

# Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
publication

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attorneys at law

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## [Government says fast-tracking six California solar, wind farms](#)

*Wall Street Journal - Nov 5*

Six California renewable energy facilities proposed by AES Corp., FPL Group, BrightSource Energy and Germany's Solar Millennium are being fast-tracked for government permits needed to start construction, a federal official said. Together, the renewable power plants would generate nearly 2,500 megawatts of electricity, and occupy more than 28,000 acres of land, said U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. That's enough to serve as many as 2 million homes. The five solar plants and one wind farm would be built on public land controlled by Interior's Bureau of Land Management, which is working with the California Energy Commission to push through the companies' permit applications.

### Renewable Energy Focus

#### [Firm looks to channel solar power for when sun has gone down](#)

*Green Inc. - Nov 3*

A Santa Monica company called SolarReserve has filed an application with California regulators to build a 150-megawatt solar farm that will store seven hours worth of the sun's energy in the form of molten salt. Heat from the salt can be released when it's cloudy or at night to create steam that drives an electricity-generating turbine. The Rice Solar Energy Project, to be built in the Sonoran Desert east of Palm Springs, will "generate steady and uninterrupted power during hours of peak electricity demand," according to SolarReserve's license application. So-called dispatchable solar farms would in theory allow utilities to avoid spending billions of dollars building fossil fuel power plants that are fired up only a few times a year when electricity demand spikes, like on a hot day.

#### [Energy storage choice depends on amount & time](#)

*Greentech Media - Nov 6*

Choosing economical energy storage depends on the amount one is trying to store and for how long, according to this report. If it's a utility in need of persistent, long-term storage, pump hydro technology remains one of the cheapest. The cost to store energy at a pump hydro facility is about \$3 million per megawatt, said Ed Cazalet, co-founder of MegaWatt Storage Farms. California will need 4 gigawatts of persistent storage to meet its "33% by 2020" renewable mandate. Sodium sulfur batteries would cost about the same, though they would afford only about six hours of storage. Lithium ion batteries would cost \$1 million per megawatt for 15 minutes of storage. Temporary storage will be used to balance the grid and handle fluctuations of power from distributed solar panels. Sodium sulfur batteries are one of the few technologies that seems to straddle both markets.

#### [Senate panel OKs sweeping climate bill](#)

*L.A. Times - Nov 6*

In a move that stoked optimism for global climate negotiations but raised tempers on Capitol Hill, Democrats on a key Senate committee swept aside a Republican boycott to pass a far-reaching plan to limit greenhouse gas emissions. The 11-1 vote came after the Democrats, led by Environment and Public Works Committee Chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), invoked a procedural rule to take a vote even though no Republicans were at the meeting. Republican senators stayed away from the panel's hearings on the bill leading up to the vote, saying a more detailed government analysis of

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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 measure's costs was needed before any vote took place.

http://www.jdsupra.com/post/documentView.aspx?id=4904-89c4-ee448392b1f

## [EERE funding up 3% to \\$2.24B for fiscal year 2010](#)

*EERE - Nov 4*

President Obama approved the fiscal year (FY) 2010 appropriations for DOE, including \$2.24 billion for the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). The funds represent a modest 3% increase in funding for EERE, which received \$2.18 billion in annual appropriations in FY 2009 (not counting special one-time appropriations under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). The funding is about 3% lower than the amount requested by DOE in its annual budget request, and Congress earmarked more than \$292 million in EERE funds for congressionally directed projects, effectively lowering the EERE budget to \$1.95 billion.

## [Treasury Allocates \\$2.2 Billion In Bonds For Renewable Energy Development](#)

*North American Wind Power - Nov 6*

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has allocated \$2.2 billion in clean renewable energy bonds (CREBs) for 805 recipients across the country. Funded by the Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008 and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, these energy bonds help government agencies, public power providers and cooperative electric companies obtain lower-cost financing for clean energy development projects.

## [Climate treaty may need an extra year](#)

*Recharge News - Nov 6*

Negotiators may need as much as an extra year after the Copenhagen climate change talks to agree on a legally binding treaty, officials at the UN-sponsored negotiations in Barcelona said. Countries leading the push for a Copenhagen treaty seemed to be resigned to failure -- despite U.S. legislation being approved in a key Senate committee, with most of them pointing the finger of blame on Washington's failure to make significant commitments on emissions cuts.

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

### [California company commissions compact gasification pilot plant](#)

*Biomass Magazine - Nov 5*

A compact gasification pilot plant in Des Plaines, Illinois, will be commissioned by developer Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne (PWR), Canoga and its team of organizations and partners. The plant will be located at the Gas Technology Institute and will have the capacity to consume 18 tons of blended feedstock per day, according to Jim Hartung, Director of Energy Systems at PWR. The system will run on coal, petroleum coke and biomass, according to Hartung. Typical gasification plants run on about 3,000 tons per day, he said, adding that adequate feedstock can be hard to procure.

### [BrightSource solar farm moves closer to development](#)

*Wall Street Journal - Nov 4*

After a two-year wait, the developer of a proposed 440-megawatt California solar farm inched closer toward obtaining a permit needed to start construction. In a draft environmental impact statement for the solar-thermal power plant, proposed by BrightSource Energy Inc., to serve utilities owned by PG&E and Edison International, federal and state agency staff suggested that the project could proceed without harming federally and state protected plants and wildlife under certain conditions.

### [Ausra sells planned plant to First Solar](#)

*GreenInc. - Nov 5*

Ausra is continuing its exit from the business of building solar power plants, announcing it has sold a planned California solar farm to First Solar. The Carrizo Energy Solar Farm was one of the three large solar power plants

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## [Upcoming Events](#)

### [JETRO \(Japanese External Trade Organization, Los Angeles\) BIZMATCH /Green Innovations](#)

**November 16**

Los Angeles, CA

### [Asian American Architects and Engineers Association Drawing on The Experience and Innovation of Green Technology from Japan for Sustainable Building](#)

**November 16**

Los Angeles, CA

### [Green Technology Green California Schools Summit](#)

Pasadena, CA

**December 9-11**

### [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](#)

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

### [Inland Empire Utilities Agency Request for Proposals For Fuel Cell Installation at Regional Plant 1 in Ontario, California](#)

### [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](#)

planned within a few miles of each other in San Luis Obispo County on California's central coast. Together they would supply nearly 900 megawatts of electricity to the utility Pacific Gas and Electric Company. First Solar will not build the Carrizo project, and the deal has resulted in the cancellation of Ausra's contract to provide 177 megawatts to PG&E.

**[PG&E buys geothermal power from Calpine Geysers facility](#)**

Dow Jones - Oct 30

PG&E's utility unit said it signed a contract with Calpine Corp. to buy 425 megawatts of geothermal power from Calpine's Geysers facility in northern California. The new contract, subject to approval by state regulators, will replace two existing contracts between PG&E and Calpine for 375 megawatts of geothermal power from the facility that expire in 2012 and 2014. In addition to the 425-megawatt contract, Calpine said that it renewed a separate geothermal power contract with PG&E for 250 megawatts.

**[World's largest landfill gas to liquefied natural gas facility opens in Altamont](#)**

California Newswire - Nov 2

The world's largest landfill gas to liquefied natural gas (LFG-to-LNG) facility has opened in California. The Waste Management Altamont Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility in Livermore is designed to produce up to 13,000 gallons of LNG a day and is expected to reduce 30,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year. The project is capable of creating clean vehicle fuel by collecting gas from the natural decomposition of organic landfill waste.