

Great Spruce Head Island
Sunset, Maine
04683

22 July 1968

Mr. C. William Simmens, Secretary
San Francisco Bay Chapter
Sierra Club
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Simmens:

I totally disagree with the conclusions and intent of the resolution adopted by the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club concerning the letter that I signed to the Pacific Gas & Electric Company about Diablo Canyon. I cannot assent to the Executive Committee's request that I modify the effectiveness of the letter by writing P. G. & E. that it was not an official act of the Board. There is no ambiguity on that point. The letter did not purport to be official, it expressed only the independent position of eight directors. Since they are a majority of the Board the letter was sent in the expectation of similar official action by the Board at its next meeting. It was considered advisable to alert P. G. & E. to such impending action in the hope, however slight, that it would revise its plans before further destruction is caused at Diablo Canyon.

The Diablo Canyon referendum, which followed the Board of Directors resolution, was presented as a choice between two areas, and so was a compromise with industry and a retreat by conservation. The Sierra Club should never be a party to a convention that lessens wilderness. I believe that reversal of the Diablo Canyon resolution is essential to bring the position of the Board into consistency with the purposes of the Sierra Club. It may be too late to prevent the destruction of Diablo Canyon, nevertheless everything possible should be done to save what remains of the wild shores of the United States from development or pre-emption by industry.

To compromise with private interest and industry will save no wild areas; it will only lead to their gradual loss. Industry is not concerned to preserve conservation values; its concern is profits. Whenever concessions have been made to industry or private interest the lines of defense have contracted, wilderness has been reduced, and values have been degraded.

Yours sincerely,

Eliot Porter

cc Dr. Edgar Wayburn