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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

Allen Matkins
attorneys at law

August 2, 2011

[Wind farms multiply, fueling clashes with nearby residents](#)

Los Angeles Times - Jul 28

With thousands of wind projects on the drawing board, they're increasingly generating opposition among local residents. And the issue isn't just with wind turbines, said Tom Soto, an environmental activist and managing partner of Craton Equity Partners. "These large projects enter at their own peril without involving the community," Soto said. "Just because they're renewables instead of landfills doesn't mean they're off the hook."

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Opening Doors for Energy Projects on Protected Agricultural Lands](#)

Allen Matkins - Aug 2



[Watch the Video](#)

By 2020, California must generate 33% of its energy from renewable resources. As a result, more solar and wind projects are looking to agricultural lands as potential sites, and many of those sites are covered by Williamson Act contracts. Historically, state and local agencies have determined that energy projects were not "compatible uses" under the Williamson Act, but Allen Matkins has successfully argued that an energy project was a compatible use, thereby avoiding the costly cancellation process.

[FERC decision on transmission could streamline utility-scale solar power development](#)

Solar Industry - Jul 22

FERC has issued a ruling on transmission planning and cost allocation that is expected to help ease transmission-building problems, which currently present a major hurdle for many large-scale solar power projects in the U.S.

[USDA sets aside 80K acres for more biomass crops](#)

SustainableBusiness.com - Jul 28

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has announced the designation of nearly 80,000 acres in six different states for the production of non-food crops that can be converted into biofuels. Four project areas in California, Kansas, Montana,

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Upcoming Events

[RETECH 2011: The Renewable Energy Technology Conference & Exhibition](#)
Washington, DC
September 20-22, 2011

[Solar Power International 2011](#)
Dallas, TX
October 17-20, 2011

Recent Opportunities

[Southern California Edison's 2011 Eligible Renewable Energy Resource Suppliers for Renewable Products Request for Proposals](#)

[Pacific Gas and Electric's Renewable Portfolio Standard Request for Offers](#)



Oklahoma, Oregon and Washington will be set aside for growing camelina, hybrid poplar trees and switchgrass under the Agriculture Department's Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).

[SunRun says California can save big on solar with less permitting costs](#)

CleanEnergyAuthority.com - Jul 28

A new study by AECOM conducted on behalf of SunRun found that reducing the cost and complexity of permitting solar installations in California could lead to \$5 billion more in revenue for the state between 2012 and 2020. In addition, it would create 3,900 full-time jobs. The report found that local solar permitting and inspection processes add an average of \$2,500 per home installation in California.

[Home solar installer SolarCity to sell electric car charging stations in California](#)

Forbes - Jul 28

In a move to capture customers who want to further curb their carbon, residential solar company SolarCity has begun installing home electric car charging stations along with rooftop photovoltaic arrays. Homeowners can now charge their car batteries with greenhouse gas-free solar electricity. That ramps up the return on investment in a rooftop photovoltaic system given that it lowers the cost of powering an electric car.

[Wind turbines growing taller and more powerful](#)

Mercury News / Los Angeles Times - Jul 28

Wind turbines are getting really big -- some with blades as long as a football field -- and more powerful, often generating 50 times more electricity than the first generation of wind power machines built in the 1980s. But scientists are also studying how to harness the wind in different ways that could help allay concerns that today's turbines are unattractive, noisy and sometimes even dangerous.

[Governor Jerry Brown favors renewable energy project over conservation in Mojave Desert](#)

KPCC Radio - Jul 28

A legal dispute is in the works concerning the Ivanpah project, a 370MW solar thermal energy facility that the company Brightsource hopes to have up and running within two years. The federal Interior Department has fast-tracked environmental review for the site, near the California-Nevada border. The Western Watersheds Project sued in federal court six months ago to block it.

[Governor Jerry Brown promises to 'crush' renewable energy opponents](#)

BusinessGreen - Jul 28

California Governor Jerry Brown has moved to increase the state's already ambitious renewable energy targets, pledging to "crush" opponents who seek to block and delay solar energy projects. Brown vowed to go further than his predecessor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and extend California's target for distributed renewable energy systems, such as rooftop solar panels and small scale wind turbines, from 5GW to 20GW by 2020.

Allen Matkins is a full-service law firm with more than 220 attorneys practicing in seven offices throughout California. Some of the areas of focus at Allen Matkins include green and sustainable construction, construction, corporate, real estate, project finance, business litigation, taxation, land use, environmental, bankruptcy, creditors' rights, intellectual property and employment and labor law. [More...](#)

[New tool available to assess impact of dams](#)

RenewableEnergyWorld.com - Jul 26

A new tool to help policy makers better assess the costs and benefits of building dams could change the way nations decide to develop hydroelectric power. The Integrative Dam Assessment Modeling tool, or IDAM, uses an interdisciplinary approach to simultaneously evaluate the distribution of biophysical, socio-economic and geopolitical impacts of dams.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[\\$300M Imperial Valley renewable energy transmission project moves forward](#)

Imperial Valley News - Jul 28

The Imperial Irrigation District board of directors approved a public-private partnership with renewable energy generators to fund the development phase of a \$300-million transmission upgrade plan. Four groups will partner with the district to fund the \$8.7-million planning portion of the project. The transmission upgrade is needed to export renewable energy from the Imperial Valley, making many projects possible.

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