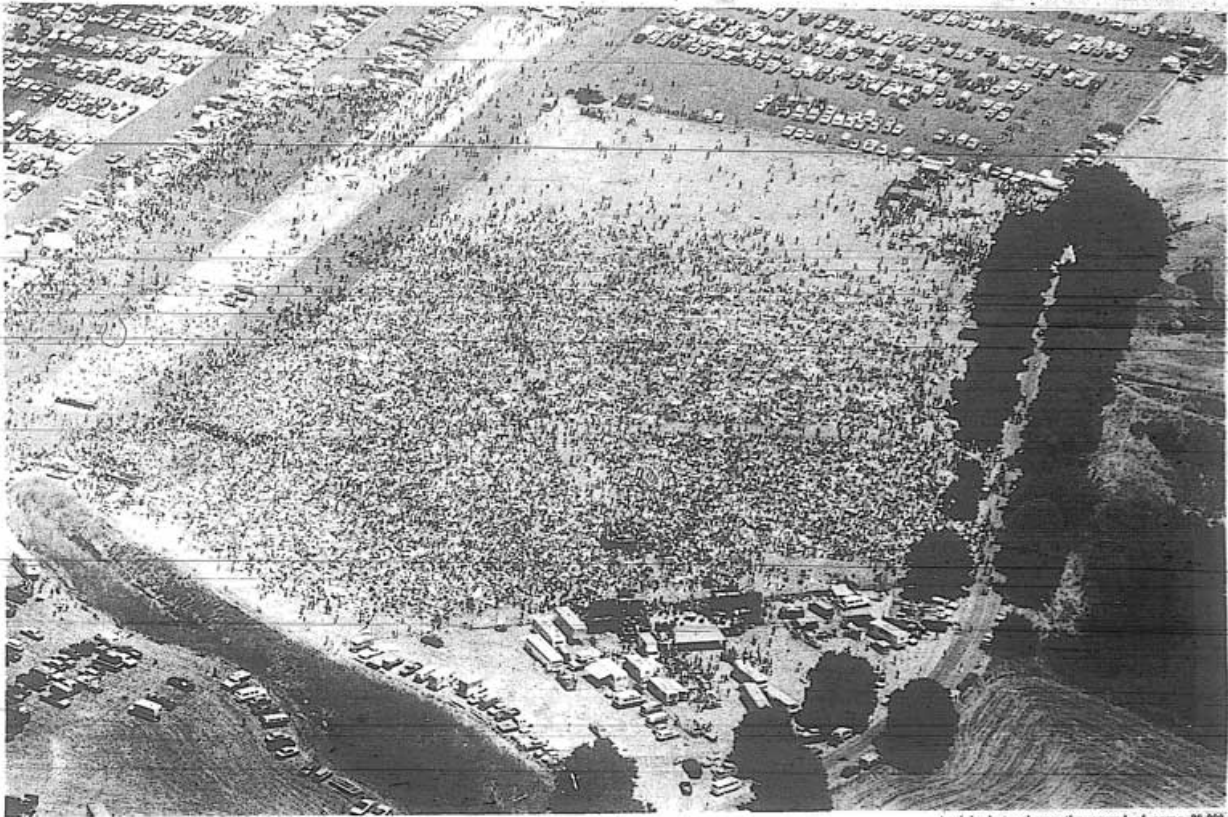


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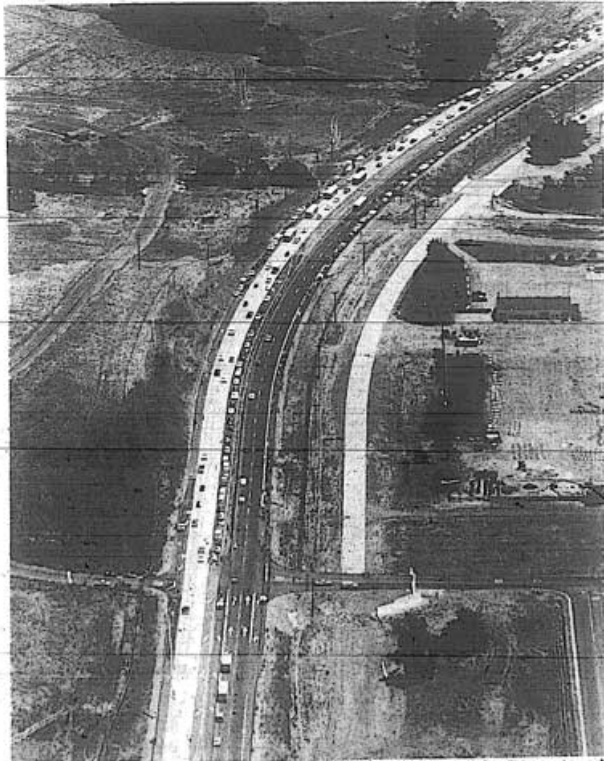
A nuclear rally day

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Photos by Wayne Nicholls

Aerial photo shows the crowd of some 30,000 people milling about on the Camp San Luis Obispo airfield about 7 p.m. Saturday during the anti-nuclear rally.



Highway 1, from Cuesta College entrance toward San Luis Obispo, is backed up for miles Saturday as people turn out for nuclear rally.

Rally spurs Brown to oppose Diablo

By Carl Neibarger
Staff Writer

Before Edmund G. Brown Jr. was allowed to walk on stage at Saturday's anti-nuclear rally at Camp San Luis Obispo, the Democratic governor had to assure rally organizers that he would do everything in his power to stop the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.

A five-member Abalone Alliance "rally collective" had spent about an hour listening to what the governor wanted to say, discussing it with him and then — in Brown's absence — coming to a "consensus" that he should be allowed to address the audience.

Brown told the crowd of about 30,000 people, "I've just decided to join your effort to deny a license to the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. I personally intend to pursue every avenue of appeal if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ignores the will of this community."

He said the rally symbolized "the triumph of people over power" and "a growing force to protect the earth."

Brown had asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on May 5 to halt Diablo licensing proceedings pending resolution of several safety issues but — until Saturday — hadn't categorically opposed licensing of the plant.

Brown's speech was shorter than two minutes but he received a minute-long standing ovation when he approached the podium and another standing ovation lasting nearly a minute after he concluded his statement by chanting, "No on Diablo."

His appearance, however, drew less-than-enthusiastic comments from some other rally speakers and spurred some discussion within the Abalone Alliance.

The alliance is a confederation of anti-nuclear groups throughout the state.

Shortly after Brown told a press conference what he would say at the rally, alliance spokeswoman Marcy Darnevsky of Berkeley quit, saying, "The Abalone Alliance was not formed to be a platform for candidates for elec-

tive office."

Darnevsky said Brown hadn't responded to Abalone Alliance requests to discuss the Diablo plant with him until Saturday — a statement confirmed by other group representatives.

One alliance member extensively involved in rally organization said Brown and his stand on nuclear power had been the subject of disagreement among alliance member groups.

On stage, after Brown's appearance, anti-nuclear activist Daniel Ellsberg warned that "trust is not the appropriate attitude for a democratic citizen to have towards a politician." Instead, he recommended "vigilance and skepticism."

Television actor Mike Farrell, who performs in "M*A*S*H," praised the governor for doing "a very courageous thing," but told the audience his combined opposition to nuclear power was what persuaded Brown to join it.

"At the press conference, Brown said he opposed licensing the Diablo plant because "reasonable assurance for the safety of this community has not been given."

Pacific Gas and Electric Co., which built the plant, "has underestimated repeatedly the problems associated with nuclear power," he said.

Brown said he supported conservation and development of "alternative" energy sources, but had not decided what should be done with the \$1.6 billion Diablo plant already built six miles northwest of Port San Luis.

Asked why he hadn't decided before Friday to speak at the rally, Brown said, "I move slowly. I've given it a lot of thought."

Another applicant for speaking time at the rally was less fortunate than Brown. Political activist Tom Hayden wasn't allowed to speak because he hadn't been invited to the rally and his Campaign for Economic Democracy hadn't taken a firm stand against the Diablo plant, Abalone Alliance spokeswoman Meg Simonds said.

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