

California Medical Association Nuclear Power Plan Safety

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Resolution: 124-11

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WHEREAS, the massive earthquake and tsunami in Japan caused great damage to its residents and facilities, including the Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear power plant, and these events have had implications for all nuclear facilities, including the need for reevaluating emergency plans, the need for an expanded zone of warning and potential evacuation, and the risk of failure of back-up generators, cooling pools and storage systems for spent fuel rods; and

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Japan Task Force report released in July, 2011 found that the regulatory process needs to be improved, and made numerous specific recommendations, including: upgrading plants' design-based seismic and flooding protection of reactor structures and components; strengthening existing reactors abilities to deal with loss of power in the event of earthquake, tsunami, floods and other disasters; requiring that emergency plans address prolonged blackouts; requiring additional instrumentation and seismically protected systems to provide additional cooling water to spent fuel rods if necessary; and other recommendations to significantly enhance safety; and

WHEREAS, California's San Onofre and Diablo Canyon nuclear plants are located adjacent to known earthquake faults, with over 18 million and over 800 thousand people living within 50 miles of each, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the state of California has directed PG&E and Southern California Edison to apply new technology, such as 3-D seismic testing, that will assist in the ability to determine if there are additional geologic risks, and that utility updates be independently reviewed by state oversight agencies before proceeding with the NRC relicensing process; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That CMA call upon the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to expeditiously implement the recommendations of its Japan Task Force report; and be it further

RESOLVED: That CMA encourage the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and other oversight agencies to apply new technologies that will assess seismic risk prior to any licensing renewal of nuclear plants.