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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

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[Geothermal project in California is shut down](#)

New York Times - Dec 11

AltaRock Energy has told the Department of Energy it has removed its drill rig from a Northern California site and abandoned the project. A method of tapping energy from bedrock has been linked to increased earthquake activity. The project was the Obama administration's first major test of geothermal energy as a significant alternative to fossil fuels and the project was being financed with federal Department of Energy money at a site north of San Francisco called the Geysers.

Renewable Energy Focus

[New online "tool kit" will help California cities go solar](#)

California Energy Commission - Dec 15

The New Solar Homes Partnership Municipal Tool Kit provides California cities with resources to encourage local home builders to install solar electric photovoltaic (PV) systems on new energy efficient homes. Suggested strategies include streamlining the permit process, incentivizing energy efficiency measures and solar installations, and educating home builders about current solar incentives. The kit addresses the needs of municipal officials and staff, including city planners, building and safety officials, city managers, city attorneys and elected officials. Case studies also document how California jurisdictions -- such as the cities of San Jose, Palm Desert and San Rafael, and the counties of San Diego and San Bernardino -- have used these strategies successfully.

[PG&E aims to harness wave energy](#)

The Tribune - Dec 12

Pacific Gas and Electric has applied to the federal government for permission to study the feasibility of installing a wave energy facility off the coast of northern Santa Barbara County. The utility announced it has filed the necessary applications with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Air Force to conduct a three-year feasibility study of the waters off Vandenberg Air Force Base between Point Conception and Point Arguello. If the study shows that a wave energy facility would be feasible there, the utility would then move into the licensing phase. If built, the facility could produce as much as 100 megawatts of power, enough to power about 100,000 homes. Related News: [PG&E to ride wave of renewable energy](#)

[Wave and tidal power growing slowly, steadily](#)

HydroWorld - Dec 15

Proponents of wave and tidal power say the technology has great potential but still must prove itself before it can be widely deployed. Experts estimate tidal energy's advantage lies in its predictability. Wave energy could be more abundant than tidal energy while still being less intermittent than wind or solar power. However, wave and tidal technologies can be three to four times more expensive than wind power per megawatt, so many installations were developed and supported with government financial backing. The U.K. remains one of the largest state sponsors of wave and tidal power.

[First Solar produces 1 Gigawatts of power in 2009](#)

GreenPacks - Dec 16

First Solar has announced that its production of solar systems for 2009 is

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Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, founded in 1977, is a California law firm with over 230 attorneys practicing out of seven offices in California. The firm's broad based areas of focus include construction, corporate, real estate, project finance, business litigation, taxation, land use, environmental, bankruptcy and creditors' rights, intellectual property and employment and labor law. [More...](#)



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Recent Events

Allen Matkins has attended numerous events addressing developments in the renewable energy field in 2009.

[A summary can be found here.](#)

Allen Matkins hosted the successful panel discussion on

the equivalent of 1 gigawatts of power. This is indicative of a rising interest in this type of technology among consumers. First Solar produces cadmium telluride solar cells and panels, and their production has been only 75 megawatts for 2007, and 420-460 megawatts in 2008.

[**U.S. smart grid market poised to double by 2014**](#)

GreenBeat - Dec 16

The race to build a cleaner, more efficient electrical grid -- the so-called 'smart grid' -- has sparked a rapidly-growing industry, including traditional utilities, fixtures of the internet boom such as Cisco Systems and Intel, and startups hoping to hit it big. Now a new report from research firm Zpryme says that if this market stays on track, the smart grid industry will double in just four years.

[**Schwarzenegger urges leaders to embrace subnational leadership in climate change fight**](#)

California Newswire - Dec 16

In Copenhagen, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger encouraged commitment and action at regional, national and international levels modeled after California's subnational approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, advance clean energy and fuels and create green jobs. Schwarzenegger and subnational leaders from Canada, Nigeria, France and Algeria announced an agreement to advance the concept of a new regional coalition to fast track the results of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference and push their respective national governments into more rapid actions and stronger commitments to fight climate change.

[**Cost concerns derail solar energy project in southeastern California**](#)

Cooler Planet - Dec 16

A planned solar energy project in Niland, California has been put on hold. Located in arid territory near the Salton Sea, it would generate 55 megawatts of electricity. But the project -- which was slated to be built on land bought by the city of L.A. in 2006 -- is being shelved because of worries about the cost of transmitting the electricity it would generate. Council members agreed the cost of energy would increase as the city increases its reliance on renewable energy sources.

[**'Smart' Electric Utility Meters, Intended to Create Savings, Instead Prompt Revolt**](#)

New York Times - Dec 13

Millions of households across America are taking a first step into the world of the smart grid, as their power companies install meters that can tell them how much electricity they are using hour by hour, but not everyone is happy about it. Customers in California are in open revolt, and officials in Connecticut and Texas are questioning whether the rush to install meters benefits the public. Some consumers argue that the meters are logging far more kilowatt hours than they believe they are using, and many find it unfair that they will begin to pay immediately for the new meters through higher rates, when the promised savings could be years away. Power companies say the meters will allow utilities to vary the price charged to their customers by the hour to correspond to what those utilities are paying for energy in the wholesale market.

[**Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals**](#)

[**Kern County ind farm gets supervisors' OK**](#)

Californian - Dec 15

The largest wind energy project in California's history got the go-ahead from Kern County supervisors, after delaying a decision on the massive Alta-Oak Creek Mojave wind power project to solve the concerns of a handful of residents in the remote mountain areas, as people were worried about the

[**Renewable Energy Project Finance**](#). For a copy of the program materials, [click here](#).

[**Upcoming Events**](#)

[**Clean-tech Investors Summit**](#)

Palm Springs, CA
January 20-21, 2010

[**2010 VerdeExchange Green Marketmakers Conference**](#)

Los Angeles, CA
January 24-25, 2010

[**Renewable Energy Technology Conference and Exhibition \(RETECH\)**](#)

Washington, D.C.
February 3-6, 2010

[**Recent Opportunities**](#)

[**San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Solar Photovoltaic Projects**](#)

[**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Request for Qualifications for Commercial Development Opportunity in La Verne**](#)

[**City of Willows Opportunity**](#)

[**New Submission Deadlines Released for the California Energy Commission Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program**](#)

[**Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Renewable Energy Supply Rolling Request for Proposals**](#)

potential dangers of the sky-scraping wind turbines. Alta-Oak Creek would bring up to 320 wind turbines to the mountains between Tehachapi and Mojave. The 1.5 and three megawatt machines could generate up to 800 megawatts of power.

[Regulators approve key contract for new 48MW Sempra solar plant](#)

CNN - Dec 17

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has approved Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) contract to purchase 48 megawatts (MW) of photovoltaic solar power from Sempra Generation's Copper Mountain Solar facility. The CPUC's approval of the contract signals the January 2010 construction start for the facility, an expansion of Sempra Generation's existing 10-MW El Dorado Solar power plant. Both projects are located near Boulder City, Nev., about 40 miles southeast of Las Vegas, and each will provide power to PG&E under two 20-year power contracts. When completed by late 2010, the combined 58-MW installation will become the largest operational photovoltaic solar-power facility in North America. Together, the two facilities will use nearly 1 million photovoltaic panels.

[eSolar's Sierra SunTower named renewable project of the year: editors](#)

Business Wire - Dec 14

Power Engineering announced eSolar's Sierra SunTower facility, a solar thermal power plant, as the winner of "Best Renewable and Sustainable Project" at the 2009 Projects of the Year Awards. Each year, the magazine editors recognize the world's best projects in four major categories: gas-fired, coal-fired, nuclear and renewable. The award comes fewer than four months after eSolar's Sierra SunTower was launched. eSolar was also recently selected as a Technology Pioneer 2010 by the World Economic Forum.

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