

File

Joe Fouchard, Division of Public
Information, Headquarters

November 28, 1962

Dale J. Cook
Assistant Information Officer, SAN

NEILANDS CPUC PETITION; BODEGA CLIPS

MI:DJC

Attached are flips from the San Francisco Chronicle and News-Call-Bulletin today, reporting that Dr. J. B. Neilands has requested the California Public Utilities Commission to reconsider its recent PG&E Bodega plant decision. Neilands alleges the University of California Chancellor at Berkeley was holding back a report by scientists unfavorable to the power plant.

Also attached are a few additional clips from the Santa Rosa-Petaluma area relating to the proposed project.

Enclosures:
As stated

cc: Robert Lowenstein, Dir., DL&R, HQS w/enc
R. W. Smith, Dir., Compliance Region V, w/enc



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'Report on Atom Plant Suppressed'

The Chronicle 11/28/67
By Donovan Bess

Dr. Edward W. Strong, chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley, was accused yesterday of holding back a report by scientists unfavorable to a controversial nuclear power plant on Bodega Head.

The accusation was made by a UC professor of biochemistry, Dr. J. B. Neilands, in a petition asking the California Public Utilities Commission to reconsider a recent decision to let the plant be built.

In the petition, Neilands cited the report of a faculty committee headed by Dr. Ralph Emerson, professor of botany, which investigated the feasibility of putting a UC marine biological station next to the \$61 million power plant planned by Pacific Gas and Electric Co.

The report was submitted to Dr. Glenn Seaborg, then Berkeley chancellor, late in

See Page 14, Col. 4

Bodega--- 'Report Was Suppressed'

From Page 1

1960. According to Neilands, it called for "ouster of the PG&E plant from Bodega Head."

Reliable University sources told *The Chronicle* the investigators agreed unanimously that ten proposed alternate sites for the marine station had been rejected because none of them "was equal to Bodega Head as it now stands."

The scientists also reported, these sources said: "Bluntly stated, a unique Class-A site for a marine facility is being exploited for power production."

In the petition for a PUC rehearing, Neilands asserted that Strong "has declined to make this report available to interested members of the faculty" and "has managed to keep it out of the public domain."

Strong was not immediately available yesterday for comment. But a University spokesman said the report cited evidently was "only a preliminary report," and the chancellor would not necessarily be obligated to release it to members of the faculty.

Neilands declared, however, "The university has failed to defend the biological integrity of the area. I have filed this petition because I believe it is not in the long-range interest of the public or the (public utilities) commission to let the record stand as it was."

He said the chancellor told UC biologists, in effect, "You'll have to have that power plant next door—like it or lump it."

APPROVAL

Conservationists and a number of scientists have tried to persuade the commission to block construction of the 325,000-kilowatt reactor-powered generator on the Sonoma coast site. However PG&E got a go-ahead from the commission, with some conditions, on November 9.

Professor Neilands' petition asks the commission to call a rehearing "which would conclusively assess the effect of the subsequent planned industrialization of Bodega Head on the biological integrity of the area."

Neilands contended he had new evidence warranting reopening of the case — primarily the UC scientists' report of 1960.

PG&E officials said it would be inappropriate to comment on the petition, since the matters involved were "for the commission to decide."

UC Man Accuses Boss on A-Plant

SF News-Coll Bulletin 11/28/62

A UC biochemist has accused his boss, Chancellor Edward W. Strong, of suppressing a report unfavorable to the proposed nuclear power plant on Bodega Bay.

The charge came from Prof. John B. Neilands, of the Berkeley faculty, in a petition asking the California Public Utilities Commission to reconsider its au-

thorization for the planned PG&E installation.

Strong did not immediately reply.

THE PUC on Nov. 9 OK'd the 325,000-kilowatt generator, rejecting the arguments of scientists and conservationists that its outflow would destroy marine life, and ruin UC's plans for a marine biological station nearby.

Neilands, in his new position, said a committee of biologists formed to select a location for the marine

station had made these findings:

- That Bodega Bay is the best location for the laboratory, operating in a field which "may prove as beneficial to mankind as the exploration of outer space."

- That establishment of the PG&E plant there means, "bluntly stated, a unique Class A site for a marine facility is being exploited for power production."

NEILAND'S petition said: "The present chancellor, Dr. E. W. Strong, has de-

clined to make this report available to interested members of the faculty."

He asked for a rehearing "which would conclusively assess the effect of the planned industrialization of Bodega Head on the biological integrity of the area."



ALEXANDER GRENDON

Ignore the people

Alexander Grendon, the Coordinator of Atomic Energy Development and Radiation Protection mogul for Gov. Brown, certainly placed himself in a foolish position Saturday night at the mass meeting to discuss the Bodega Bay nuclear plant. First, he had the gall to usurp the floor to harangue the audience with matters, some of which were unrelated to those under discussion. Then he charged "a thousand inaccuracies" had been presented, but named not one of them. Then he said he would use his influence to have one of the public hearings held in Sonoma County, but it wouldn't do the people any good! He said "only experts" would be allowed to testify at such a meeting. Here was a man, living off the labor of the people in his audience, telling them that the nuclear plant proposed at Bodega Bay is none of their damned business, and that they should shut up and leave the decisions to the experts—most of whom are employed by government and PG&E, and not permitted to speak at such meetings! Living off the taxpayers' fat, Grendon

had no comment on a speaker's statement that out of 21 meetings held in Sonoma County on the question of locating a nuclear plant, not a single one was open to the public. This is the kind of harassment the people of Sonoma County should demand that Gov. Brown remove from office, and quiet about it.

LEAVE IT TO EXPERTS

Why bother us?

The only time the people of Sonoma County had a chance to learn from impartial experts just what an atomic reactor in their backyard really means, about 120-150 showed up. For the benefit of the 157,000 who think the threat of radiation poses no problem, we can sum up Saturday night's meeting for them.

First, radiation causes cancer, shortens life, and affects the reproductive system of the body. Second, nobody knows whether the atomic waste from the nuclear plant at Bodega Bay can be prevented from contaminating the air and ground of Sonoma County.

Of equal significance is the fact that in this matter, as in

(Continued on Page 7)

Sez here—

(Continued from page 7)

So many others, the people have found it easier and more comfortable to place their lives and their welfare into the hands of government. "After all, they're experts, and they know what's best for everybody!" This attitude, that the modern American's life is better regulated and protected by government, is the attitude that is causing much of the world to ask, "Is America worth saving?" Those who answer the question in the affirmative are invited to do something to settle the question affirmatively.

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ED MANNION'S

Rear-View Mirror

A 1917 FIRE ruining the Wickerham Building on Main Street was discussed two weeks ago. It was mentioned that J. W. Horn, a real estate operator, had been chased out of his office on the upper floor.

Duncan Olmsted has found a booklet printed in 1915 by Horn called "Sonoma County Real Estate Bargains," which contains maps, pictures and other area material.

One page lists information boosting Petaluma, starting out by saying it was the largest poultry center in the world and ending with, "Petaluma is nearer to San Francisco than Patterson, New Jersey, is to New York and there is no reason why its manufactories should not be as large. That it will advance with San Francisco is as certain as the rise and fall of the same ocean tide in both cities. The climate of Petaluma is that of the bay counties, at all times moderate, even in its extremes. It has the winter temperature of Southern Florida though ten degrees farther north than the Atlantic peninsula. . . . Those familiar with the New Jersey city of Patterson may be thankful such a fate didn't happen here, but then it all depends on a viewpoint of what makes up pleasurable community life.

Certainly a majority of the Board of Supervisors hope such "progress" comes to the county, as represented by their approval of experimental nuclear reactors on Bodoga Head.

Dr. Dan Lutten, geography lecturer at the University of California, had this to say at last Saturday night's meeting in Santa Rosa opposing the atomic plant:

You are told, of course, that growth is the road to the future. Perhaps you are even told that growth and progress are the same thing — as manifest a piece of nonsense as was ever sold to a presumably literate people. You are told that this power plant will increase the tax base, and it will of course.

But you are also told or left to infer that it will, therefore, lower your taxes. There was a time when all of us were told and were inclined to believe that if we could increase our tax base, God would provide that no increase in costs would accompany it. Now we know better. All of the rapidly growing parts of this country have increasing tax bases. Are these, then areas with lowest taxes? No.

Let me ask as a general question. "Does this society exist merely to serve its economy?" No one will answer yes to this question and yet by and large our decisions on public policy are made primarily or wholly in terms of economic justification.

Old-timer Horn's booklet of 47 years ago is such an interesting collector's item that I'm rather sorry to have it come to notice just when I'm mad as hops about developments in the controversial PG&E matter.

In fact I've become fond of the real estate man because he plugged a favorite spot, Two Rock Valley.

Handwritten notes and a stamp: "REAL ESTATE, HORN'S AND HIS BROTHER, HORN SAID... PAYS A DIME... ANSWER... OUT FROM... COUNCIL... THE INTEREST"

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"The cheapest good land to be had in the Petaluma District at the present time," said Horn, "is in Two Rock Valley Heights Sub-division, 700 acres cut into 5, 10, and 20 acre tracts and being sold at \$200 per acre up and can be bought on easy terms, or will improve it for you, then sell it for one-fourth cash and balance on six per cent interest.

"This property is seven miles northwest of Petaluma in Sonoma and Marin Counties, 1 1/2 miles from the Electric Railway Station, and is surrounded by most successful poultry, dairy and hog ranches, one party keeping an average of 16,000 laying hens and many others, 5,000 to 10,000 laying hens.

"The land will soon be selling for \$300 and \$400 per acre, we believe. The soil is a rich, dark, garden loam, needs no irrigation and raises all crops successfully that grow in our part of California, including fruit, beans, berries, garden, dairy, hogs and poultry . . ."

The soil being able to grow animals in the above statement may be accounted for by enthusiasm.

Mention of the "Electric Railway" refers to a branch line of the Petaluma and Santa Rosa Railroad Co. started in 1913 and discontinued 16 years ago.

Just one listing by Horn will be studied by today's local realtors with interest:

\$3,500 -- 2 acres within the city limits of Petaluma, with 4-room house, electric lights, gas, bath, hot and cold water; good well, windmill and water tank; poultry buildings for about 1,500 laying hens and 1,000 young chicks. This is an ideal little home and profitable poultry ranch, within easy walking distance of schools and business center, and can be had on very easy terms. Immediate possession.

A PHONE CALL to Ivan Stice brought information that Two Rock Valley Heights is directly south of the army installation between Spring Hill and Chileno Valley Roads. It was the old Seavy Ranch.

Stice said he used to plow with five horses and gang plow for the Doss brothers who rented the property years ago. Horn swapped a piece of it for a ranch in Nevada, and a Senator Kinkaid from that state had a daughter who married an Englishman named Norman B. Hunter. They had control of the local site for a time.

Part of the area is so beautiful that Horn planned to make it into a park if he sold enough lots. The higher, rockier parts had difficulty attracting buyers.

PAST FEW DAYS have also been difficult. Besides the Public Utilities Commission decision on Bodega Bay, football teams of Petaluma High School, St. Vincent, California, Stanford, the 49ers and Iowa lost.

Even worse has been loss of a note from a senior citizen who was kind enough to write the Argus-Courier regarding a column concerning old-time parades. She mentioned the name of her sister who was an early Egg Day queen. Hope she will phone or write again.

One victory did emerge during the past week. Dr. Albert Shumate, president of the California Historical Society and, equally important, a past Noble Grand Hurabug of E Clampus Vitus, recently urged Chris and me to write the Division of Highways. The state officials were asked to reconsider a decision against allowing removal, down a busy highway, of a pioneer adobe at the foot of Pacheco Pass.

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In danger of going under water, due to the San Luis water project, was the famous residence of Miss Pauline Fatjo. A letter just received from the district engineer says the permit has been granted, and the oldest home in the San Joaquin Valley will escape destruction.

It's doubtful if the same result will come from a hot-under-the-collar telegram (we had to do something!) sent the governor a week ago Friday night when the PUC decision leading to the ruin of Bodega Bay was announced.

Sacramento does have something top-flight besides Sen. Joseph A. Rattigan, namely a newspaper called the Bee. A. (Izzy) Barlas evidently is selective in his reading because he not only subscribes to the Argus-Courier but the Bee as well.

Izzy brought in the following note from the Bee's editorial page column headed "100 Years Ago":

L. N. Harmon of Petaluma was bitten by a tarantula the other day. The wound began to swell, but by cauterizing it, and a free use of whisky inwardly, the poison was antedoted.

Maybe bourbon is the answer to radiation.

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Some Questions
On Atomic Park

11/19/62

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EDITOR: Thank you for your coverage of last Saturday's meeting which was called to provide more information on the nature and the dangers of an Atomic "Park" such as PG&E is planning to build on Bodega Head.

We heard many nuclear experts explain some of the problems that the people in this area may fall heir to. They said this would be an experimental plant—the first of its size in the United States. It was not very comforting to hear that a plant of the same type, only much smaller, recently had a "minor" reactor accident killing three men. It spread detectable radioactivity for a distance of 150 miles from its Arco, Idaho, site.

The audience was incensed over the way PG&E was given a use permit for a "Steam Electric Plant" by county officials when what they intend to build is an Atomic "Park". Did PG&E misrepresent the facts to our county officials? Or did our county officials know it was to be atomic? If they knew, wouldn't it have been wise to set the matter for public hearings? Were knowledgeable and impartial experts called in to testify as to the dangers to lives and property in this area? How did the county officials reach the determination that this plant would not be detrimental to the health, safety, peace, morals, comfort and general welfare of people in the area?

Needless to say there is growing skepticism as to how adequately the public is being protected by their representatives. Anyone that wishes to find the grounds for this skepticism should read "A Visit to the Atomic Park" by David E. Peterson, available P.O. Box 1715, Santa Rosa.

S.R. Chapter of the Committee
to PRESERVE BODEGA HEAD
Santa Rosa

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Letters to Editor

Sebastopol Times
Snail fighting 11/15/62

EDITOR:

FIT CLIPP
LEFT TO R

The division of the Public Utilities Commission should surprise no one. As an agency of and for the government, it could do nothing else, since the PG&E has become the foster-child, so to speak, of Uncle Sam and the A.E.C.

Pesonen's article, "A Visit to the Atomic Park," makes clear the deviousness of their efforts to hoodwink the public—which almost succeeded. Pesonen has made it clear that the U. C. and PG&E and AEC are working together for one purpose, that atomic power plant.

And it should be obvious now that, though Bodega Head is the only available site for marine biology, my portion of Bodega Head was acquired; not for marine biology, but as a buffer zone for PG&E.

The road that PG&E is supposed to build around the bay will, by the time it is completed, fill Bodega Bay and make it useless as a harbor for even a rowboat. That much publicized Coast Guard station will serve as the housing needed not only for janitors for the plant, but to house a force of deputies to police the entire area to keep out the public from Bodega Head—at least from the old Kee property line on the south side oceanward. The USCG building is on the wrong side of Doran Pt. as a station. To save time, trouble, and effort, the CG boats should lay to the south side of Doran Beach, not on the bay side.

If this isn't so, why all the preliminaries to build or survey the Russian River mouth area for a small craft harbor? That has been looked into and discarded a number of times. Why the sudden interest now?

Sonoma County, PG&E, and the AEC are ignoring the fact that Judge Thomas Kongsgaard's decision decreed that Bodega Bay shore owners own-

ed the mean tide line on the first and third quarters of the moon, and any road built beyond that would be so far out into the bay, any construction or fill would fill it up, as well as deprive the bayshore owners of riparian rights access to the water, without due process. Nor has the fact ever been brought into court that the heirs of Stephen Smith and his successors (the present bay shore owners) have been deprived of property rights without due process. The Battle of Bodega Head is not yet finished.

Dave Pesonen's "A Visit to the Atomic Park" should be compulsory reading for every citizen of Sonoma County. It is a perfect expose of how we are governed, not by the officials we trust by electing them to office, but by strings pulled behind the scenes. It is time the citizens woke up. We defeated the bond (court house) issue four times—we can win this.

ROSE GAFFNEY
Bodega Bay/

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