

ERRATA

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

During the construction permit stage, the staff analyzed alternative sites, plant designs, and methods of power generation, including the alternative of not adding the production capacity. The staff concluded, based on its analysis of these alternatives, as well as on a cost-benefit basis, that additional capacity was needed that a nuclear-fueled plant would be environmentally acceptable, and that SONGS, at a specified site and of a specified design, were acceptable from both economic and environmental perspectives. Since that time, construction of SONGS has been nearly completed and many of the economic and environmental costs associated with the construction of the facility have already been incurred and must be viewed as "sunk costs" in any prospective assessment.

The staff believes that the only reasonable alternative to the proposed action of issuance of operating licenses for SONGS appropriately considered at this stage is denial of the operating licenses for the facility, thereby not permitting the addition of the essentially built generating capacity to the applicant's generating system. Alternatives such as construction of the units at another site, extensive modifications to the facility, or construction of facilities utilizing different energy sources would each require additional construction activity with its accompanying economic and environmental costs. Therefore, unless major safety or environmental concerns resulting from operation of SONGS are revealed that were not evident and considered during the construction permit review, these alternatives are unreasonable as compared to operating the already constructed facility. No such concerns have been identified with respect to operation of SONGS.

The continued need for the capacity to be generated by SONGS is discussed in section 8 of this FES.

Accordingly, the staff concludes that the preferable alternative is operation of SONGS.

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