



CALIFORNIA SIGNS FIRST MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH US DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR REGARDING RENEWABLE ENERGY:

EXPEDITING THE SITING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS NEEDED TO REACH CALIFORNIA'S 33 PERCENT GOAL

Recognizing the need to reduce permitting decision timelines, the Governor's office has worked with US Department of Interior (DOI) Secretary Ken Salazar's office on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to expedite the siting of California renewable energy projects. California is the first state to sign an MOU with DOI to cooperatively develop long-term renewable energy plans and to shepherd eligible projects through state and federal permitting processes to receive 30 percent federal tax credits under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (Recovery Act).

This MOU commits the federal government to work with California on a science-based process for reviewing, approving, and permitting renewable energy applications in California. The DOI and California Natural Resources Agency will develop detailed maps of the best areas for development and conservation – allowing for expedited project siting of and habitat protection. The MOU also facilitates the identification of transmission corridors by December 2010 and includes the Department of Defense (DOD) in the process because some transmission lines may need to cross DOD lands. The parties of the MOU also agree to expedite projects that are on track to break ground by the end of 2010 and become eligible for more than \$15 billion in Recovery Act funding.

Two examples of innovative projects include:

- ***Stirling Energy Systems And Tessera Solar Partner Plan To Build One Of the World's Largest Solar Thermal Power Plants in Imperial Valley.*** This 750-megawatt plant would be placed on 6,000 acres of US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land and 300 acres of private land.
- ***Solar Millennium And Chevron Plan To Construct A 500-Megawatt Facility In Riverside County.*** Using solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity, this project would use up to 5,200 acres of BLM land.

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

The MOU solidifies the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) process linking state and federal renewable energy project siting and permitting efforts. Once the plan is complete, it will present a regional road map that will provide certainty for renewable energy developers on how and where to site their projects. The DRECP creates a government organized habitat mitigation program that consolidates endangered habitat purchased as offsets and provides cost certainty to developers.