

Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

Allen Matkins
attorneys at law

October 18, 2011

[Obama prioritizes wind projects in California, Vermont](#)

EcoSeed - Oct 12

The Obama administration will fast-track 14 infrastructure projects across the country as part of its efforts to improve the efficiency of federal reviews. Included in the scheme are two wind projects - the 52-wind turbine Cleghorn Ridge Wind Project in the San Bernardino National Forest in California and the 15 2-MW turbine Deerfield Wind Power Project in the towns of Searsburg and Readsboro in Vermont. U.S regulators will complete the review of the Cleghorn wind project in 18 months instead of three years.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Governor Brown signs two more bills to streamline renewable energy development in California](#)

California Environmental Law Blog - Oct 10

California has two more laws in place after Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 267 and Senate Bill 618. SB 267 is expected to help reduce the time and cost associated with permitting new photovoltaic and wind projects, which typically do not have high water demand. SB 618 includes two separate sets of amendments to the current law that are also intended to facilitate renewable energy development in California.

[California Governor enacts law streamlining solar-project permitting](#)

Clean Energy Authority - Oct 12

California Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law SB 226, which can reduce permitting time for solar projects in California, particularly for urban infill projects and projects choosing to convert from solar thermal to photovoltaic technology. The law goes into effect in January 2012.

[California law opens door for farmers to develop clean energy](#)

Western Farm Press - Oct 13

Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law the Renewable Energy Equity Act, which is intended to remove unnecessary barriers to small-scale renewable energy projects by allowing all renewable energy types, including biomass and biogas, to participate in the state's Net Energy Metering (NEM) program. SB 489 will make it easier for small-scale bioenergy projects to get connected to the grid and help the state meet its renewable energy goals.

[Solar company Solyndra CEO resigns](#)

USA Today / AP - Oct 14

The chairman and CEO of a California solar energy company that sought bankruptcy protection after receiving a half-billion-dollar loan guarantee from the Obama administration has resigned, according to papers filed in Delaware bankruptcy court by Solyndra. Attorneys for Fremont, Calif.-based Solyndra said Brian Harrison's resignation was contemplated even before the bankruptcy filing and was "consistent with the company's budget and status of its wind-down effort."

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Upcoming Events

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

[AWEA WindPower 2012](#)
Atlanta, GA
June 3-6, 2012

Recent Opportunities

[Pacific Gas & Electric Issues its Renewable Auction Mechanism Program Request for Offers](#)



Allen Matkins is a full-service law firm with more than 220 attorneys practicing in seven

[California's global-warming law under fire from one of its own](#)

Los Angeles Times - Oct 7

California's aggressive effort to attack global warming is coming under scrutiny in Congress from a powerful regulatory-wary Republican. Rep. Darrell Issa launched an investigation into the Obama administration's actions to increase vehicle fuel-economy standards, including its 2009 decision to grant California's request to impose tough restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks. Issa expressed concern that California exercised out-sized influence in the setting of vehicle fuel-economy rules. The Clean Air Act allows California to set anti-pollution standards stricter than the federal rules, subject to EPA approval.

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...](#)

[Makani's flying windmills win Breakthrough award](#)

PhysOrg.com - Oct 8

Makani Power, of Alameda, California, creator of the high-altitude wind turbine, is one of this year's winners of the Popular Mechanics seventh annual Breakthrough Awards. Naming Makani team members Corwin Hardham, Kenny Jensen, and Damon Vander Lind, the award honors these creators of a "sleek, 20-kilowatt Wing 7 prototype" that is "equal parts airplane, helicopter and robot."

[Director of federal energy loan program steps down](#)

Desert Dispatch - Oct 9

The head of the DOE federal loan program stepped down after weeks of Congressional investigations into how the DOE has dealt with loan recipient Solyndra, who filed for bankruptcy in late August. Jonathan Silver had taken the director position for the DOE loan program in eight months after the DOE had issued its \$535 million loan to Solyndra. Silver defended the program — risks and all — saying at the hearing that "support for innovative technologies comes with inherent risks."

[Governor Brown joins SunEdison to announce company's relocation to California](#)

Ca.gov - Oct 10

Governor Brown visited the new headquarters of SunEdison in Belmont to mark the company's decision to establish their world headquarters in California. The company, currently headquartered in Maryland, decided to make the move following actions by Governor Brown and the Legislature to create a friendlier business environment in California. "SunEdison's decision to relocate to California is proof that, working together, state government and business can find ways to cut red tape, tackle our environmental problems and create jobs," said Governor Brown.

[Top 10 cities in California for residential solar](#)

SunRun - Sept 28

Solar company SunRun and PV Solar Report, an authority on California solar market data, announced the [top solar cities in California](#) for the first eight months of 2011. With San Jose in the number-one slot and Bakersfield, San Francisco and Fresno in the top five, the list indicates that families in northern and central California are setting the precedent for taking control of their electricity costs by switching to solar.

[Iberdrola halts work on \\$100M Lakeview biomass project](#)

Energy Central - Oct 13

Oregon-based Iberdrola Renewables will stop working on its planned \$100-million biomass plant at least until energy prices improve. "The bottom line is that we didn't get the long-term purchase from a utility," said Jan Johnson, Iberdrola's Portland-based spokesperson. Johnson said low electricity prices nationally, combined with uncertainty about the rule surrounding California's new renewable portfolio standards, convinced Iberdrola that it shouldn't proceed with the Lakeview plant.

Related News:

[Vancouver city council moratorium quashes biomass project](#) – Biomass power & Thermal

[Canadian Solar: patent infringement allegations by Westinghouse Solar](#)

CRI English - Oct 11

Chinese solar panel manufacturer Canadian Solar referred to Westinghouse Solar's patent infringement accusations as "groundless" and said the company's sales would not be affected. California-based Westinghouse Solar announced that it had filed a complaint to the International Trade Commission (ITC), claiming that Zep Solar and Canadian Solar had infringed on two of its patents and demanding a permanent order barring some of their products from entering the U.S. market.

[PG&E names Roger Frizzell as VP and CEO](#)

PG&E - Oct 10

PG&E appointed Roger Frizzell as VP, Corporate Relations and Chief Communications Officer. Frizzell, who has been responsible for all aspects of corporate communications at American Airlines since 2003, will oversee internal and external communications, online communications and advertising at PG&E. He will report to Greg Pruitt, PG&E Corporation's Senior VP, Corporate Affairs.

[Silevo solar cell makers reveal product with best-ever claims](#)

Silevo - Oct 12

Silevo, a solar cell innovator and photovoltaic solar module manufacturer, claims it has the industry's best performance-to-cost ratio for solar modules by evolving the use of silicon technology. The Silevo proprietary Triex technology evolves silicon-based PV as the first hybrid solar solution to combine high-performance crystalline silicon N-type substrates, thin-film passivation layers, and a unique tunneling oxide layer – all in a single solar module.

[Calpine plans \\$700 million Geysers expansion](#)

North Bay Business Journal - Oct 10

Geothermal power producer Calpine Corporation plans to build two new power plants adjacent to its existing Geysers steam field in Sonoma and Lake Counties designed to generate a total of 98MW of additional clean energy. The first phase of the approval process is set for Oct. 20. Construction could begin in 2012 for the first proposed plant, and two or more years later for the second plant.

[Simi council favors alternative to new Edison substation](#)

Energy Central - Oct 13

Citing unavoidable environmental impacts, the Simi Valley City Council is urging the CPUC to approve an alternative to the construction of a Southern California Edison substation just outside the city's limits. In a 4-0 vote, the council favored upgrading three existing substations with larger transformers rather than building a facility on the south side of Olsen Road in Thousand

Oaks.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[City of Dinuba goes solar with Tioga Energy and Chevron Energy Solutions](#)

Bloomberg Businessweek - Oct 11

The City of Dinuba, Calif., has teamed with Tioga Energy and Chevron Energy Solutions to develop a 1.15 MW solar electric system that will reduce energy costs for operations at the city's wastewater treatment plant. Comprising 4,704 photovoltaic modules, the ground-mounted system will sit atop a capped landfill near Dinuba's wastewater treatment facility. Tioga Energy will finance, manage and own the project and sell the generated electricity back to the city over a period of 20 years.

[Array provides tracking systems for 50MW California solar project](#)

Array Technologies - Oct 6

Array Technologies has announced the first shipment of solar tracking systems for a utility-scale PV project in southern Sacramento County, California. The New Mexico-based manufacturer is providing horizontal, single-axis trackers and ground-mount racks for the 50 MW DC installation being developed by Recurrent Energy for Sacramento Municipal Utility District. The project consists of three sites in the Sacramento region: Kammerer and Bruceville (19MW each), and Dillard (12MW).

[California energy research projects receive \\$1.6 million in grants](#)

California Energy Commission - Oct 6

The California Energy Commission has awarded approximately \$1.6 million to spur research on projects, including a battery system for grid-scale energy storage. Funds for the 13 projects come from the Public Interest Energy Research program. Commissioners approved \$600,000 for Seeo Inc. to develop and test a 25 kWh prototype battery system based on nanostructured polymer electrolytes. Other recipients include Green Dot Transportation and Mission Motor.

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