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Renewable Energy Update

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

November 9, 2010

[U.S. weighs funding for renewable energy projects](#)

Wall Street Journal - Nov 3

President Obama's top advisers recommended cutting off funding for a federal loan-guarantee program meant to spur the construction of wind and solar farms and other alternative energy projects, saying taxpayer dollars might be better spent elsewhere. But the advisers warned Obama that pulling money from the program would risk antagonizing powerful allies in Congress, and would "signal the failure of a Recovery Act program that has been featured prominently by the administration," according to an Oct. 25 memorandum.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[California votes to maintain cap and trade, defeats Prop 23](#)

Technology Review - Nov 3

A ballot proposition in California that would have suspended that state's recent climate change legislation has failed, clearing the way for greenhouse gas emissions regulations to take effect, including a cap and trade program. The outcome of the election could have implications for greenhouse regulations, and renewable energy, around the U.S. In many cases, California's environmental regulations have served as models for other states.

Related News:

[Sustainability still wins elections](#)[California cap and trade could benefit solar industry](#)

[California releases its proposal to cut greenhouse gas pollution](#)

Solar Home and Business Journal - Nov 1

The California Air Resources Board [released](#) its proposed greenhouse gas cap-and-trade regulation. Starting with electricity producers and large industrial combustion plants, the cap-and-trade regulation will establish a fixed limit on greenhouse gas emissions from the sources responsible for about 85% of the state's total greenhouse gas emissions. The new rules are to take effect in 2012 for some emitters, such as electricity producers, and to expand in 2015 to providers of transportation fuels and residential and commercial fuels.

[DOE announces \\$5M in awards for ocean renewable energy research projects](#)

Clean Edge News - Oct 29

The Department of Energy (DOE), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), and the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently announced eight joint research awards totaling nearly \$5 million to support the responsible siting and permitting of offshore wind energy facilities and ocean energy generated from waves, tides, currents and thermal gradients. The projects selected to receive funding are listed [here](#).

[Renewable energy companies predict projects will slow if U.S. eliminates grants](#)

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[The Metropolitan Water District](#)

Bloomberg - Nov 4

Solar, wind, geothermal and biomass power companies predict a slowdown in renewable-energy projects if Congress fails to extend a U.S. grant program during its post-election session. The American Wind Energy Association, the Solar Energy Industries Association, the Biomass Power Association and the Geothermal Energy Association sent letters on Nov. 2 to lawmakers, pressing to extend the program that expires next month.

[Cleantech venture investments fall 55% in Q3](#)

RenewableEnergyWorld - Nov 1

According to a new report from Ernst & Young, third-quarter U.S. venture capital (VC) investment in cleantech companies fell 55% compared to Q3 2009. Companies in the sector saw 53 financing rounds adding up to \$575.6 million. Regionally, California experienced a significant decline in investment, with deals falling 44% to 21 and dollars falling 71% to \$295 million. In comparison, California had five deals over \$50 million including a \$286 million financing of Solyndra one year ago.

[State of California wins national clean energy award](#)

Solar Novus Today - Nov 2

The California Energy Commission received a State Leadership in Clean Energy (SLICE) award from the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) for its Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI). RETI is a plan to minimize the environmental impacts and economic costs of adding renewable power to the transmission grid. California has established a Renewal Portfolio Standard goal of receiving 33% of its power from renewable sources by 2020.

[UCSC leads research on thin-film solar cells](#)

NanoTechWire - Nov 3

Sue Carter, a professor of physics at the University of California, Santa Cruz, is pursuing a variety of strategies to develop cheaper and more efficient solar cells. She was awarded five new grants this year totaling more than \$1 million to fund her research on new materials and technologies for solar energy. Carter's research focuses on lowering the cost of solar cells and reducing the energy "payback time". Her lab uses thin-film technologies and printable semiconductor materials that enable the production of solar cells using less material and less energy compared to standard manufacturing processes.

[U.S. wind industry reports slowest quarter since 2007](#)

AWEA - Oct 29

The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) said U.S. developers added 395 MW of electricity capacity at wind farms in the third quarter-- the slowest quarter since 2007. Year-to-date installations of 1,634 MW, were down 72% versus the same period last year. Factors for the slowdown include lack of long-term U.S. energy policies, such as a Renewable Electricity Standard, and resulting lack of certainty for business, which has the country's utilities failing to move forward with wind build-out plans.

[NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS](#)

[Los Angeles utility plans 5 MW array](#)

Solar Home and Business Journal - Nov 1

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is planning a 5 MW solar photovoltaic installation atop a covered reservoir that could become the largest solar array in the city. Called the Van Norman Bypass Reservoir Solar Project, the \$15.3 million proposal would place solar modules on a 575,000-square-foot rigid roof covering a reservoir that was built in the 1970s. At that price, the installation would cost roughly \$3 per watt of installed capacity. The department's Board of Commissioners has not yet approved funding for the

[of Southern California's Request for Proposals for Power Purchase Agreement](#)

[Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles Request for Proposals for Development of CleanTech Manufacturing Center](#)

[Pacific Gas and Electric's 2010 Solar Photovoltaic Program Power Purchase Agreement Request for Offers](#)

[San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Solar Photovoltaic Projects](#)

project. The plans call for it to be constructed over a six-month period in late 2011.

[Solyndra to close a factory, delay expansion](#)

New York Times - Nov 3

Solyndra, a Silicon Valley solar-panel maker that won \$535 million in federal aid to build a state-of-the-art robotic factory, will shut down an older plant and lay off workers. Solyndra recently opened Fab 2, a \$733 million factory in Fremont to make its high-tech solar panels. The new plant was supposed to be the first phase of a rapid expansion of the company. Instead, Solyndra has decided to shutter the old plant and postpone plans to expand Fab 2.

[PG&E suspends wave-energy project off coast](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - Nov 2

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. has suspended its WaveConnect project off the Humboldt County coast. The project would have used buoys bobbing in the Pacific to generate electricity. PG&E planned the Humboldt project as a way to test different wave-power devices. But the cost of securing government permits, installing the devices and putting in place the infrastructure needed to bring their power to shore made the project untenable, the company said.

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