

Tri-Valley CAREs

Communities Against a Radioactive Environment

2582 Old First Street, Livermore, CA 94551 • (925) 443-7148 • www.trivalleycares.org



*Peace Justice Environment
since 1983*

Tri-Valley CAREs' February Update...

U.S. Nuclear Weapons Policy is the hot topic de jour. President Obama's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request for Nuclear Weapons Activities went to Congress at the beginning of the month. And, Vice-President Joe Biden delivered a major speech this past Thursday on arms treaties, U.S. nuclear weapons and the bloated budget request.

This update offers you short analyses of the good, the bad and the ugly in the Biden speech and the budget request. Following that, you will learn more about our advocacy, and find opportunities and action alerts to CHANGE the government's wrongheaded nuclear activities.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET REQUEST FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Biggest Nuclear Weapons Activities Budget EVER Proposed.

Yes, you read that correctly. The Obama Administration's method for achieving its stated goal of "ridding the world of nuclear weapons" includes proposing \$7 billion next year for new bomb plants at Los Alamos (NM) and Y-12 (TN), "modifying" more nuclear weapons and, at Livermore Lab (CA), increasing funds for the National Ignition Facility.

Equally shocking, the Obama Administration's Fiscal Year 2011 budget request proposes to decrease funding needed to dismantle nuclear weapons. This budget request is a far cry from the genuine disarmament measures we seek.

For our hot-off-the-press analysis of the budget request, go to www.trivalleycares.org. The report is written by Dr. Robert Civiak, a physicist and former budget examiner for DOE nuclear weapons programs at the White House Office of Management and Budget

BIDEN POLICY SPEECH IS "ONE STEP FORWARD, TWO STEPS BACK"

Highlights Treaties, but Breaks No New Ground and Rationalizes Giant Nuclear Weapons Budget

In his speech on February 18th, Vice President Biden attempted to justify the budget increase, in part by lamenting the "neglected" weapons laboratories (as if George W. Bush didn't push nuclear weapons *enough*). Here, for your reading pleasure, is a letter to the editor penned by our Staff Attorney. Feel free to use it to write one of your own. (See also the full text of the Biden speech at www.trivalleycares.org)

Scott Yundt wrote On Thursday, Vice President Biden gave a speech about our nuclear weapons policy. Securing fissile nuclear material around the world, keeping nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists,

preventing proliferation to non-nuclear weapons states and ratifying important international treaties are all welcome, if obvious, steps in the right direction for world security.

Yet, a \$7 billion dollar budget request for the US nuclear weapons complex for Fiscal Year 2011, \$624 million greater than 2010, represents a step in the wrong direction. It would be hard for some to reconcile this increase with the administrations "commitment to arms reduction," Biden said.

Well, I am among the "some" because new nuclear weapons plants and enhanced nuclear bombs are not my vision for arms reduction. Moreover, the Fiscal Year 2011 budget request decreases funding for weapon dismantlement, another step backward from real disarmament.

The nuclear weapons budget was already greater than at any time during the Cold War, even adjusted for inflation. Still, Biden said the "neglected" weapons laboratories deserve increased funding for their years of service. He failed to mention, however, repeated findings of mismanagement, illegal accounting, and gross over-budgeting that are all-to-common at the labs.

One step forward, two steps back. -- *Scott Yundt, Tri-Valley CAREs, Livermore CA*

PRESENTING YOUR TRI-VALLEY CAREs' 2010 "DC DAYS" DELEGATION

Tri-Valley CAREs is sending Executive Director Marylia Kelley, Staff Attorney Scott Yundt, Legal Intern Iti Talwar and Board Member Beverly King to Washington, DC next month to speak truth to power in meetings with the Obama Administration and Congress.

Your Tri-Valley CAREs delegation will go to DC to oppose the nuclear weapons budget. We will seek Congressional support to cut, not increase, weapons development. We will illuminate the distressing lack of funding proposed for dismantling nuclear warheads, and advocate that Congress shift money from nuclear weapons creation into the part of the budget that funds their irreversible disassembly.

And, as always, we will work hard to ensure that the Dept. of Energy and Congress get the message that toxic and radioactive contaminants leaking into the community from Livermore Lab and other sites must be cleaned up.

If you have ever been part of our "DC Days" team, you know that this is hard work. We undertake meetings from early morning to dark, and then meet afterwards to share information and strategize for the next day's meetings.

As a member, you know that we are often successful. You have read about our achievements in *Citizen's Watch* and other publications.

In a very real way, our success depends on YOU. Most urgently, we ask you to help with a tax-deductible contribution. You can donate on-line at www.trivalleycares.org, or send a check to Tri-Valley CAREs, 2582 Old First St., Livermore, CA 94550.

Further, we are looking for additional volunteers to cover the office during "DC Days." If you have 3 or more hours you can volunteer on one or more days, we can use the help on Monday, March 15, Tuesday, March 16 or Wednesday, March 17. Please call Marylia at (925) 443-7148 for details.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD...

- **Thursday, Feb 25th** – This is the National “Call Congress” Day of Action to oppose nuclear power loan guarantees. Please phone Senator Barbara Boxer and Senator Dianne Feinstein and your U.S. Representative via the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Tri-Valley CAREs is joining allied groups across the country in this action. Urge Congress to do 2 things: (1) Block Obama's Fiscal Year 2011 budget request to triple the nuclear power loan guarantee program from \$18.5 billion for new reactors to \$54.5 billion. And, (2) Tell Congress to cut Obama’s Fiscal Year 2011 budget request for nuclear weapons. Congress needs to hear from us that nuclear weapons and power are the wrong path for America. Our collective security requires global nuclear disarmament, not new and modified U.S. nuclear bombs and bomb plants! Moreover, nuclear power is not the answer to global climate change.
- **Early March** - The Nuclear Posture Review is scheduled to be released on March 1st or shortly after. This is the Obama document that can influence the direction of U.S. policy for the coming decade.
- **Between now and March 31st** - The “follow on” agreement to START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) with Russia is scheduled to be completed.
- **May** - The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference will take place at the United Nations in New York City.

The release of the Nuclear Posture Review, completion of the New START agreement and the advent of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference are great opportunities to write letters to the editor, make calls to elected officials, and/or take it to the streets in vigils, marches and protests. We will keep you posted with action alerts and more in the coming weeks and months.

LOCAL AND BAY AREA ACTIONS AND EVENTS...

San Francisco Anti-War March

Saturday, March 20, 2010

**10:00 am, TVC delegation meets at Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station Platform
(March starts at 11:00 am at Civic Center Plaza in SF)**

Join the Tri-Valley CAREs delegation for this large anti-war march and rally in San Francisco. There are also marches and rallies in Washington DC and LA to show that there is still widespread opposition to the on-going wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. If you are going from the Tri-Valley, we invite you to meet Bev King and other Tri-Valley CAREs folks at the Dublin-Pleasanton BART station platform at 10 AM.

Tri-Valley CAREs’ March Meeting - NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE!

Thursday, March 25, 2010 (The 4th Thursday instead of the 3rd)

7:30 - 9:00 pm

Location: Livermore Public Library 1188 South Livermore Ave., Community Room A

More Info: (925) 443-7148

This meeting will include a report-back from the Tri-Valley CAREs “DC Days” delegation. Come and find out about the important work they accomplished. We welcome new and long-time members alike. Our monthly meetings are a place to get acquainted, get informed, and get motivated. Together, we will accomplish great things in 2010.

Look for more information and events (like the Pleasanton anti-war protests and vigils and the Good Friday action at Livermore Lab) at www.trivalleycares.org.

A HEADS UP

Citizen's Watch, your bi-monthly newsletter from Tri-Valley CAREs, is in production and will be coming soon to a mailbox near you.

For peace, justice and a healthy environment,

Marylia Kelley, Executive Director

Scott Yundt, Staff Attorney

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