

March 16, 2021

Dear Public Officials and Community Leaders,

You may have received an email asking you to support a new coalition calling itself Action for Spent Fuel Solutions Now being put together by Southern California Edison, operator of the now-closed San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant, and minority owner San Diego Gas & Electric. Do not be fooled into joining the coalition or lending your name to its banner. The solicitation is chock-full of exaggerations and flat-out lies. Before signing on, give this group the scrutiny it deserves.

The group identifies the County of Orange and County of San Diego as founding members but does nothing to authenticate the affiliation beyond listing one Republican supervisor from each of the counties as supporters. We verified that neither County took a formal Board of Supervisors vote on coalition membership.

The coalition's stated purpose is to lobby the federal government to provide "off-site storage locations" for the radioactive waste stored at the now-closed nuclear power plant.

Edison, however, is pushing for Consolidated Interim Storage, or CIS, which would ship the waste to *communities of color in Texas or New Mexico*. Communities surrounding the proposed CIS sites are outraged and have submitted more than 70,000 comments in opposition to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Across the country, [more than 50 advocacy groups oppose CIS](#). Attaching your name to this coalition — and, by extension, Edison's lobbying for CIS — would signal that you could care less about racial equity or environmental justice.

For Edison, a coalition of supportive local officials would provide cover for its controversial storage plans and a distraction from a lawsuit challenging its decommissioning program. Ironically, Edison vigorously defends its existing system for storing the 3.6 million pounds of deadly waste stranded on site at a location 100 feet from the ocean. The utility refuses to take steps to safeguard the radioactive material by keeping spent fuel pools operational after decommissioning or by constructing a handling facility to repackage the waste should the canisters be damaged.

A coalition of public officials would have the appearance of placing the public's interests first, but any coalition formed by Edison would serve only to advance the utility's agenda. The community has lost its trust in Edison, as shown in a [new UC San Diego survey](#). Do not let the utility co-opt the confidence you have worked so hard to build with your constituents.

And don't be fooled by misleading information displayed on a slick flyer that only a spin doctor could love. Instead, look at who is sending it — an executive from a high-end PR firm specializing in government relations and crisis management.

Thank you for your commitment to public service. To serve the public at the highest and most transparent level, we urge you to maintain your neutrality and reject the invitation to join Edison's coalition.

Signed,

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Samuel Lawrence Foundation  
Del Mar, CA

Bobby Wallace  
Tribal Member, Sovereign Nation of “Barona Band of Mission Indians” – Kumeyaay Nation  
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