

**DOCKETED**

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## **Nuclear Power is needed to combat climate change**

Governor Newsom

In the face of continuing concern about greenhouse gas emissions from power production, it makes no sense to shut down a nuclear power plant and replace it with fossil fuels. Yes - that is what would happen, as renewables are nowhere near able to supply the missing electricity at peak and cannot do it reliably. If not natural gas, then the consequence of such an ill advised shutdown could be brownouts and blackouts. Nuclear power is safer than all other technologies and produces reliable power (compare its capacity factor with fossil fuels and with renewables). This includes high level radioactive waste in the form of spent fuel rods, which, far from being a danger, can be stored safely indefinitely.

We tend to assign greater risk to technologies that look unfamiliar to us, but if there is an earthquake in California, the biggest concern will not be Diablo Canyon or San Onofre, but rather mundane things like your city water repository and cleanup system, as well as any buildings not up to seismic code. Rather than shutting nuclear plants down, we should be building more nuclear power plants to supply our electricity beyond the current nationwide 20% level. The concerns voiced by the citizens are understandable but, unfortunately, based on a complete misperception of actual risk.

Arthur Motta