

## DOCKETED

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## **Be careful not to wreck California's economy**

California's apparent policy of trying to reduce greenhouse gases using Solar and Wind power exclusively while neglecting the benefits of nuclear power to help achieve that goal are wrong headed. With the severe drought and the shutdown of San Onofre we will be forced to keep fossil fuel plants on-line to power desalination plants and industry for a considerable time.

A current example of what will happen to California if this Nuclear neglect continues is what is presently happening in Germany.

In March 2011, in a panic reaction to Fukushima, Germany switched off eight of its 17 nuclear reactors, cutting 7% of electricity generation, with another 18% to go over the next decade. The other nine reactors will be phased out from 2015 to 2022. They then sharply increased government subsidies to Solar and Wind plants. This has pushed Germany into increased use of heavy oil and coal power plants, and purchasing power from adjacent countries which is why Germany released more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere in 2012 than in 2011.

German industry is in trouble. Energy prices are now 40% more expensive than in France and the Netherlands, and the bills are 15% higher than the EU average. Their export driven economy is losing its competitiveness. Even though Germany's energy intensive manufacturing sector is given a break with reduced levies, industries such as chemicals and steel are among the hardest hit

Germany has become a cautionary tale for California, an example of where the wrong energy policies are damaging, perhaps mortally wounding, its economy, punishing consumers and the poor while undermining the green objectives, of reduced CO2 emissions, it set out to achieve.