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## **Nuclear Folly**

Amazing to see that Gov. Newsom wants to resurrect the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, which sits within 20 miles of four active earthquake faults. While wind and solar power can need backup power available if wind and solar are not available, that support can come from non-nuclear, non-dangerous sources such as more rooftop solar, offshore wind farms, expanded large-capacity battery storage, and old-fashioned energy efficiency and conservation efforts. What is conveniently forgotten or ignored in talking about nuclear: it is very dangerous, as witness Chernobyl and Fukushima. Government studies report that radioactive material released through damage to either a reactor or the spent fuel stored on site could kill or injure tens of thousands of people living within 500 miles of the plant. An accident at Diablo Canyon would render much of southern California uninhabitable for generations. The most dangerous elements in nuclear waste have half-lives of at least 250,000 years; Plutonium is so toxic that it was named after the god of hell. What hubris to contemplate reliance on nuclear for our energy! And what political chicanery to try to void the 2016 agreement, ratified by the State legislature; this sounds like Trump, voiding international treaties at will.