

[EXT]Comment on DEIR, Diablo Canyon Power Plant Decommissioning Project

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Mon 9/25/2023 4:28 PM

To:PL_Diablo <PL_Diablo@co.slo.ca.us>

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Dear Susan Strachan,

I have worked occasionally with the *yak tit^yu tit^yu yak tithini* Northern Chumash and support that they should be recognized as a descendant tribe of the Pecho Coast, where the Diablo Canyon Power Plant currently resides. This is documented in the 2020 [“Descendants of Native Rancherias In the Diablo Lands Vicinity: A Northern Chumash Ethnohistorical Study,”](#) by Dr. John Johnson of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. This report should be referenced in the DEIR.

I share *yak tit^yu tit^yu yak tithini* Northern Chumash concerns that signage and road blocks will be inadequate to protect sensitive Tribal cultural areas, prevent looting, and prevent damage from trampling. *yak tit^yu tit^yu yak tithini* Northern Chumash know from experience that members of the public will pick up cultural artifacts and even re-sell them. There is no evidence that signage and road blocks will stop or even reduce these violations. *yak tit^yu tit^yu yak tithini* Northern Chumash are concerned that increased foot traffic and increased awareness of culturally sensitive areas will result in damaged Tribal cultural resources, including sacred sites, ceremonial sites, cemeteries, and cultural landscapes.

Given these concerns, if new trails are developed on Diablo lands, it is paramount that the process of creating trails includes meaningful engagement and consultation with *yak tit^yu tit^yu yak tithini* Northern Chumash. With *yak tit^yu tit^yu yak tithini* Northern Chumash Tribal knowledge, detrimental and serious impacts may be mitigated through careful planning and the development of effective barriers. The Tribe’s knowledge will also assist in the protection of important animal, tree and plant habitat, including offshore habitat for marine species.

Finally, while it is not a topic in the DEIR, I would also like to express my support for the transfer of Diablo lands to *yak tit^yu tit^yu yak tithini* Northern Chumash, who have been dispossessed of their homelands in this region.

Thank you,

Beth Rose Middleton

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UC Davis is located within the unceded homelands of Patwin people. Today, there are three federally recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have

instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands.