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October 26, 1989

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

Subject: Docket Nos. 50-206, 50-361 and 50-362
Final Report of the Marine Review Committee to the
California Coastal Commission
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2 and 3

The "Final Report of the Marine Review Committee to the California Coastal Commission, August 1989" is provided as an enclosure to this letter and responds to a telephone request from Messrs. George W. Knighton and Charles M. Trammell, Project Directorate V, USNRC to the undersigned.

In general, the enclosed Marine Review Committee (MRC) report confirms and further limits the findings previously reported in the 1980 "Predictive Report" to the California Coastal Commission (CCC). There were no substantial adverse effects discovered, and the balanced indigenous character of the site is maintained. The MRC report included the following findings:

- In spite of predictions that SONGS operation could severely reduce plankton and create an extensive near shore "desert," plankton populations near San Onofre were unaffected.
- SONGS had no consistent effect on fish larvae. Some species decreased while others increased in abundance, with more species increasing overall.
- The abundance of giant kelp plants has increased at most kelp beds in San Diego County, including those near SONGS. However, the increase in the size of the San Onofre kelp bed was much less than expected based on comparisons with the relative growth of the control kelp bed population.
- SONGS operation results in the loss of at least 21 tons of fish annually. (It should be noted that this amount is small compared to the approximate 4,500 tons of fish taken from the Southern California sea area by Sport fishermen.)

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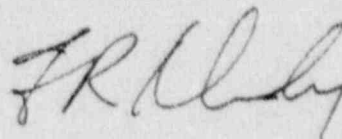
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The MRC recommended alternatives for preventing or mitigating the effects of SONGS operations to the CCC. These recommendations are in the form of a series of options which include reduction of cooling water flow, construction of artificial reefs or the rehabilitation of wetlands. The CCC will consider these recommendations and has tentatively scheduled public hearings for January or February 1990. SCE intends to work with the CCC staff to bring about a satisfactory conclusion to this matter. It is our expectation that the California Coastal Commission will decide on a course of action regarding these recommendations during the first half of 1990, and we will advise you of their decision.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Very truly yours,



Enclosure

cc: J. B. Martin, Regional Administrator, NRC Region V
C. Caldwell, NRC Sr. Resident Inspector, San Onofre Units 1, 2 & 3