



RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

THE GOVERNOR CALLS ON CALIFORNIA TO RAISE ITS RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS – TO 33% BY 2020 - AND EXPEDITE THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SITES

“I want to ... prove to the world that you can protect the economy and the environment at the same time and we've got to go and push and do everything we can to create these renewables.” (Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, [10/23/08](#))

Today, Governor Schwarzenegger is signing Executive Order S-14-08, which re-establishes California's already ambitious Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) at a new nation-leading level and calls for a restructuring of the process of developing renewable energy sites to make it easier to achieve our renewable goals. Under the current standard, California utilities must get 20 percent of their electricity load from renewable energy sources by 2010; the Governor's EO increases that goal to 33 percent by 2020. To ensure that goal is attainable, the EO also calls for a streamlined review and approval process for renewable energy sites – directing state agencies to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each other and with federal agencies to create a streamlined process making it easier for wind, solar and geothermal sites to be built in California. This action will boost our green economy, put us on the road to reaching our renewable energy goals and help us achieve energy independence.

California has some of the best renewable resources in the world - this Executive Order accelerates our potential to harness those resources to provide clean, valuable electricity to Californians. An undisputed leader in the global green movement, this EO furthers California's leadership on renewable energy for the second time – as the Governor previously accelerated California's goal from 20% by 2017 to 20% by 2010.

- The Executive Order calls for a new, more aggressive renewable energy target. Upping our current goal of obtaining 20% of our energy from clean, renewable resources by 2010 to 33% by 2020.
- The Executive Order directs a restructuring of the process for developing specific renewable energy sites. The EO has a goal of reducing permitting process times for developing renewable energy sites by 50 percent.

The administration is taking immediate action to get more renewable energy projects developed sooner. The California Energy Commission (CEC) and California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) will sign a pair of MOUs, one between themselves and another with federal agencies to streamline the renewable review process.

- **The CEC and DFG will sign an MOU aimed at cutting permit processing times for specific renewable energy sites in half.** Creating a Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) and “one-stop” permitting process.
Instead of filing multiple sequential applications, the DFG and CEC shall create a concurrent application review process, which shall be filed directly at the state level.
- **CEC and DFG will also sign an MOU with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to increase collaboration and further reduce permitting times.**

The REAT will immediately begin pinpointing and pre-approving prime renewable energy development sites in one of California's priority renewable areas – the Mojave and Colorado Desert regions. The resulting Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) and subsequent Natural Communities Conservation Plans (NCCPs) focused on other regions, will pinpoint sites that will generate efficient energy with the least harm to the environment.

Future projects proposed in these pre-approved areas will enjoy the streamlined permitting and environmental review process – allowing more renewable energy projects to be built sooner.

Increasing our renewable energy goals will benefit California's economy. We are already reaping the benefits of going green with 1.5 million jobs created in the past 35 years thanks to our policies, according to a UC Berkeley study – taking our renewable commitment to the next level will encourage even more job creation.