



Southern California Edison Backgrounder

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The Growing Importance of Southern California Edison's Nuclear Power Program

More than a quarter century of safe, reliable, cost-effective, 24/7 electricity with virtually no emissions



The twin reactor units at Southern California Edison's (SCE) San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, near San Clemente, Calif., have been Southern California's largest and most reliable source of electricity for more than 25 years. Jointly owned by SCE, San Diego Gas & Electric, and the city of Riverside, the units can generate 2,200 megawatts of power, enough to meet the needs of 1.4 million average Southern California homes at a point in time. During the past quarter century, San Onofre has produced 350 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity - more than any other regional power source. Between refueling outages, the San Onofre plant's reliable reactors have been available to help meet Southern California's growing energy needs 97 percent of the time.

The Growing Importance of Clean, "Baseload" Generation

The San Onofre plant provides baseload generation, meaning its power can meet customer needs day and night regardless of weather variables that affect some energy sources. And the fact that nuclear energy is virtually emission-free means the plant is increasingly valuable for meeting rising air quality standards and policymakers' pursuit of a low-carbon power future. Compared to the use of fossil fuel generation the San Onofre plant has helped avoid:

- 100,000 metric tons of smog producing pollutants.
- 180 million metric tons of carbon emissions.
- Nuclear power provides 73 percent of the nation's emission-free generation.

A Cost-Effective, North American Fuel Source

The San Onofre plant helps control Southern California power costs and enhances energy security by increasing generation fuel diversity. The plant saves utility customers approximately \$250 million per year compared to the average cost of other available power sources. Uranium is an abundant, predictable, secure fuel source that reduces dependence on diminishing and unstable fuels.

SCE's '09 Forecast Gen. Mix

Natural Gas	51%
Nuclear	18%
Eligible Renewables	16%
Coal	10%
Large Hydro	5%
Eligible Renewables	
Geothermal	9%
Wind	3%
Biomass & waste	2%
Small hydroelectric	1%
Solar	1%

Essential to Grid Reliability

The San Onofre plant provides not just essential power but essential regional voltage support. Grid operators like SCE must ensure that enough electrons are available to feed devices in customer homes and

businesses, and must see to it that enough voltage is available throughout the grid to keep those electrons flowing to their destination. San Onofre is essential to grid stability in Orange and San Diego counties.

A Net Plus for Local Marine Life

One of three cooling systems at the San Onofre facility uses abundant, economical ocean water. Marine protection devices built into the plant's ocean water intake system safeguard 94 percent of local fish. Three major marine enhancement projects developed by SCE – a hatchery, kelp reef and wetlands project – more than restore the balance.



Community Economic Support

The San Onofre plant provides support to neighboring communities in a variety of ways:

- More than \$200 million annually in direct economic benefits through 2,000 high-paying jobs for skilled workers.
- An additional \$300 million in local economic benefits from the current steam generator replacement project.
- Approximately \$6 million annually in property taxes that support local services.
- More than \$300,000 annually in employee and company contributions to local charities, plus thousands of hours of voluntary community service.

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