

Citizens' Oversight Projects (COPs)

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CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT PROJECTS

CitizensOversight.org

NEWS RELEASE -- MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PUBLIC MEETING ON NUCLEAR WASTE FACILITY AT
OCEANSIDE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 5/4/2017**

**Citizens Oversight vs. California Coastal Commission Lawsuit may block
permanent dump at San Onofre only 100 ft from the ocean**

Utilities have agreed to settlement negotiations. Now we need your input!

- DATE: Thursday, May 4, 2017 (6-9 pm)
WHERE: Oceanside City Council Chambers, 300 North Coast Hwy., Oceanside, California 92054
WHO: All concerned public, govt officials, utility reps are invited.
SPEAKERS: Mostly this is about gathering info from the public, but we will have on hand:
> Ray Lutz, National Coordinator for Citizens Oversight
> Ian Cairns, World renowned Surf Pro and US "Pac Sun" Surfing Team Coach.
> (more TBA)
- INFO: Details of the case: <http://citizenoversight.org/StopNukeDump>
RSVP: <https://www.facebook.com/events/413794538994951/>
ACTIVISTS: Council chamber has limited seating but overflow room may be available.
CALL OUT TO CONCERNED CITIZENS -- please join us



April 21, 2017 (San Onofre) -- The California Coastal Commission (CCC) inexplicably approved the permit to bury 3.6 million pounds of nuclear waste only 100 feet from the beach and only inches over the high-tide mark.

Ray Lutz, National Coordinator of Citizens Oversight, Engineer, said, “After careful review of the CCC permit, I became thoroughly convinced that the construction of this nuclear storage facility (ISFSI) at this location should be blocked, so we filed this lawsuit shortly after approval on October 6, 2015. By blocking this permit, we can take a closer look at all the options and hopefully, avoid this ridiculous decision.”

The utilities have agreed to negotiate with us in a settlement process that must be largely confidential due to the evidence code. However, we do not want the public to be silent! We are looking for ideas, thoughts, concerns, etc. and are looking to the “wisdom of crowds” to combat the insanity of the experts.

On May 4, Citizens Oversight will conduct the first in a series of public events to gather input from the community that can be fed into the settlement process. All comments will be transcribed and included in the public file. This first meeting will be at the Oceanside City Council Chambers.

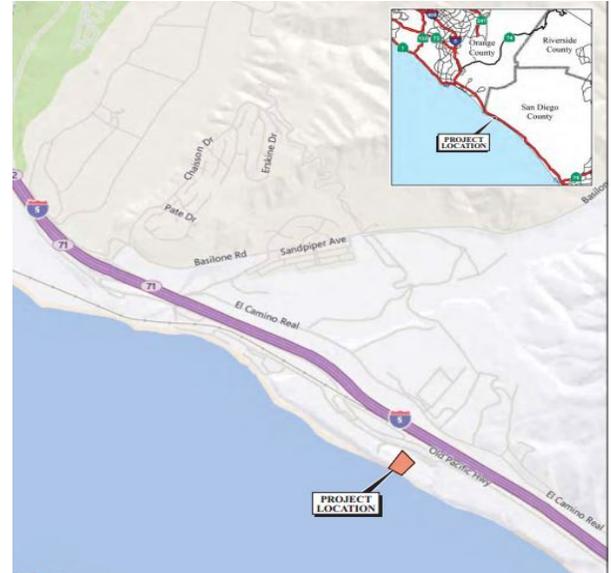
We are planning a subsequent event in Huntington Beach, the epicenter of beach-centered businesses that rely on a healthy coastline, not one contaminated with radioactivity.

WHY THIS IS A BAD IDEA:

WASTE DEADLY: This is high-level nuclear waste and is extremely deadly, and will remain so for up to 250,000 years (forever)!

WRONG PLACE: This location, is near 8.4 million residents within 50 miles, a ten-lane freeway, and active railroad line, and thus represents a prime terrorist target. Build it in the unoccupied desert and terrorists will lose interest.

OTHER OPTIONS NOT INVESTIGATED: There are many options that have not been explored. Edison, the plant operator, has explored only the default solution, which results in nuclear waste being stored right on the coast in an area where no one would choose to put it. They consider any sort of paperwork impossible to surmount, such as licenses that must be obtained for any other more logical location. Plus, it seems any public review of this disaster is to be avoided, typical of a publicly traded company interested in avoiding public review of what they are doing.



SIDEBAR:

Q: Are there other places for the waste that would be better than San Onofre?

A: Absolutely! Here are some possibilities:

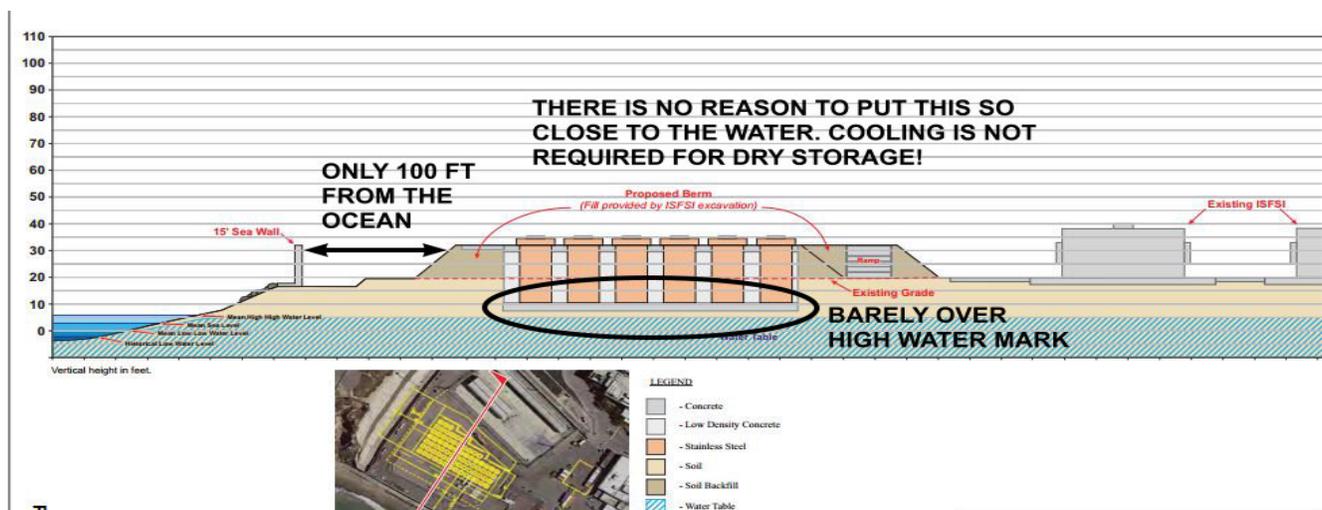
1. The **Palo Verde Nuclear Plant**, near Phoenix, which is already licensed as a nuclear waste storage facility, is probably the most attractive alternative. It needs to be expanded, and licensing paperwork done. Transportation is feasible. (Our lawsuit focuses on this option.)

2. **Mojave Desert**, far from civilization. We investigated this option and suggested the railroad stop called “Fishel CA”. see: <http://copswiki.org/Common/M1732> for a review of this option. Our conclusion was that this specific location is perhaps *too remote* as services (roads, power, internet, etc.) are required, so more review is needed, but the general idea is very viable, and being right off a railroad makes transportation easy.
3. **Camp Pendleton**, not optimal but still better: A location about 3 miles inland avoids ocean dangers, is on a secure military base, and transportation risks are minimized, but is still in an earthquake zone and near high population centers.

TIME SCALES OFF - MAY NEVER MOVE: The permit by the Coastal Commission is for 20 years. But the Commission knows the ISFSI will be in place for at least 35 years, even given the best-case scenario. There is a Generic Environmental Impact Statement for such an ISFSI that allows it to remain in place indefinitely -- for 100 years or more. Given our history of taking care of nuclear waste, it may never move once this facility is built.

TOO CLOSE TO THE WATER: The ground level is so close to the water level, they plan to build the structure half out of the ground but even then, the ground water level is within inches. Any increase in ocean levels in the next 100 years will likely raise the ground water to exceed the bottom of the structure.

Coastal Commission admits that the coast is likely to erode up to the ISFSI location within that time as well, and they prohibited any improvement in the seawall to protect the ocean.



CANISTERS TOO BIG, HOT, THIN: The canisters currently being used are too heavy, when coupled with the transportation over-pack, to be placed on conventional train cars or semi-trucks. They are too hot and large to be compatible with any future geologic repository, and too thin to resist ocean-air corrosion for very long. The NRC license for these canisters is only for 20 years. Although canister design is NOT within scope of this trial, we believe the Coastal Commission must take the overall risk into account.

NO INSPECTIONS: Even though we know the relatively thin 5/8” steel canisters will likely corrode in the ocean salt air, there is no requirement for inspections in the permit period and inspection technology does not yet exist.

NEWLY DISCOVERED FAULTS: Scripps Institution of Oceanography just completed an extended

study of the faults nearby and determined the Newport-Inglewood/Rose Canyon fault is capable of a (very strong) 7.4 magnitude earthquake. Earthquakes frequently result in ground liquefaction. Additionally, some geologists predict the coast will sink about three feet in a future quake.

PROCESS TOO QUICK: Why, when the waste will be deadly for at least 250,000 years and the facility may be there for decades or centuries, should we have only one short public meeting, where speakers were limited to only two minutes, and where there was no real opportunity to provide information or testimony in opposition? That Coastal Commission meeting was designed to fly under the radar. It was never announced or reviewed at the Community Engagement Panel meetings, which are supposed to provide information to the public. Wrong!

BACKROOM MEETINGS: To top it off, most of the commissioners had improper secret *ex parte* meetings with the applicant, Southern California Edison. Wrong again!

WE MUST STOP THIS INSANITY! If we are successful, the permit will be blocked and we can process this important decision correctly. There ARE other options, if we allow additional paperwork to be done, rather than optimizing for near-term corporate profits.

See all related information at this project link: <http://citizenoversight.org/StopNukeDump>

RSVP: <https://www.facebook.com/events/413794538994951/>
Activist Signup: <http://citizenoversight.org/signup>
Livestream: <https://www.facebook.com/citizenoversight/>

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