

895 Monterey Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA  
93401-3278

December 10, 2018

**RE: SLO Chamber Comments on DCDEP Draft Strategic Vision**

Dear Esteemed Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel Members:

On behalf of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to thank you for your commitment to our community's future shared in your draft report and to convey core strategies embedded in the Chamber's 2019 economic vision: *Imagine San Luis Obispo*.

You are in a powerful and unique position to influence the future of the Central Coast and it is with a mind to that promising future that we bring forward support for reuse activities that foster innovation, that consider opportunities for our entire region and that defends our pristine coast, and its bio-diversity.

Certainly, the financial impacts of the plant's closure loom large and even now are being thoroughly analyzed. Our collective ability to leverage opportunities and position the region for a new economy will require creativity, collaboration and innovation.

At the heart of *Imagine San Luis Obispo* is the philosophy of 'We Before Me.' In considering the strengths and opportunities shining in the unique communities of the Central Coast we know that we can help each other tackle shared challenges and harness opportunities to preserve and enhance our collective quality of life.

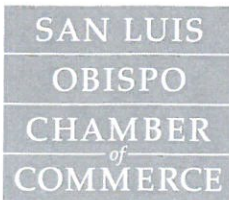
To that end our SLO Chamber policy priorities are to:

- Advocate for coordinated regional planning between the county and cities to address challenges such as housing, infrastructure, transportation, water, energy and disaster preparedness.
- Advocate for the best long-term economic and community use of the facilities and surrounding lands of Diablo Canyon Power Plant upon plant closure and decommissioning.

We know that entrepreneurship is at the heart of San Luis Obispo's economy. Our historic agricultural roots and pioneering spirit along with our natural and economic assets make the region a launchpad for innovators and entrepreneurs of all ages. To that end our Chamber policies prioritize the following:

- Promote SLO County as a haven for innovation through both intrapreneurship and entrepreneurship.
- Leverage unique regional assets to foster future-oriented industries such as cyber security, renewable energy, data science, defense and agritech innovation.
- Support Cal Poly's innovation efforts to help create new businesses.

Locals call it "The SLO Life." It's the unique combination of the region's natural beauty, spectacular weather, agricultural heritage, abundant open space, great schools, low crime rates, quality arts and culture, and a highly-engaged citizenry. These factors are part of our tremendous economic advantage and deserve constant care and attention. To that end, our vision details the following:



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- Advocate for protection of and access to San Luis Obispo's signature landscapes, community open space, and public parks; the maintenance and enhancement of public facilities; and investment in our urban forest, public streets, plazas and trails.
- Support efforts to create a network of multi-modal trails throughout the region to connect people with the natural and historic assets, wine country, and local communities.
- Oppose development or activities that significantly harm the local or regional environment.
- Support efforts and legislation to keep agriculture, an important driver of our regional economy and an integral part of the fabric of our community, thriving.
- Support policies and programs that ensure San Luis Obispo remains a safe community.

Caring for our land and natural resources is embedded in our community culture. Now more than ever, our collective future depends on furthering sustainable solutions that support healthy economic growth and ensure community resiliency. Our opportunity lies in careful stewardship of our resources and embracing new technologies so that we sustain our quality of life for generations to come. Our SLO Chamber our adopted policies call on us to:

- Protect the area's air and water quality, scenic beauty and character, recognizing that they are intrinsic to the region's appeal to residents and tourists alike.
- Encourage the research and development of small and large-scale renewable energy opportunities that would position our region as a leader in renewable energy innovation.
- Advocate for the decommissioning of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant upon closure and a federal long-term solution for the storage of spent fuel.
- Promote the development of alternative fueling, electric charging stations and battery storage technologies.

Your engagement panel has a weighty task in making your final recommendations to PG&E for future land and facility use. As leaders in the community that have been tapped to envision the future for this unique asset in our region, I encourage you to explore all of the possibilities in the realm of renewable, sustainable energy solutions, to be advocates for innovation, champions for environmental stewardship and to apply a regional view to the very important task at hand.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Geri LaChance, Chair**

San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

*The San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce represents nearly 1,400-member businesses throughout San Luis Obispo County which collectively employ over 34,000 individuals.*