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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication**Allen Matkins**
attorneys at law

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[Solar industry warns against cuts to DOE loan guarantees](#)

Reuters - Mar 15

As Congress works toward a vote on whether or not to trim an ARRA-financed DOE loan guarantee program for renewable energy projects, solar industry advocates are warning that cuts to the program could result in lost jobs and wasted opportunities to exploit advances in solar technology. Bart Ford of Tenaska Solar Ventures says loss of the DOE loan guarantees would likely result in the cancellation of two planned solar projects in California with a combined output of 280MW. The projects would triple the capacity of concentrated photovoltaic (CPV) solar power predicted to be installed in the U.S. in 2011.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Ex-CEC commissioner Byron offers grim assessment of California's renewable energy situation](#)

Tribune Weekly Chronicle - Mar 18

Former California Energy Commissioner Jeffrey Byron says the state's push to supplant fossil fuel use with energy from renewable sources is a positive step, but faces numerous challenges. Speaking at the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation's Renewable Energy Expo in Los Angeles, Byron said renewable energy projects and related energy transmission projects present economic, environmental, and legal difficulties that state officials and residents have yet to resolve. When asked about the future of several Imperial Valley solar projects presently stalled by lawsuits, Byron said he could not foresee how the situation would be resolved.

[Approval of Carrizo Plain solar project attracts four appeals](#)

San Luis Obispo Tribune - Mar 14

The San Luis Obispo Planning Commission's decision to approve SunPower's 250MW solar project on the Carrizo Plain has been appealed by four separate plaintiffs. The complainants unanimously disapproved of the proposed project because of its possible negative effect on the area's rare and endangered species. The appeals from the Sierra Club, the Canyon and Streams Alliance, area resident Michael Strobridge, and a joint appeal from the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife and North County Watch are scheduled to be heard by the commission in April 2011. SunPower is expected to argue that the project's value in terms of renewable energy and economic benefit will outweigh its environmental effects.

[House panel votes to stop EPA greenhouse gas rules](#)

USA Today - Mar 16

The House Energy and Commerce Committee voted 34-19 to remove the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, oil refineries and other sources. The move is unlikely to hinder the bill's progress toward becoming law as President Obama has indicated he would veto legislation to curtail the EPA's GHG regulation plan if it passes Congress. House Republicans opposed to GHG regulation say the EPA's stricter rules would cause job losses and increase fuel prices. Proponents of the EPA's legislation say the law would force industry to rethink their environmental policies and develop cleaner alternatives.

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Laguna Niguel, CA

April 4-6, 2011[American Wind Energy Association \(AWEA\) Windpower 2011](#)

Anaheim, CA

May 22-25, 2011[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**[Pacific Gas & Electric's Upcoming Renewable Auction Mechanism Program Request for Offers](#)[Pacific Gas and Electric Company to Release 2011 Photovoltaic Program Power Purchase Agreement Request for Offers](#)[San Francisco Public Utilities](#)

[California asks for right to sue in lieu of tighter GHG regulations](#)

SF Gate - Mar 15

California, New York, Connecticut, Iowa, Rhode Island and Vermont have petitioned the Supreme Court to allow them to sue power companies that produce excessive greenhouse gases. The states made the request in the wake of a push by House Republicans to strip the EPA's authority concerning GHGs and eliminate California regulations on carbon emissions from cars and trucks. If given permission from the Supreme Court, the states would proceed with their suit against five major power companies in the event that congress passes the GOP bill to quash EPA's GHG regulating authority.

[Study: Stalled California renewable energy projects could create 141,000 jobs](#)

Independent Voter Network - Mar 17

California stands to reap considerable economic rewards if renewable energy projects that are currently stalled are permitted to proceed, according to a [report](#) from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Titled "Project, No Project", the study surveyed 19 California renewable energy projects and found that if given approval to proceed they would create 141,000 jobs annually and generate \$60 billion in spending. The report suggests that environmental activists need to consider the positive contributions renewable energy projects can bring to the state before filing lawsuits against them. The study also stresses the importance of transmission line projects to the future success of California's renewable energy strategy.

[Bureau of Land Management gives priority to California wind, solar projects](#)

U.S. Bureau of Land Management - Mar 8

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has prioritized nineteen renewable energy projects in California, Arizona, Oregon, Nevada, and Utah, including eight solar and three wind projects. The agency gave priority to four Imperial Valley and four Riverside solar projects in California totaling about 2,100MW. The wind projects are located in the vicinity of San Diego, Lake and Colusa, and Riverside and will produce a combined 800MW of electricity. To qualify for prioritization, developers needed to demonstrate that their projects were ready for environmental impact assessment and public comment, and show that the projects were ready to start by the end of 2011.

[Clean tech bursts ahead, exceeding growth expectations](#)

CleanTechies - Mar 18

In a report issued by [Clean Edge, Inc.](#) on March 14th, combined revenue for solar, and wind power, along with biofuels, increased 35.2 percent over the last year, leaping from \$139.1 billion to 188.1 billion. According to the report, biofuels—the global production and wholesale pricing of ethanol and biodiesel—reached \$56.4 billion in 2010 and are expected to grow to \$112.8 billion by 2020. And wind power is expected to expand from \$60.5 billion in 2010 to \$122.9 billion over the next decade.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[BrightSource ups fundraising goal to \\$125M](#)

Reuters - Mar 15

Solar developer BrightSource Energy has raised about \$122.5 million in its fundraising drive to reach \$125 million in financing for planned solar projects.

[Commission Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Solar Photovoltaic Projects](#)



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The California-based company had originally set its fundraising target at \$100 million in late 2010, but recently upped it to \$125 million. The company says it will use the money for projects other than its 392MW Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in southwestern California, which is funded in part by a \$1.37 billion DOE loan guarantee.

[California county approves new solar plant](#)

BioFuels Watch - Mar 16

A power company based in Costa Mesa has received an approval for long-term lease agreement with San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors to set up a solar plant at Victorville Sanitary Landfill. This will also help the county to develop renewable energy projects in both closed and active landfills countywide achieve state renewable energy target.

[48MW solar plant, nation's biggest, comes online in Nevada](#)

Environmental Leader - Mar 21

Sempra Generation has opened a Nevada solar photovoltaic plant that it says is the country's largest. Nevada governor Brian Sandoval was on hand to help dedicate the 48 MW Copper Mountain Solar plant, located adjacent to Sempra Generation's 10 MW El Dorado Solar installation on 380 acres in Boulder City, Nev., about 40 miles southeast of Las Vegas. The Copper Mountain project uses nearly 775,000 thin-film photovoltaic solar panels, enough to power about 14,000 homes.

[150 MW Californian CPV project to use locally-produced modules](#)

PV Magazine - Mar 16

CSOLAR Development, LLC, a renewable energy company managed by U.S.-based Tenaska Solar Ventures, has signed a 25-year contract with San Diego Gas and Electric (SGD&E) to produce 150 megawatts (MW) of solar power in southern California.

[Harvest Power raises \\$51.7 million to turn yard scraps, food waste into energy](#)

GreenTech - Mar 16

Harvest Power, a producer of renewable energy from organic waste, attained \$51.7 million series B financing, in a round led by Generation Investment Management, the companies announced today. According to Harvest Power's chief executive Paul Sellev, the company will put the capital into building two of the "largest biomass renewable energy projects in North America, one in Richmond, B.C. and another outside of Toronto." The demo facilities will help Harvest Power test and commercialize new technology to process organic waste and turn it into fertilizers and energy at a lower cost than anaerobic digesters that are currently available and widely used.

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