

## A CONVERSATION ON CALIFORNIA'S ENERGY FUTURE

# Building a bridge to California's energy future

BY GEISHA WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT, ELECTRIC, PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

**HOW DO WE BUILD A BETTER CALIFORNIA**—with safe, clean, reliable and affordable energy? We do it together.

That's exactly what happened with the historic announcement that PG&E, the state's largest electricity provider, was working with the environmental and the labor communities to address California's changing energy landscape. We found a way to accomplish something few had thought possible. And we did it together.

Unveiled in June, the joint proposal would replace power produced by two nuclear reactors at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant with a clean, cost-effective portfolio of renewables, energy efficiency and storage. The eight-to-nine-year transition period will provide the time for an orderly closure—without falling back on fossil fuel to take up the slack and cause greenhouse gas emissions to spike, as has happened elsewhere.

Included in the historic agreement are PG&E, Friends of the Earth, Natural Resources Defense

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Council, Environment California, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 1245 and the Coalition of California Utility Employees.

The agreement also includes PG&E's commit-

ment to a 55 percent renewable energy target in 2031, an unprecedented voluntary commitment by a major U.S. energy company. The agreement reflects the reality that solar and wind production will increasingly play a major part in California's energy future and the full output of Diablo Canyon will no longer be necessary.

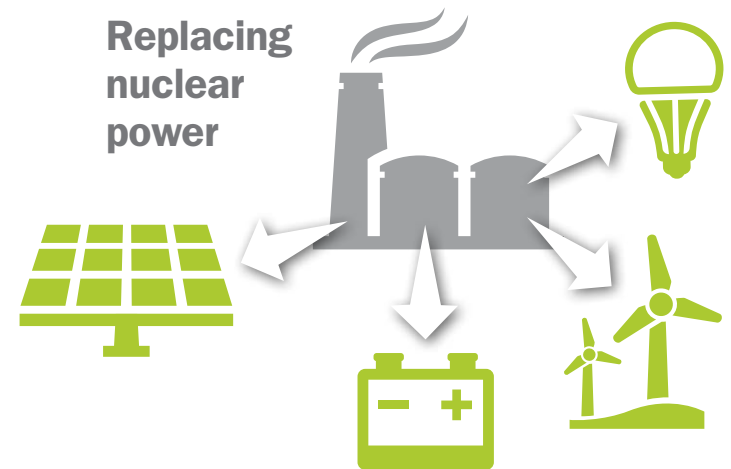
We also understand that Diablo Canyon has played an immense role in the

regional economy of the Central Coast. In support of its highly skilled workforce and the Central Coast communities—and to continue the plant's unbroken record of safe, reliable service during its remaining operating years—PG&E will provide incentives to retain employees and a retraining and development program to facilitate

redeployment of a portion of plant personnel to the decommissioning project or to other positions within the company. In addition, the proposal includes payments by PG&E to San Luis Obispo County designed to

offset declining property taxes because of the loss of the plant.

Diablo Canyon has been a valuable asset for PG&E and for California. When its operating licenses expire at the end of their 40-year terms,



*As part of the historic agreement to close the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, nuclear power will be replaced with a cost-effective portfolio of renewables, energy efficiency and storage.*

the plant will have produced affordable, GHG-free energy at a time when renewable sources were either unavailable or exorbitantly priced. It took us through times when coal-generated electricity was still in use and natural gas prices skyrocketed.

But times have changed, and under California's energy policies, the plant is just not needed beyond its original licensed life. We recognize that in the fight against climate change, collaboration is the key to success. We're going to need to work together—and do so on an enormous scale.

That's why we take great pride in the joint proposal. The agreement we forged reflects a new commitment by key stakeholders in California to work collaboratively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and modernize the state's energy grid. And it's yet another sign that when we at PG&E say that together, we're building a better California, that's exactly what we mean.

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