


[EXT]Diablo Draft EIR comments

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To:PL\_Diablo <PL\_Diablo@co.slo.ca.us>

 1 attachments (111 KB)

CLC comments\_DCPP DEIR\_09252023.pdf;

**ATTENTION:** This email originated from outside the County's network. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

Hello,

Please add the attached document to the record of public comments regarding the Diablo Canyon Power Plant Decommissioning Project Draft Environmental Impact Report.

Thank you,

Don Chartrand

Executive Director

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Subject: Comments regarding the Diablo Canyon Power Plant Decommissioning Project Draft Environmental Impact Report

To Whom It May Concern,

We at Creek Lands Conservation are supportive of *yak tit<sup>y</sup>u tit<sup>y</sup>u yak tithini* Northern Chumash Tribe (ytt Tribe) and we share their concerns for the future of Diablo lands. We have reviewed the County's Draft Environmental Impact Report regarding the Diablo Canyon Power Plant Decommissioning Project and we are respectful of the time and public resources that have been expended. To acquaint ourselves with the overall situation, we have also reviewed several other pertinent reports and documents, including the 2020 study by Dr. John Johnson of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, commissioned by PG&E, titled "[Descendants of Native Rancherias In the Diablo Lands Vicinity: A Northern Chumash Ethnohistorical Study.](#)"

Our understanding of this landmark study is that establishes sufficient evidence to support the ytt Tribe's claim as the pre-colonization descendant Tribe of the Pecho Coast, where the Diablo Canyon Power Plant currently resides. In section 4.6 *Tribal Cultural Resources*, 4.6.1.2 *Ethnographic Setting*, the DEIR fails to acknowledge the ytt Tribe as the descendent Tribe, despite the clear evidence presented in Dr. Johnson's study. This omission seems to disregard the pivotal conclusion of the most current ethnographic understanding of Diablo lands. Further, ytt Tribal status as the descendent Tribe is generally ignored throughout the DEIR. This should be remedied by the County of San Luis Obispo.

Further, the DEIR claims that signage and road blocks will be an adequate barrier in keeping the general public away from sensitive Tribal cultural areas, to prevent looting and damage from trampling. Some of these visitors will pick up these artifacts out of interest, others for intentional resale. These practices, which range from disrespectful to illegal, continue to take place throughout San Luis Obispo County, the state, and across the US. The DEIR does not present any evidence to support the assertion that signage and road blocks will actually keep the public away. We agree with the ytt Tribe in our concern that increased foot traffic and awareness of culturally sensitive areas will result in damaged Tribal cultural resources, including sacred sites, ceremonial sites, cemeteries, and cultural landscapes.

In new trails are developed on Diablo lands, it is paramount that the process of creating trails includes meaningful ytt Tribal engagement and consultation. To mitigate these detrimental and serious impacts, the ytt's Tribal knowledge can guide careful planning and plotting of trails, if any are developed, and in thinking through barriers that may actually be effective. Likewise, ytt Tribal knowledge will improve the protection of freshwater aquatic, estuarine, riparian, upslope woodland/grassland/shrubland, and coastal marine habitat.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Don Chartrand  
Executive Director