

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 2/19/03  
**Department Name:** Board of Supervisors  
**Department No.:** 011  
**Agenda Date:** 3/18/03  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimate Time:** 15 min.  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Supervisor Gail Marshall, Third District

**STAFF** Elizabeth Martinez, x.2192

**CONTACT:** Third District Administrative Assistant

**SUBJECT:** Resolution Opposing the Transportation of Spent Nuclear Fuel and Radioactive Waste through Santa Barbara County

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Consider the adoption of the attached resolution opposing the transportation of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste by train, truck or barge through Santa Barbara County.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No.2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

On July 9, 2002, the United States Congress approved the Department of Energy's plan to use Yucca Mountain in Nevada as a repository for the high-level radioactive waste from 131 sites around the nation. As proposed, shipments of high-level radioactive waste will be transported through 43 States by train, truck or barge.

Santa Barbara County is one of the areas along the proposed transportation routes through which the shipments would travel. Those routes include U.S. Highway 101, the Southern Pacific Railroad corridor adjacent to Highway 101 and the waters of the Santa Barbara Channel. The transportation of these highly lethal substances poses a danger to the millions of inhabitants in cities, counties, and communities along the proposed routes and the potential for an accident or terrorist attack on any of the proposed shipments through Santa Barbara County is real and significant.

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On January 23, 1996, the Board adopted Resolution 96-19 opposing the transportation of spent nuclear fuel by via the major freeway route of north or southbound U.S. Highway 101 and the Southern Pacific Railroad corridor through major population centers. The resolution proposed today includes opposition via barge through the waters of the Santa Barbara Channel and further urges the Federal and State Governments to develop policies that would avoid reliance on nuclear energy.

Adoption of this resolution by your Board would affirm your desire to protect and promote the health and safety of this community and opposition against this type of risky transportation method, which could result in potential disaster.

**Mandates and Service Levels:** N/A

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:** N/A

**Special Instructions:** Clerk of the Board please forward a copy of the executed resolution and Minute Order to: Congresswoman Lois Capps, Congressman Elton Gallegly, Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

**Concurrence:**

**Attachment:** Resolution No. 96-19

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE TRANSPORTATION ) RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL AND RADIOACTIVE )  
WASTE BY TRAIN, TRUCK OR BARGE THROUGH )  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY )

WHEREAS, On January 23, 1996, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors passed, by unanimous vote, resolution 96-19 opposing the transportation of nuclear fuel and radioactive waste through Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy's Yucca Mountain plan was approved in Congress on July 9, 2002, as United States Senate Joint Resolution 34; and

WHEREAS, Yucca Mountain, Nevada, was chosen as the repository for the high-level radioactive waste from 131 sites around the nation despite the fact that Yucca Mountain cannot provide geologic containment as required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982; and

WHEREAS, nuclear waste would still be generated and stored at the 103 operating nuclear reactor sites around the country, which will ensure additional future shipments; and

WHEREAS, the transportation of these highly lethal substances poses a danger to the millions of inhabitants in cities, counties, and communities along the proposed transportation routes; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County is one of the areas along the proposed transportation routes through which the proposed shipments of nuclear waste would travel by train, truck, or barge; and

WHEREAS, these shipments of nuclear waste would place the citizens of Santa Barbara County and future generations at risk of severe physical harm; and

WHEREAS, the potential for an accident or terrorist attack on any of the proposed shipments through Santa Barbara County is real and significant; and

WHEREAS, a release of high-level radioactive material on US Highway 101, the Southern Pacific Railroad, or the waters of the Santa Barbara Channel, could cause human fatalities, extreme long-term ecological damage, property value loss, severe detriment to the tourist economy, fishing industry destruction, major impairment to the functioning of colleges and universities on the coastline, and great damage to businesses along the route; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government's plan places the physical and financial responsibility on local jurisdictions that are unprepared to deal with the clean up of the hazardous materials and the long-term detrimental effects of radiation; and

WHEREAS, a local government's responsibility is to protect and promote the community's health, safety, and welfare.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors opposes the transportation of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste through Santa Barbara County and the Santa Barbara Channel. We further urge the appropriate Federal and State authorities to develop energy policies that would avoid reliance on nuclear energy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors will transmit copies of this resolution to Santa Barbara County's representative in Congress, United States senators from California, the Secretary of Energy, and the President of the United States.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March 2003 by the following votes:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

ATTEST:  
MICHAEL F. BROWN  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
STEPHEN SHANE STARK  
COUNTY COUNSEL

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy