

May 5, 2026 exchange between Senator John Laird and Siva Gunda, California Energy Commission

SENATOR LAIRD (05:16):

*And it seems to me that one of the issues that isn't always totally understood about the Diablo Canyon is the nuclear power plant fires up and it fires up for a week unmodulated. They just do that and it goes. And so if it turns out we have a real excess of renewables, we cannot modulate the Diablo Canyon to deal with the fact that we have a lot of wind and a lot of solar on in that moment. So how do we deal with that now when that happens?*

SIVA GUNDA, CEC (05:45):

*Yeah. I think basically that's where the market becomes really important in how we dispatch those resources. So as you said, base loads such as Diablo run continuously twenty four seven and they usually are just taken as present in the market and then you have other resources that are intermittent going up and down and you dispatch them in a way that it's economical and reliable. And even today, even with the advent of the amount of storage we have on the system, we still curtail. And the hope is that as we have more storage in the system, the curtailments reduces and as market becomes more efficient, we don't use loose electrons.*