

SIERRA CLUB LAUNCHES ONLINE CAMPAIGN REJECTING RUSH TO BUILD POLLUTING GAS PLANTS AS THE SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR STATION RETIRES

Video Featuring Local Children Urges Gov. Brown and State
Regulators to Reject New Gas Plants in Southern California

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LOS ANGELES – The Sierra Club launched an online petition and video today urging the Public Utilities Commission and Governor Brown to reject a plan that would add new air pollution to Southern California and move California backwards on its climate goals.

The video can be viewed at the following link: <http://youtu.be/1hF22KRGshQ>

The video features children imagining what a future would look like if polluting gas plants were built in their neighborhoods and urges the public to visit www.sierraclub.org/mygeneration to sign the petition.

“The retirement of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station is a key opportunity to demonstrate how California can meet its future energy needs without new fossil fuel plants,” **said Evan Gillespie, Director of the Sierra Club’s My Generation campaign.** “Unfortunately, Governor Brown and state regulators are rushing through a flawed plan and using San Onofre as an excuse to build new polluting gas plants in Southern California.”

New gas plants would lock in more carbon pollution for decades to come and would undermine California’s climate targets. According to the California Air Resources Board, greenhouse gas emissions rose in 2012 for the first time since 2008 because of increased reliance on gas plants after San Onofre closed. The state is already feeling the impacts of climate change, with record droughts and increased intensity of wildfires.

“We cannot claim to other states and the world that California is leading the charge against climate change while permitting huge new fossil fuel plants in our backyard.

That's not leadership," **continued Gillespie**. "California can either continue to lead on climate protection, or move backwards with new natural gas pollution."

Southern California already suffers from some of the dirtiest air in the nation. In [the American Lung Association's 2013 State of the Air Report](#), Los Angeles County, Orange County, and San Diego County each received "F" grades for particulate matter and ozone, the two primary byproducts from gas peaker plants.

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