

# David E. Pesonen: The Battle for Bodega Head

David Pesonen's leadership in the battle for Bodega Head led to an improbable victory over PG&E in 1964 that changed the course of nuclear power on the California coast. Although victory at Bodega did not prevent all nuclear projects in California, Pesonen's battle became the model for grassroots protest against government agencies and utilities. Ultimately, Pesonen's leadership established an important foundation for participatory democracy in California, as it profoundly shaped the emerging environmental movement, exposed issues of radioactive safety in the nuclear industry, and reflected the changing role of citizens in governmental decisions.

## Atoms for Peace

In President Eisenhower's Atomic Energy Peace uses before the United States Congress in December 1953, a cartoonist satirized the concept of atomic energy being used for peaceful purposes before the public.



The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 authorized the construction of nuclear power plants for peaceful purposes. The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was established to regulate the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

## Atomic Scientists

The Atomic Scientists' Institute for Public Information was founded in 1945 to educate the public about the dangers of nuclear war and the potential for nuclear energy to be used for peaceful purposes.

## Progress & Prosperity

The war was ended by atomic power, and progress and prosperity were assured through the opening of the atomic age. Atomic energy was seen as the key to a brighter future for all.



The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was established to regulate the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The AEC was responsible for the development and regulation of nuclear power plants.

## Sierra Club Politics

The Sierra Club has a long history of environmental activism. In 1962, the club successfully opposed the construction of a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head.



The Sierra Club's success at Bodega Head was a major victory for the environmental movement. It demonstrated the power of grassroots activism and the importance of public participation in decision-making.

# The Battle for Bodega Head

## The Company

PG&E was established in 1911 to provide electric power to the San Francisco Bay Area. The company was a major force in the development of the region.



PG&E's plans for a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head were met with opposition from the local community and environmental groups. The company's actions were seen as a threat to the environment and public safety.



The battle for Bodega Head was a landmark event in the history of the environmental movement. It led to the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in 1969 and the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1970.

## The Association

The Bodega Head Association was founded in 1962 to oppose the construction of a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head. The association was a key force in the battle for Bodega Head.



The Bodega Head Association's success in opposing the construction of a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head was a major victory for the environmental movement. It demonstrated the power of grassroots activism and the importance of public participation in decision-making.



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