Community Impact Statement, adopted unanimously by the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council governing board, 3-6-13 (SLNC Agenda Item X.f, re Council File 13-0002)

We support Senator Boxer’s request for public release of the 2012 Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) document entitled “Root Cause Analysis Report for tube wear identified in the Unit 2 and Unit 3 Steam Generators of San Onofre…,” which indicates Southern California Edison (SCE) and MHI were aware of serious problems with the design of San Onofre nuclear power plant’s replacement steam generators before they were installed, and we encourage the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to do everything in its power to ensure safety before all else re: San Onofre.
REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEM SEEKING APPROVAL OF FUNDING, PROGRAMS, OR EVENTS

Date February 25, 2013
Name/Committee Governmental Affairs

Text of Motion on the Agenda*: moves that the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council adopt the following Community Impact Statement regarding Council File 13-0002 (HYPERLINK "http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2013/13-0002_reso_12-5-12.pdf" http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2013/13-0002_reso_12-5-12.pdf) and furthermore, that all fellow neighborhood councils be requested to consider adopting the same or similar CIS:

We support Senator Boxer’s request for public release of the 2012 Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) document entitled “Root Cause Analysis Report for tube wear identified in the Unit 2 and Unit 3 Steam Generators of San Onofre…,” which indicates Southern California Edison (SCE) and MHI were aware of serious problems with the design of San Onofre nuclear power plant’s replacement steam generators before they were installed, and we encourage the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to do everything in its power to ensure safety before all else re: San Onofre.

Describe the event/project in detail. Include as much supplemental information as possible (background information; supporting and opposing viewpoints, if available, etc.) Attach additional sheets as necessary:

In 2009, the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station replaced its two steam generators. In January 2012, Unit #3 leaked radiation into the atmosphere. Both generators were shut down, and upon examination, the tubes showed what appeared to be many years of wear even though little more than two years had passed since replacement -- and that has caused grave concern among many who analyze safety concerns, and/or who live in surrounding communities, including Los Angeles. Southern California Edison has announced plans to start unit #2 without replacing any parts, at least for a five months’ test run (during the height of summer, to avoid extra costs of energy purchased from outside sources). There is also talk from Edison about plans for retiring the plant permanently, after that time.

Senator Barbara Boxer has discussed a leaked report from Mitsubishi Heavy industries suggesting that Edison and Mitsubishi knew of designs flaws before replacing parts, and that such information may have been hidden in order to avoid a thorough license amendment process capable of potentially noticing such flaws.

What is the perceived/potential impact on the community if we adopt the motion (pro and con)?

Pro: In the event of a radiation leak from a restarted San Onofre -- and in addition to any resultant and major public health and environmental ramifications -- there might well be closures of Port of Los Angeles and Interstate 5 (the major north-south route of commerce for Southern California, costing potentially billions of dollars, as well as emergency evacuations of millions of people out of the immediate area and into surrounding communities such the City of Los Angeles. Increased information could effect decisions capable of addressing such possibilities and/or mitigating such threats and costs. Increased information about San Onofre could effect decisions capable of addressing such possibilities and/or mitigating such threats and cost

Con: Each day that San Onofre is down costs Southern California Edison billions of dollars and potentially adversely affects its stockholders and the value of the shares they own. Additionally, dirty emissions power plants have come back on line to replace the power once provided by San Onofre.
What is the total budget for the project? How much is the SLNC asked to commit? Are there alternate funding sources? (Please attach itemized budget.) N/A

What is the timeline for the project? (Be sure to include deadline for Board action, major dates, etc.) If adopted, the Community Impact Statement will be filed with the City and will be shared with leadership of all other neighborhood councils and neighborhood council alliances, within one week’s time.

From which budget line(s) are the funds to be drawn? N/A

How will this motion be implemented, and by whom? The motion will be implemented by the co-chair(s) of the Governmental Affairs committee.

*If motion is approved, please be sure to see the Treasurer to fill out a Demand Warrant so that payment may be issued promptly.

Chairman Boxer and Rep. Markey Call on NRC to Investigate New Safety Concerns at Southern California Nuclear Plant
February 6, 2013

Washington, DC - Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), and Representative Ed Markey (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee, sent a HYPERLINK "http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=951e06a0-fc54-4f85-a237-e6ff091b9f2b" \t "_blank" letter today to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman, Dr. Allison M. Macfarlane, urging the NRC to immediately investigate new information that indicates Southern California Edison (SCE) and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) were aware of problems with the design of the San Onofre nuclear power plant's replacement steam generators before they were installed. The new information also raises concerns that SCE and MHI rejected enhanced safety modifications and avoided triggering a more rigorous license amendment and safety review process.

The full text of the letter is below:

The Honorable Allison M. Macfarlane
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Macfarlane:

We have become aware of new information contained in a 2012 Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) document entitled "Root Cause Analysis Report for tube wear identified in the Unit 2 and Unit 3 Steam Generators of San Onofre Generating Station" (Report).

We strongly urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to promptly initiate an investigation concerning the troubling information contained in this Report.

The Report indicates that Southern California Edison (SCE) and MHI were aware of
serious problems with the design of San Onofre nuclear power plant's replacement steam generators before they were installed. Further, the Report asserts that SCE and MHI rejected enhanced safety modifications and avoided triggering a more rigorous license amendment and safety review process.

For example, the Report states that although SCE and MHI accepted some adjustments to the replacement steam generators, further safety modifications were found to have "unacceptable consequences" and were rejected: "Among the difficulties associated with the potential changes was the possibility that making them could impede the ability to justify the RSG [replacement steam generator] design" without the requirement for a license amendment. The Report also indicates that SCE's and MHI's decision to reject additional safety modifications contributed to the faulty steam generators and the shutdown of reactor Units 2 and 3.

This newly-obtained information concerns us greatly, and we urge the NRC to immediately conduct a thorough investigation into whether SCE and MHI did in fact fail to make needed safety enhancements to avoid the license amendment process. All people in our nation, including the 8.7 million people who live within 50 miles of the San Onofre plant, must have confidence in the NRC's commitment to put safety before any other concern.

We believe this alarming Report raises serious concerns about SCE's and MHI's past actions. Safety, not regulatory short cuts, must be the driving factor in the design of nuclear facilities, as well as NRC's determination on whether Units 2 and 3 can be restarted.

We look forward to your prompt response detailing how public safety will be assured in light of this information. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Dr. Michal Freedhoff of Rep. Markey's staff at 202-225-2836 or Grant Cope of Chairman Boxer's staff at 202-224-8832.

Sincerely,