



# PRESS RELEASE

## CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
PALL GUDGEIRSSON, CITY MANAGER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Important Information Regarding Potassium Iodide Distribution**

July 25, 2014...San Clemente, CA...In 2001 Potassium Iodide (KI) was implemented as a protective measure due to health risks to the public and emergency responders from I-131 released from an active and operating nuclear reactor. Potassium iodide is used to protect the thyroid gland from a specific type of radioactive iodine (iodine-131), which could be released to the environment in a nuclear power plant accident. Iodine-131 is produced during the fission process at an operational nuclear power plant, and naturally decays to undetectable levels in less than 80 days.

Due to the fact that SONGS has been shut down for over two years and is in the process of permanent decommissioning, and because there is no longer a risk of an I-131 release based on the reasons stated above, Orange County Health Officer, Dr. Eric Handler agrees with statements issued from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that KI is no longer a necessary protective measure.

Because of this, the City of San Clemente, along with the cities of San Juan Capistrano and Dana Point, San Diego County, Camp Pendleton, and the Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD), has suspended the Potassium Iodide distribution program. Remaining KI will be returned and disposed of when expired.

Suspending the distribution of KI in no way negates or downplays any recognition of radiological hazards still existing at SONGS. As long as these hazards exist the City of San Clemente will maintain a vigilant and robust

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emergency response capability. For more information please contact Katie Carpenter, City of San Clemente  
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