclear reactors that are closing due to being unprofitable. This criteria does not apply to Diablo Canyon. Diablo Canyon is not closing because it is unprofitable – its owner, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) operates it as part of its regulated utility and recovers all of its costs plus a guaranteed rate of profit (return on investment) through its regulated electricity rates.

**Closing Diablo Canyon is the right choice for California’s climate goals.** The reason Diablo Canyon is closing is because PG&E determined in 2016 that doing so would enable it to meet California’s renewable energy standard and emissions standards more rapidly and cost-effectively. Diablo Canyon’s closure will not result in emissions increases because state law requires the CPUC and PG&E to ensure that outcome. In fact, California utilities are already committed to developing over 20,000 megawatts of renewables and electricity storage by the time Diablo Canyon closes in 2025 - many times more electricity than the reactors generate.

**Keeping Diablo Canyon open will not prevent future blackouts.** The blackouts that Californians have experienced in recent years have nothing to do with the planned Diablo Canyon closure. In fact, the blackouts have happened with Diablo Canyon running, not with the plant closed. In a study, PG&E determined that retiring Diablo Canyon 1 and 2 when their licenses expire in 2024 and 2025 would mitigate severe congestion on the high-voltage transmission system, lower consumer costs, and enable the utility to achieve 55% renewable energy by 2031, exceeding the state target.

**The plan to close Diablo Canyon is a just and equitable deal for all .**

We can't afford to let Gov. Newsom, the Secretary of Energy, and pro-nuclear ideologues extend the life of Diablo Canyon and destroy one of California's - and the country's - best models of a just transition. PG&E reached a settlement in 2016 with environmental groups and labor unions to phase out the plant through a just transition for workers and local communities, without increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

**Ratepayers have already paid millions of dollars for a just phaseout of Diablo Canyon.**

Under the settlement agreement, Diablo Canyon workers are being provided with economic support through the closure of the plant in 2025 and local governments are being provided transitional revenue payments to protect the tax base. Since 2018, PG&E customers have already been charged upwards of \$200 million for these just transition costs. If DOE were to grant Diablo Canyon Civil Nuclear Credits, would the award also include reimbursing ratepayers for the costs they have incurred?

**It is past time for Diablo Canyon to close.** Diablo Canyon is at the end of its life. Plus, because of the agreement to close, maintenance has been deferred, waivers have been granted, and key employees are gone. Diablo Canyon has many unresolved environmental and safety concerns including disputes over relicensing, seismic disaster risks, coastal ecosystem protection, and cooling system impacts. The safest decision is to let Diablo Close as planned.

## **More Information and Resources**

[Diablo Canyon: A Just Transition for Workers and the Environment](#)

[San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace](#)

Utility Dive: [Gov. Newsom open to extending Diablo Canyon nuclear plant's life, but analysts differ on feasibility and need](#)

Common Dreams: [Nuclear Critics Cry Foul as Newsom Reconsiders Diablo Canyon Closure](#)

[Save Diablo Canyon or close it? What should happen to California's last nuclear plant?](#)

[Gov. Newsom suggests delaying Diablo Canyon's closure](#)

[Should Gavin Newsom keep Diablo Canyon open? SLO anti-nuclear group has concerns](#)

[Letter to the Editor: CPUC responds to commentary on Diablo Canyon](#)

LA Times - [Editorial: No, California shouldn't extend the life of its last nuclear plant. There are better ways to fight climate change](#)

[Nuclear Negligence at Diablo - Dan Hirsch](#)

Bulletin of Atomic Scientists - [Why the retirement of a California nuclear plant should proceed as planned](#)

[Former Prime Minister of Japan Sounds the Alarm on Diablo Canyon](#)

## **Submitting your LTE or Op-Ed**

### **Newspapers**

#### **CalMatters**

Op-ed word limit: 650 words

Letter word limit: 150 words

Submission guidelines: <https://calmatters.org/submission-guidelines/>

To submit a commentary, please send your submission via email to [commentary@calmatters.org](mailto:commentary@calmatters.org).

#### **San Luis Obispo Tribune**

Letters should be no longer than 200 words. Shorter, e-mailed letters are preferred. Your letter must be signed and include your address and phone number. Writers are limited to one letter a month.

Submission guidelines:

<https://www.sanluisobispo.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/submit-letter/>

Email: [letters@thetribunenews.com](mailto:letters@thetribunenews.com)

### **Capitol Weekly**

Capitol Weekly welcomes commentaries and letters to the editor. Commentaries should deal with issues of statewide significance, be 750 words or less, bylined, and with a one-line description of the author. Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less and signed. Letters and commentaries will be posted online at the discretion of the editor. They should be emailed as a Word attachment to [john.howard@capitolweekly.net](mailto:john.howard@capitolweekly.net).

Submission guidelines: <https://capitolweekly.net/about-us/>

### **LA Times**

LTE word limit: 150

LTE Submission Guidelines:

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/submit-letter-to-the-editor>

### **New Times SLO**

Submit a letter:

<https://posting.newtimeslo.com/sanluisobispo/SubmitALetter/Page>

### **Cal Coast News**

Express your opinion about a news story, event, community, politicians or government? Have your say!

Send your opinions to [velieslo@gmail.com](mailto:velieslo@gmail.com)

Please include your name and phone number.