

# Nuclear Free California

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## Unity Statement

Nuclear Free California is a network of organizations, working groups and individuals from throughout the state who have joined together to end nuclear power production in California, and support efforts everywhere to end all nuclear reactor operations.

We united in the wake of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that triggered the worst nuclear crisis to date at Fukushima Daiichi, Japan on March 11, 2011. That tragic event, ongoing as we write this, is a reminder that all reactor operations have risks that are unacceptable.

The reactor melt downs and explosions at Fukushima showed a worst-case-scenario that was beyond anyone's wildest imagination; which refused to be anticipated. Such disasters can no longer go unanticipated! We stand warned; we can no longer call them "accidents".

Even during normal operation, radioactive releases are routine. But, reactors also produce long-lived nuclear waste, dangerous in itself for thousands of years, but also capable of being processed into atomic weapons of mass destruction.

For the people of California we remember this event with the knowledge that California's two nuclear facilities at San Onofre & Diablo Canyon are both aging reactors built on earthquake faults. Both reside in tsunami zones and place millions of people, and millions of acres of critical agricultural land and ocean systems at risk. They are a danger to the people of California and to the world.

California history shows how people have united in the past against nuclear power, from thousands of civil disobedience arrests to legislation that to this day protects California from new nuclear reactors until there is a federally approved plan for dealing with the wastes.

Using the legal and extralegal tools of democracy available to us within California and the United States, we will work for the closure and elimination of nuclear power and weapons reactors in California. Recognizing that radiation honors no boundaries, we will also take actions in solidarity with other groups of people and support actions taking place throughout the country and the globe to end nuclear power.

## Principles of Unity

While our work centers on shutting down the two commercial nuclear power facilities in California, San Onofre and Diablo Canyon, we oppose the entire nuclear fuel system, from mining, milling, processing, and transporting nuclear materials to reactor operations and weapons development, production and testing. The entire nuclear fuel chain produces operational dangers, long-lived wastes, and threats of proliferation;

While we work locally within our jurisdiction, we understand the benefits of working nationally and internationally –especially in this age of the Internet. We live in an interrelated world, so that even if we closed out all nukes in California, fallout could still come from somewhere outside;

Our actions will adhere to non-violence guidelines as set forth;

Our main purpose will be to shut-down the four California nuclear power reactors, but we will stay vigilant, acknowledging interconnections with other movements and campaigns as we identify them and taking action where necessary;

### **We recognize that**

The nuclear industry is driven by profits. Safest practices are expensive and cut in to profitability, and are often avoided as much as regulators will allow;

The economics of nuclear power are unsustainable; a bad investment that could get nowhere, if not for the massive taxpayer subsidies afforded the technology;

These vast subsidies for nuclear strangle efforts to fund safe, renewable technologies and energy conservation efforts;

Continued focus on nuclear power prevents dealing with climate change. It takes money and attention away from real solutions, which would create more jobs;

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not earned the public trust, as its actions promote industry profits instead of public safety. Over the decades a high percentage of the Commissioners have used the "revolving door"; they come from the nuclear industry and move directly back into it when their terms expire;

Industrial scale centralized energy production and distribution using nuclear reactors take civilian oversight and control away from our local communities;

There is a CO2 burden associated with the construction & maintenance of nuclear reactors throughout the fuel cycle and the storage of wastes – it is NOT CO2- free;

California's success at preventing nuclear build-out until the waste issue is solved evokes the right of states to make sovereign decisions regarding nuclear power, such as Vermont efforts to close the Yankee reactor and New York to shut Indian Point;

While we have concerns about medical nuclear uses, in the scheme of things, it is much less of a problem than weapons & power, and we would only encourage efforts to develop alternatives;

### **We therefore insist**

There needs to be an end to all nuclear reactor operations not related to medical use;

Start by ending subsidies to this failed technology, including the insurance support it gets through the Price-Anderson Act;

End all weapons production and testing;

Whistleblowers must be offered absolute protection against retaliation for their actions;

We must end nuclear payloads sent in to space and the nuclear weaponization of space;

Workers and other people who are contaminated should have protection. Places exist in California where closed down nuclear industries are still contaminating the environment and raising serious health & safety issues for people and workers;

The majority of Nuclear Regulatory Commissioners should have records of accomplishment in a diversity of fields, including environmental protection and structural engineering;

We support community/labor control of energy & use.