



CITY OF OCEANSIDE

MAYOR
PETER WEISS
January 29, 2020

COUNCIL MEMBERS
JACK FELLER
RYAN KEIM
CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ
ESTHER SANCHEZ

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
California State Assembly
Room 2114
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 465 SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION: EMERGENCY PLANNING - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

On behalf of the City of Oceanside, I'm writing in support of Senate Bill 465, which ensures continued funding for emergency planning specific to the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS).

While SONGS was in operation, local governments were responsible for emergency preparedness, emergency response capabilities and equipment, and mandated planning drills. These drills ensured the community was properly prepared in the event of a nuclear incident at the plant. Funding for these activities, as required by law, was provided by the utility company which operated SONGS. Since the decommissioning of SONGS was announced in 2013, there has been no requirement for the utility to provide funding. In the decommissioning and dismantling stage, the risk to the public of an emergency incident remains, and thus continued emergency planning is essential. Public concerns remain high.

The decommissioning at SONGS and the complications of engineering failures, including the steam generator, the dry cask storage system, and the radiological fuel loading incident translate into the appropriate need to sustain the current emergency response capability for local public safety agencies and ensure that this process is performed to the highest standards.

While an agreement currently exists between local government and the utility to provide the funding necessary to carry out emergency planning, the funding is only for a limited time period and begins to decrease in 2020. The funding declines, but the risk and responsibility remain. SB 465 ensures that proper resources are available to plan for and respond to any emergency relating to the stored nuclear waste located at SONGS site. This bill will prevent a funding gap for these critical activities and support Oceanside's desire to resolve this long-standing situation.

Thank you for your efforts in creating this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Weiss".

Peter Weiss
MAYOR

Cc: Oceanside City Council; Senator Pat Bates; Assembly Member Tasha Boerner Horvath