

# Opinion

San Jose Mercury News

[www.mercurynews.com/opinion](http://www.mercurynews.com/opinion)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2006

## Readers' letters

### Sun, atom can help fill energy needs

Gov. Schwarzenegger and the California Public Utilities Commission are to be commended for their advocacy and support of solar roof electricity generation technology.

We all have to live and work somewhere, and the use of existing shelter for electric power generation requires no further extensive and expensive exploitation of the land, as do other renewable technologies.

Having said this, the sun does not shine all the time, and solar power will supply,

at best, perhaps 20 percent of California's electricity needs in the future. Other power technologies are required to give California baseline electricity, plentiful, reliable and consistently available, and free from global-warming emissions.

One such option is a return to nuclear power. Contrary to popular perception, nuclear power is safe, a solved science, and when modern fuel recovery practices are put in place, can indeed be viewed as "renewable." California's clean energy future will depend on both the sun and the atom.

Paul Grant  
San Jose