COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025

MINUTE ORDER NO. 1

SUBJECT: CONTINUED ADVOCACY FOR THE REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL FROM THE SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION (SONGS) (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) operated in the northwest corner of San Diego County for more than 47 years. The station ceased all nuclear operations in June 2013 after excessive vibrations and other issues degraded tubes in the steam generators. Stored on the site today is 1,400 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel, a direct byproduct of 45 years of nuclear power operations. SONGS is currently in year five of an eight-year dismantling process of facilities and equipment at the site.

At this time, the federal government has not provided a permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel that could accept SONGS' spent fuel. Because of this, Southern California Edison (SCE) must continue to store the nuclear waste onsite, in dry cask storage, indefinitely. The spent fuel must be relocated offsite for the SONGS site to be fully restored and for the land to be returned to the U.S. Navy to support the national security mission of training Marines.

It's important to note that an emerging "nuclear renaissance" is bringing helpful attention to spent fuel. Artificial intelligence and data centers require an exponential growth in electricity generation and next-generation small modular reactors (SMRs) can help address this growing demand for power. The prospect of reprocessing spent nuclear fuel in the U.S. for use in advanced reactors is at the research and development phase. A May 23, 2025, presidential executive order (EO) stated, "Swift and decisive action is required to jumpstart America's nuclear energy industrial base." The EO calls on the Secretary of Energy to submit a plan by January 2026 for "transferring spent nuclear fuel from reactors to a government-owned, privately operated reprocessing…facility" and "the efficient disposal of the wastes generated by recycling or reprocessing through a permanent disposal pathway." Now is a vital time to continue advocating for solutions through Spent Fuel Solutions.

The Spent Fuel Solutions coalition is led by an executive board that includes the plant owners and representatives of surrounding local governments. More specifically, this decision-making body is composed of Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas & Electric, City of Riverside, the County of Orange, and the County of San Diego (County). Moving San Onofre's spent nuclear fuel offsite is a shared priority for local communities and SONGS' co-owners. The executive board currently sets goals and directs efforts to advocate for the removal of spent fuel from SONGS to a federally licensed facility.

Today's item provides an update on the current status of SONGS, including continued participation in the Spent Fuel Solutions coalition. In addition, this item will approve a resolution in which the coalition will advocate for the continued removal and relocation of spent nuclear fuel from the San Diego region and would also authorize the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Contracting (DPC) to enter into single source negotiations with Southwest Strategies to procure management services that continue to support the work of the coalition.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND

1. Adopt a resolution entitled: "A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AUTHORIZING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE SPENT FUEL SOLUTIONS COALITION", which is a coalition of regional partners who seek to advocate for the removal and relocation of spent nuclear fuel from the San Diego County region.

2. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to enter into negotiations with Southwest Strategies, LLC; and, subject to successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for management of the Spent Fuel Solutions coalition with an objective to secure a federally licensed storage or disposal solution for the spent fuel at SONGS for one year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026 with four option years to extend, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to services and funding.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT
The County recognizes the potential health and psychological impacts the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) site may have on the community, especially in its current condition. Today's item will continue in our effort to pursue legislation, appropriations, and collaboration-based siting for spent fuel storage/disposal facilities and securing a federally licensed storage or disposal solution for the spent fuel, with the aim of alleviating community impacts.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT
Today's item contributes to the County's Sustainability goals by advocating for the removal of hazardous materials to protect the health and wellbeing of the environment, existing and future residents, visitors and tourists.

FISCAL IMPACT
One-time funds for this request, estimated at $100,000, are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan in the Office of Emergency Services (OES). The funding source is existing General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT
N/A

ACTION:
ON MOTION of Supervisor Anderson, seconded by Supervisor Aguirre, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent, and adopted Resolution No. 25-080 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AUTHORIZING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE SPENT FUEL SOLUTIONS COALITION.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Signed by Andrew Potter