



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 08/08/06
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 20 minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Micheal F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Contact Info: Jim Laponis, Deputy County Executive Officer 568-3404
SUBJECT: AB 1632 (Blakeslee) Energy: Planning and Forecasting

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form/legality: Yes No N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes No N/A

Recommended Action(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Consider supporting AB 1632, introduced by Assembly Member Blakeslee, to require the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to include, as part of its electricity and natural gas forecasting and assessment activities, a compilation and assessment of existing scientific studies related to nuclear power plants in the state, to include key policy and planning issues effecting the role of nuclear power plants in California, and
- B. If the Board votes to support, authorize the Board Chair to sign a letter (Attachment E) to be forwarded to the County's delegation indicating support for AB 1632.

Summary:

During the public comment portion of the Legislative Program Committee meeting of July 31, 2006, Supervisor Rose requested the Committee to allow this matter to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors at its meeting of August 8, 2006.

The Warren-Alquist State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Act, requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to prepare an integrated energy policy report every two years. Under current law, the report includes electricity and natural gas forecasting and assessment activities.

AB 1632 would require the Commission as part of its report to compile and assess existing scientific studies, related to nuclear power plants, to determine the potential vulnerability, of a major disruption due to aging or a major seismic event. The required studies will include an analysis of the impact of a major disruption on system reliability, public health, safety, and the economy. Further, AB 1632 would require the Commission, in the absence of a long-term nuclear storage facility, to assess the potential state and local costs and impacts associated with accumulating waste at California's nuclear powerplants.

The County of San Luis Obispo, City of Morro Bay, and Division of Ratepayer Advocates of the California Public Utilities Commission are all on record in support of AB 1632, as are various environmental groups.

Background:

According to the 2005 California Energy Commission’s Integrated Energy Policy Report, a significant percentage of California’s electricity supply comes from the in-state Diablo Canyon and San Onofre nuclear power plants. Operators at these nuclear plants face many issues involving the transportation and disposal of spent fuel, upcoming extensions of their operating licenses, and major capital expenditures to replace aging steam generators.

New nuclear power plant construction in California was suspended in 1976 pending determination by the Energy Commission that a high-level federal nuclear waste disposal repository has been approved and built. The Energy Commission continues to find that a high-level nuclear waste repository has been neither approved nor built. Californians have contributed well over \$1 billion to the federal waste disposal development effort, which remains plagued with licensing delays, increasing costs, technical challenges, public opposition, and managerial problems.

The lack of a federal nuclear waste disposal repository has forced California’s utilities to retain spent fuel in storage facilities at currently operating reactor sites for an indefinite period of time. As a result, the Commission recommends that the State should evaluate the long-term implications associated with the continuing accumulation of spent fuel as California’s operating plants.

AB 1632, which was introduced by Assembly member Blakeslee and coauthored by Assembly members De La Torre, Evans, and Levine and Senators Chesbro, Escutia, Harman, and Kehoe, seeks to require the study of key policy and planning issues effecting the role of nuclear power plants in California. AB 1632 has passed policy committees in the Assembly and the Senate with broad bipartisan support. The bill will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee, as early as the week of August 7th, and if passed will proceed to the Senate Floor and on to the Governor for signature.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no County fiscal or facility impacts associated with the recommended action.

Budgeted: Yes No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized Cost:</u>	<u>Total Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Staffing Impact(s):

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

There are no County staffing impacts associated with the recommended actions.

AB 1632 (Blakeslee) Energy: Planning and Forecasting

08/08/06

Page 3 of 3

Attachments: (list all)

- A. AB 1632 as Amended in the Senate on June 27, 2006
- B. Letter of Support from the County of San Luis Obispo
- C. Letter of Support from the City of Morro Bay
- D. Letter of Support from State of California Public Utilities Commission, Division of Ratepayer Advocates
- E. Draft Letter for the signature of the Board Chair

Authored by:

Lori Norton, Analyst 568-3421

cc: