

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Citizens' Oversight Projects (COPS)  
Ray Lutz / RayLutz@CitizensOversight.org / 619-820-5321

Residents Organizing for a Safe Environment (ROSE)  
Gene Stone / genston@sbcglobal.net / 949-233-7724

Peace Resource Center of San Diego  
Carol Jahnkow / carolj@igc.org / 760-390-0775

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **“Midnight in Paris” Actress Mimi Kennedy to Join Other Distinguished Speakers at “Remember Fukushima” Rally in San Onofre, March 11**

**Event Endorsed by Congressman Bob Filner, SD Sierra Club Conservation Cte and  
many others**

#### **Two Fukushima-area Residents to Tell their Story on the Anniversary of the Meltdown**

March 6, 2012 (SAN ONOFRE) – Motion Picture Actress Mimi Kennedy, who appeared in Oscar-winning production “Midnight in Paris,” will address the crowd at the Fukushima Remembered rally at the San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station (SONGS) on March 11, along with about a dozen other speakers, including two Fukushima-area residents. The event occurs on the anniversary of the Fukushima Daiichi meltdown, which is far from over.

“I am happy to take part in such a worthy cause,” Ms. Kennedy said in San Diego in February. “The risks and costs of nuclear energy are just too high, and many other alternatives are now available.”

In addition to her supporting role in “Midnight in Paris,” Ms. Kennedy has had many roles, including in the television series “Dharma and Greg,” and she has been an environmental and progressive activist for years.

The objective of the event is two-pronged, both to commemorate the ongoing disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Power plant that started one year ago -- with three reactors still in full “level 7” meltdown -- and to push for closure of the dangerous San Onofre plant. (Organizers are working with both San Onofre State Park officials and SONGS security and public relations officials so the rally and protest will meet their security and safety concerns. There is no intention to block or occupy the plant.)

The program will include two honorable guests from Japan who have had to endure living near the Fukushima disaster, Ms. Kyoko Sugawara of Sendai City near Fukushima and Mr. Hirohide Sakuma, who was born in Fukushima. These speakers will address the assembly using an interpreter.

“In the devastation of earthquakes, people rushed to my deli to get their food,” Ms. Sugawara explained.

“Because I did not know anything about radioactive contamination at that time, I led my customers and myself exposed to radioactive contamination. ...[Later,] I organized measurement of radioactive contamination in school yards. We found out that our school grounds are as contaminated as the soil in Fukushima.”

Mr. Sakuma said, “my mind is constantly debating whether we should evacuate from Sendai.”

Many events are planned throughout the U.S. on March 11 to commemorate the Fukushima disaster and to bring to light risks at many of the 65 power plants and the 104 nuclear reactors in the U.S., and to stand in solidarity with the San Onofre event.

Despite the earthquake, tsunami, and terrorist risks, the undoing of the San Onofre plant may be due to internal problems. After spending \$640 million to replace the steam generators just 18 months ago, operators thought the plant would run for another 10 to 20 years. Instead, hundreds of heat transfer tubes are exhibiting untimely thinning, baffling experts. The public only found out about the thinning tubes after the unexpected radioactive steam release last month forced management to explain why the entire plant was shut down.

“At some point, the San Onofre plant must be decommissioned. We believe that time is now,” said Gene Stone, of Residents Organized for a Safe Environment in San Clemente. “While the plant is shut down for maintenance, we believe this is the right time to start the decommissioning process for the safety of the workers at the plant and the community at large. We must do the right thing now and not put the California economy at risk. Let's not spend one dime more on any more retrofits.”

#### **EVENT DETAILS:**

Date/Time: March 11, 2012. Gather at 12 noon. March starts at 12:30. Rally 1pm to 3pm.

Location: Rally: 1:00 p.m. about ¼ mile south of the SONGS facility

Directions: I-5 to Basilone Rd exit, ~2 miles south.

March: 12:30 p.m. starting at gate of San Onofre State Beach (~1/4 mile) along access road  
Parking: Available at San Onofre State Beach, \$15 day use fee. Shuttle vans will be available to help those who have parked get to the rally site.

Buses: Seats on buses from Balboa Park (Park Ave at Presidents Way) or from Oceanside Transit Center are \$10 each (\$11.54 for tickets purchased with credit cards online.)

Reserve at <http://sanonfreprotest.eventbrite.com> or call 619-501-1031 for questions.

Speakers: Residents from the Fukushima-area; Activists; Hollywood Celebrities; Scientists and Engineers; etc.

Details: See <http://citizenoversight.org>, click "M11 San Onofre Protest"

Endorsers to date:

- San Diego Sierra Club Conservation Cte.
- Congressman Bob Filner (CA-51)
- [Citizens Oversight Projects \(COPS\)](#)
- Peace Resource Center of San Diego
- Residents Organized for a Safe Environment (ROSE)
- San Onofre Safety (SOS)
- San Clemente Green

- San Diego Coalition for Peace and Justice (SDCPJ)
- Talk Nukes
- Ocean Fall
- Green Party of Orange County
- Green Party of San Diego County
- San Diego Puppet Insurgency
- APRL Animal Protection and Rescue League
- Activist San Diego
- North County Forum
- San Diego Artivistas
- San Diego Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (COMD)
- San Diego Veterans for Peace
- Occupy San Diego at Children's Park
- Occupy Encinitas
- Occupy Vista
- Occupy Oceanside
- The Party for Socialism and Liberation
- Orange County Peace Coalition
- Dick Eiden for Congress 2012
- Jerry Tetalman, Candidate for Congress in the CA 49th
- Kevin Keenan
- Jeffery B. Gordon, MD, MPH
- Ray Lutz, Former Candidate for Congress in CA 52nd
- Bryan Pease, Esq., San Diego City Council District 1 Candidate

Ref:

Rally information page: <http://www.copswiki.org/Common/M11SanOnofreProtestAndRally>

First Press release (2012/02/20): <http://www.copswiki.org/Common/M1240>

Second Press Release (2012/03/01): <http://www.copswiki.org/Common/M1243> – Includes full statements from honorable guests from Fukushima area.

###