



# LIGNO-CELLULOSIC BIOMASS TO ETHANOL- WHERE DO TECHNOLOGIES STAND TODAY?

Elaine Sison-Lebrilla, P.E.  
Energy Generation Research Office Manager

& Zhiqin Zhang, Ph.D.

California Energy Commission  
Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Program

Prepared for BioCycle West Coast Conference 2007  
April 16 - 18, 2007, San Diego, California

# Outline



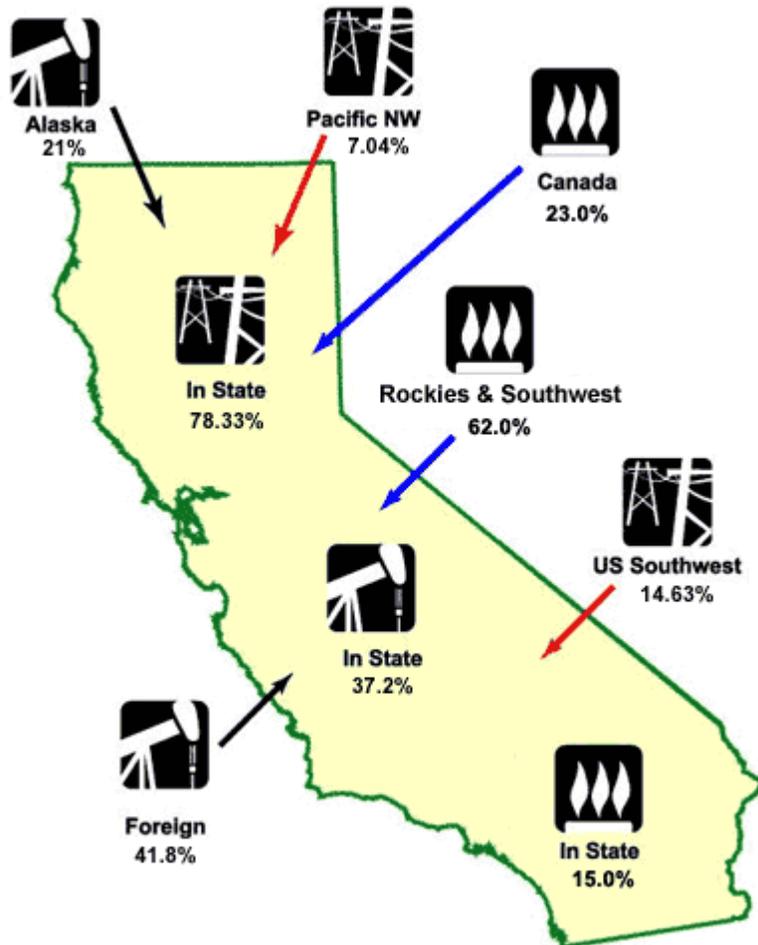
- PIER Program Overview
- Global Ethanol Development (Corn/Sugar)
- Sugar/Starch vs LignoCellulose Feedstocks
- LignoCellulose Ethanol
  - Conversion Pathways
  - Technology Development
  - Outlook in California
  - Existing Challenges
- Conclusions

# PIER Program Overview



- California's Energy Picture
- Key Policy Drivers for Alternative Energy/Renewables
- Public Interest Energy Research Program (PIER)
- Renewable Energy
  - Biomass
  - Solar
  - Wind
  - Geothermal (Geothermal Program)
- Environmentally Preferred Advance Generation

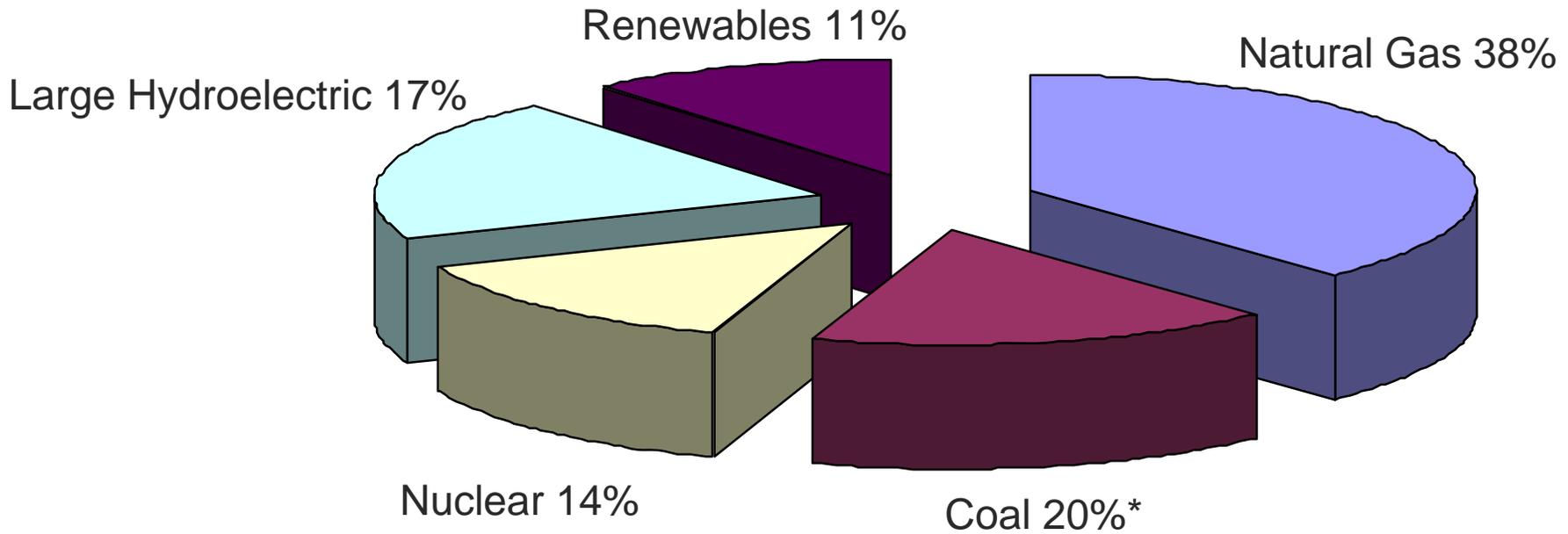
# California's Energy Picture



**CALIFORNIA'S ENERGY SOURCES**

- **Population:** 35,655,404 (2004) ranked 1st
- **Total Energy Consumption:** 7.9 quadrillion Btu (2001), ranked 2nd
- **Total Petroleum Consumption:** 78.4 million gallons per day (2002), ranked 2nd
- **Gasoline Consumption:** 42.5 million gallons per day (2002), ranked 1st
- **Distillate Fuel Consumption:** 10.3 million gallons per day (2002), ranked 2nd
- **Liquefied Petroleum Gas Consumption:** 1.7 million gallons per day (2002), ranked 6th
- **Jet Fuel Consumption:** 11.8 million gallons per day (2002), ranked 2nd
- **Natural Gas:** Total natural gas consumption including residual, commercial, industrial, and power industry in California is 2,366,399 MMcf (2004).
- **Electricity:** Total summer capacity is 58,306 MW (2004)

# California Electricity Production 2005



\*Intermountain and Mohave coal plants are considered in-state, since they are in California control areas.

# Key Drivers of California Alternative Energy Policies



- Renewables Portfolio Standard, 20% by 2010 and 33% by 2020
- Integrated Energy Policy Reports (IEPR) (2003, 2004 update, 2005)
- Energy Action Plan (EAP) I and II (published 2003 and 2005 respectively)
- Governor's 2003 / 2004 IEPR response and Ten Point Plan
- California Solar Initiative (CPUC Proceeding R.06-03-004)
- Governor's Executive Order S-06-06 –biomass & biofuels
- Bioenergy Action Plan (July 13, 2006, Governor announces action plan to reduce petroleum dependence and improve air quality)
- Governor's GHG Reduction Targets (Executive Order S-3-05)
- US 2005 Energy Policy Act
- Western Governor's Association (Charter, 2005 Annual Report, 2003 Policy Roadmap)
- AB 32 (Nunez) - California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006

# CEC Public Interest Energy Research Program



- IOU Ratepayer-funded program launched in 1997
- Addresses electricity, natural gas, and transportation
- \$80M annual budget; nearly \$400M in projects
- A leader in no/low-carbon technology and global climate change research programs
  - Efficiency and Demand Response
  - Renewables
  - Clean Fossil Fuel Generation – Distributed Generation, Combined Heat & Power
  - Transportation
  - Energy Systems Research – Transmission and Distribution, Grid Interconnection
  - Environmental Impacts – Air, Water, Climate, Communities
- Strong emphasis on collaborations
  - Avoid duplication/builds on past work/ensures relevance
  - Regular coordination with IOUs via the Emerging Technology Coordinating Council to transition research to the marketplace
  - State Agency Partnerships (DGS/DOF, ARB, T-24)
  - Market Partnerships (California builders, Collaborative for High Performance Schools, California Commissioning Collaborative, major equipment manufacturers)
  - Use California Capabilities (Universities, National Laboratories, High Technology Companies)
  - Leverage/complement Federal Investments

# SB 1250 Goals for PIER Are Solution- Focused



## General Goal

- “Develop and help bring to market, energy technologies that provide increased environmental benefits, greater system reliability, and lower system costs”

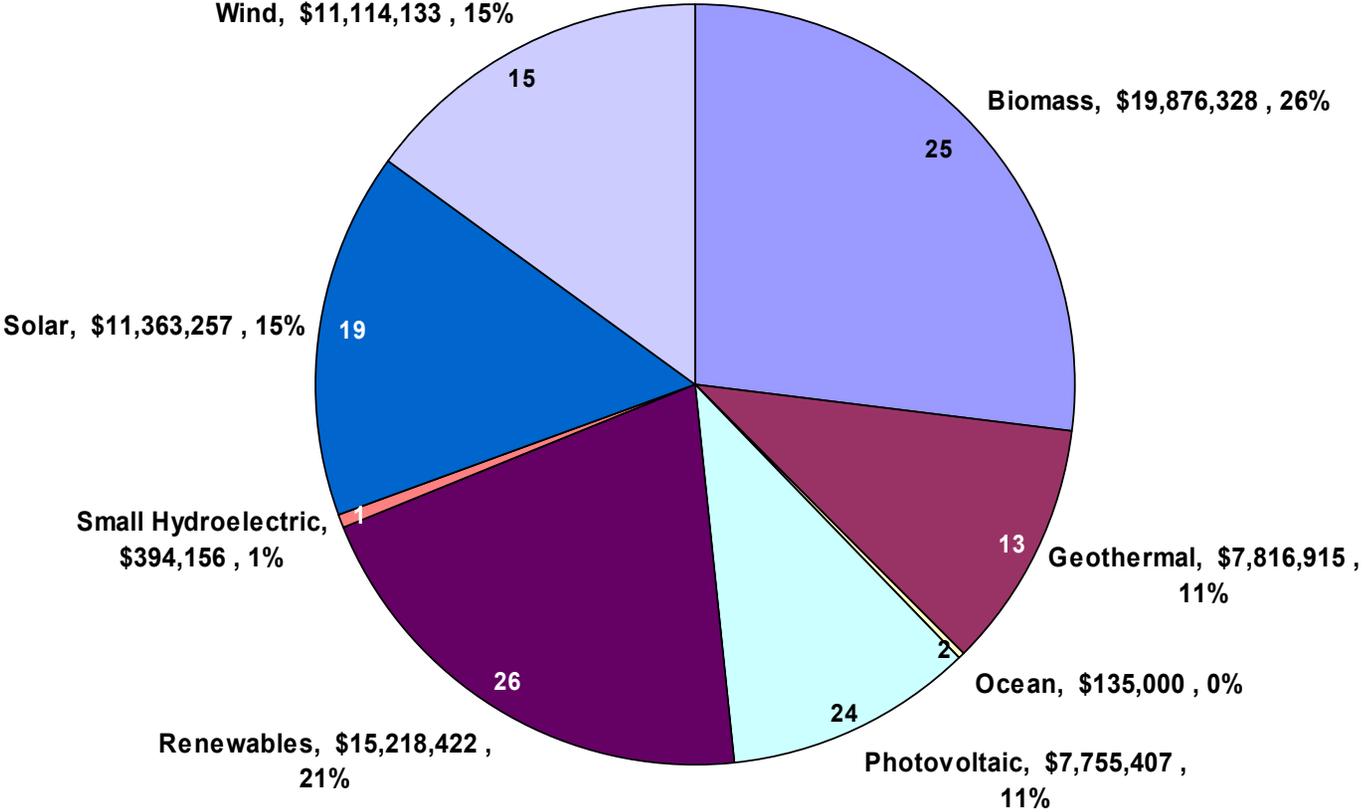
## Specific Goals

- Develop and help bring to market
  - “Advanced transportation technologies that reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions beyond applicable standards, and that benefit electricity and natural gas ratepayers.
  - “Increased energy efficiency in buildings, appliances, lighting, and other applications beyond applicable standards, and that benefit electric utility customers.
  - “Advanced electricity generation technologies that exceed applicable standards to increase reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation, and that benefit electric utility customers.
  - “Advanced electricity technologies that reduce or eliminate consumption of water or other finite resources, increase use of renewable energy resources, or improve transmission or distribution of electricity generated from renewable energy resources.”

# PIER Portfolio Summary



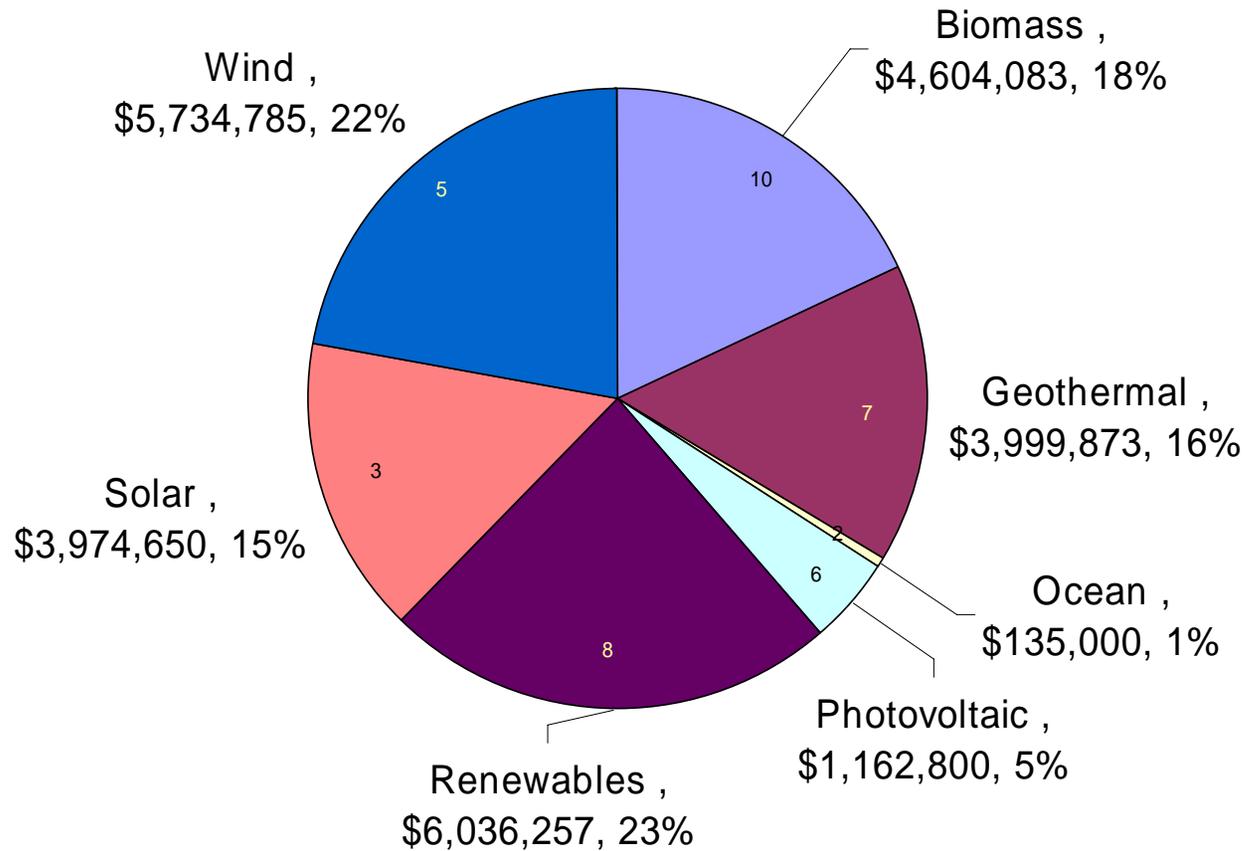
## Renewables Projects - Active and Closed 125 Projects, \$73.7 Million



# PIER Portfolio Summary



## Renewables Projects - Active 41 Projects, \$25.6 Million

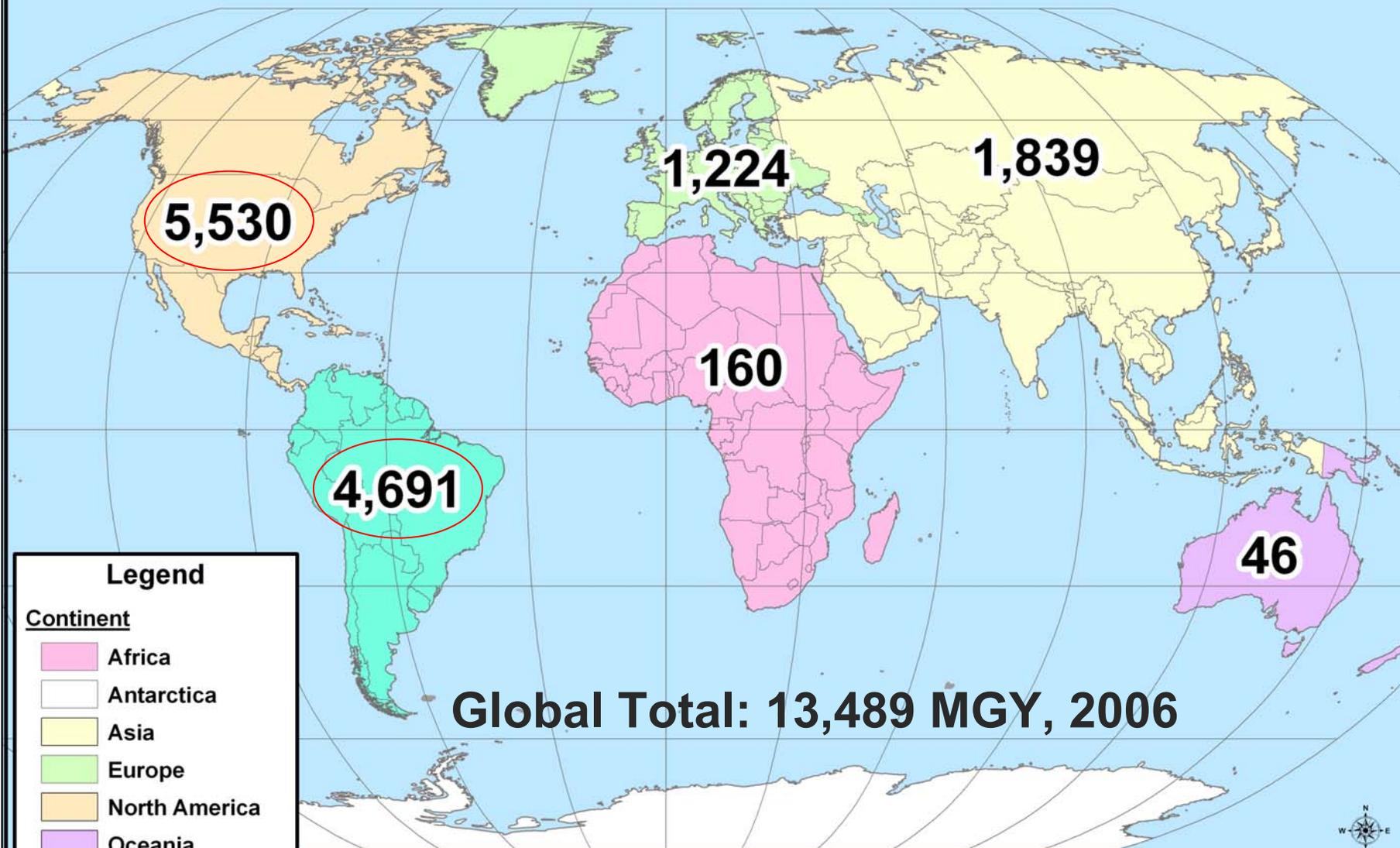




# Global Ethanol Development (Corn/Sugar)



# Global Ethanol Production (mgy) 2006 (Corn/Sugar)



**Global Total: 13,489 MGY, 2006**

**Legend**

Continent

- Africa
- Antarctica
- Asia
- Europe
- North America
- Oceania
- South America

Data source: Ethanol Industry Outlook 2007, RFA



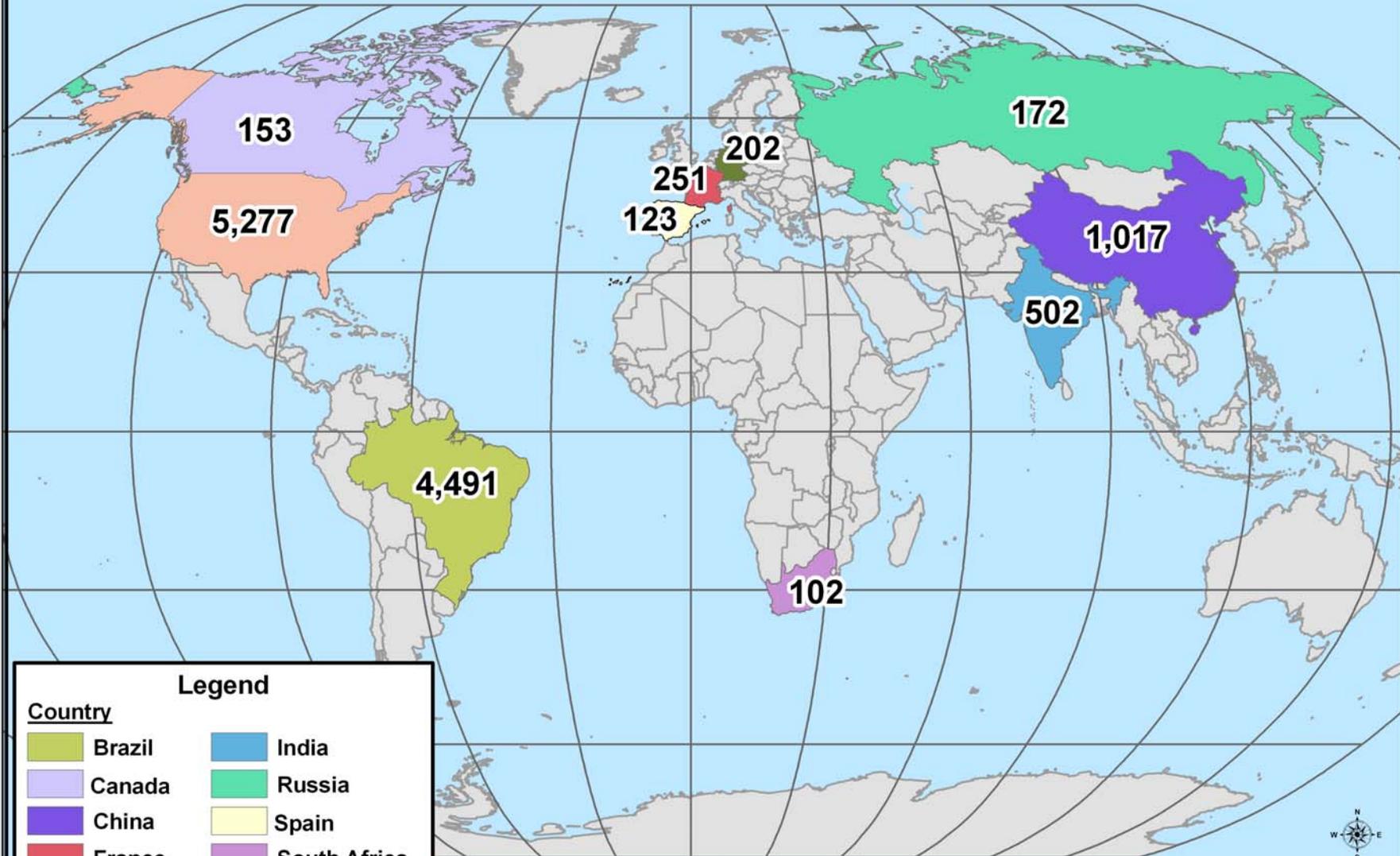
Map Not to Scale

April 2007  
California Energy Commission  
[www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)



# Global Ethanol Production 2006

## Countries over 100 (mgy) (Corn/Sugar)



Legend	
Country	
	Brazil
	Canada
	China
	France
	Germany
	India
	Russia
	Spain
	South Africa
	United States

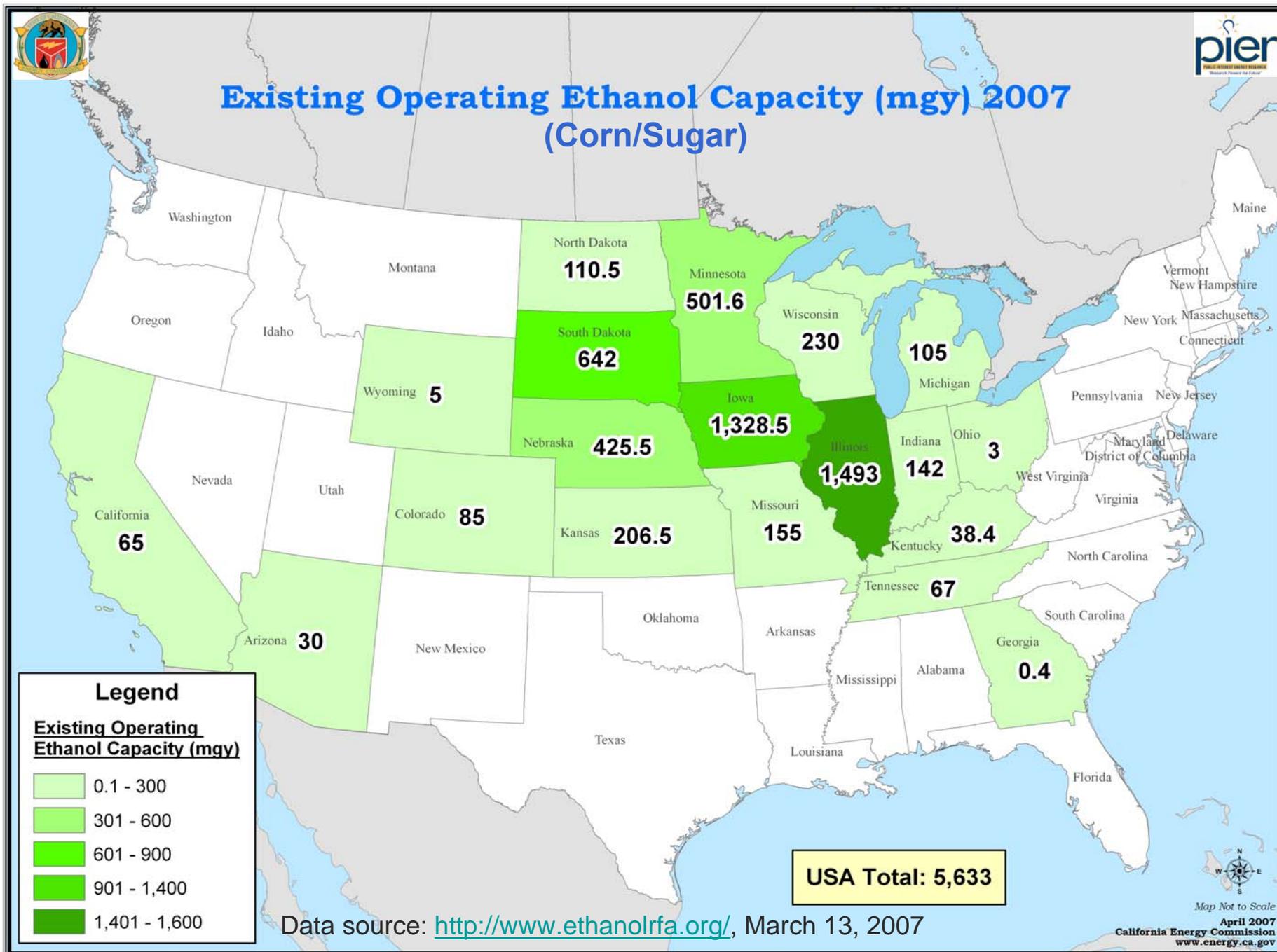
Data source: Ethanol Industry Outlook 2007, RFA



Map Not to Scale  
April 2007  
California Energy Commission  
[www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)



## Existing Operating Ethanol Capacity (mgy) 2007 (Corn/Sugar)

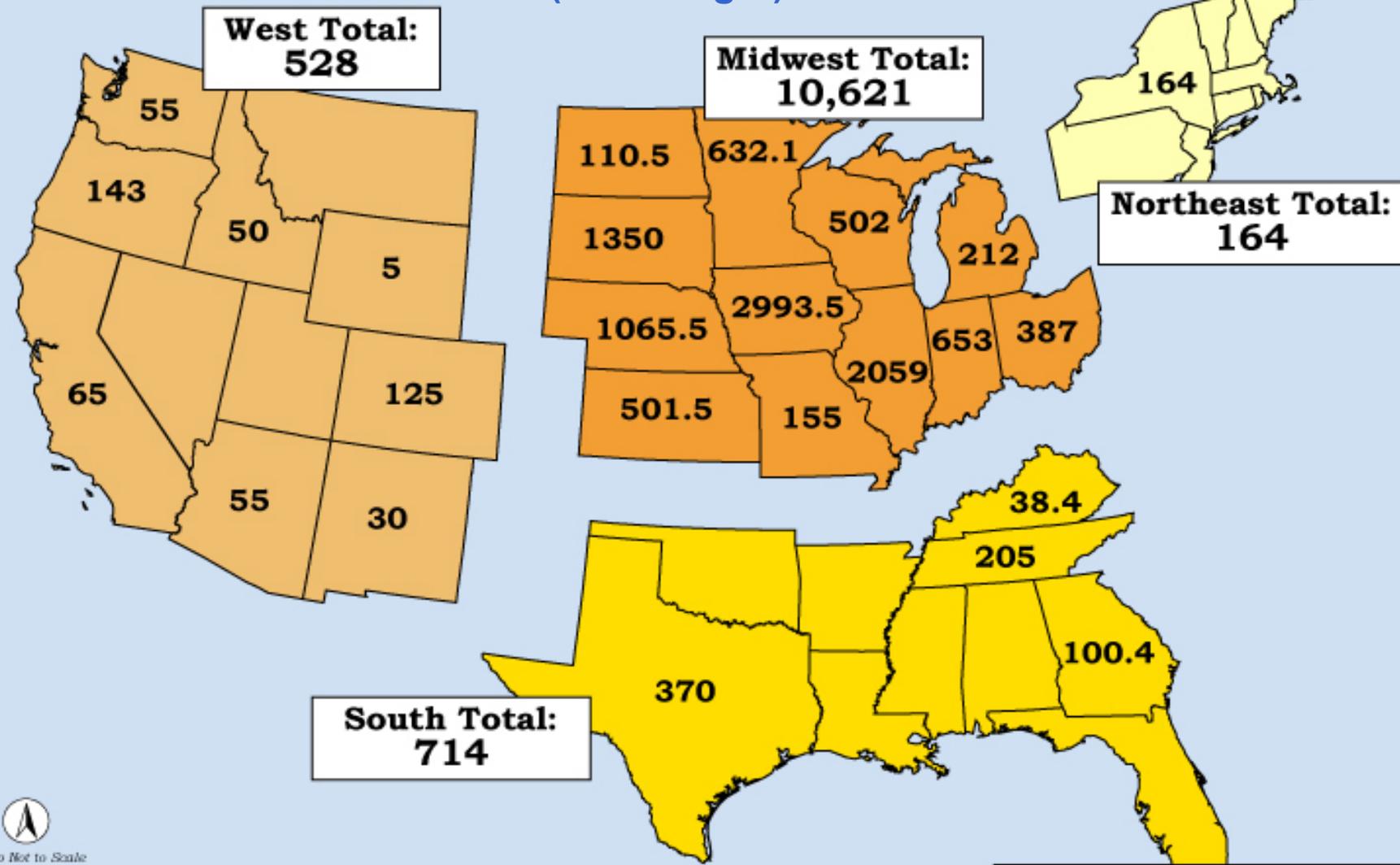


Map Not to Scale

April 2007  
California Energy Commission  
[www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)



# Existing & Under Construction Ethanol Capacity (mgy) 2007 (Corn/Sugar)



Map Not to Scale  
April 2007  
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
www.energy.ca.gov

Data source: <http://www.ethanolrfa.org/>

**USA Total: 12,026.9**



# California Existing Ethanol Plants (Corn/Sugar)

CA Total: 68 MGY, 2007



Pacific Ethanol, Madera - 35 (MGY)

Phoenix Biofuels, Goshen - 25 (MGY)

Parallel Products, Rancho Cucamonga, 3 (MGY)

Golden Cheese, Corona - 5 (MGY)

Data source: <http://www.ethanolrfa.org/>

T:\Projects\Special Requests 2\Zhang\_Jessica\FILENAME Existing Ethanol Plants CA\_A.mxd

## Production Cost (Exclude Capital Cost) of Corn/Cheese Whey Ethanol and Gasoline

Feedstock	Production Cost (\$/gallon)	By product credits
Cheese Whey	0.98	Excluding
Corn		
at \$2.0/bushel	1.74	Excluding
at \$2.5/bushel	1.88	Excluding
at \$3.2/bushel	2.13	Excluding
Motor Gasoline		
at \$15/barrel crude	0.62	Including
at \$20/barrel crude	0.74	Including
at \$30/barrel crude	0.94	Including
at \$60/barrel crude	1.57	Including

Reference: Agricultural Economic Report Number 607, USDA, Washington, D.C. March 1989.

## Corn Ethanol Energy Use and Net Energy Value per Gallon without Co-product Energy Credits

Production Phase	Milling process	
	(Btu/gallon)	
	Dry	Wet
Corn production	21,803	21,430
Corn transport	2,284	2,246
Ethanol conversion	48,772	54,239
Ethanol distribution	1,588	1,588
<b>Total energy used</b>	<b>74,447</b>	<b>79,503</b>

To meet President's 35 billion gallon ethanol target, 2.6 Quadrillion ( $10^{15}$ ) Btu/yr total energy (fossil fuel) are needed assuming dry milling process.

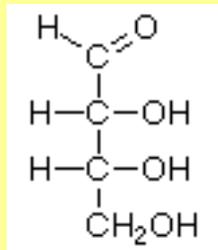


# Sugar/Starch vs LignoCellulose Feedstock

# Sugars

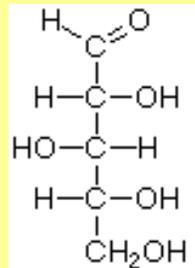
## • 1 Sugar

Tetroses (4 C)



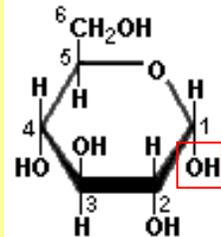
D-Erythrose

Pentoses (5 C)

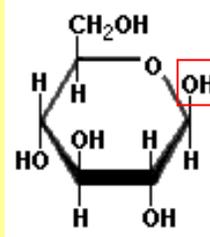


D-Xylose

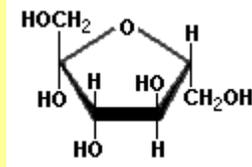
Hexoses (6 C)



$\alpha$ -D-Glucose

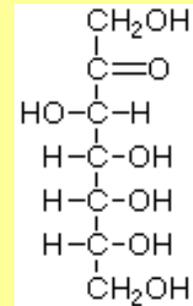


$\beta$ -D-Glucose



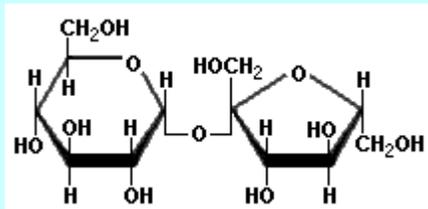
Fructose

Heptoses (7 C)

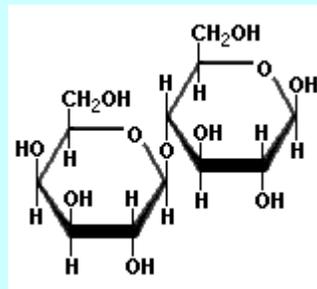


D-Sedoheptulose

## • 2 Sugars

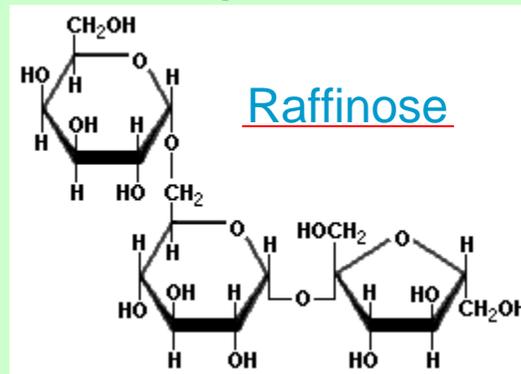


Sucrose



Lactose

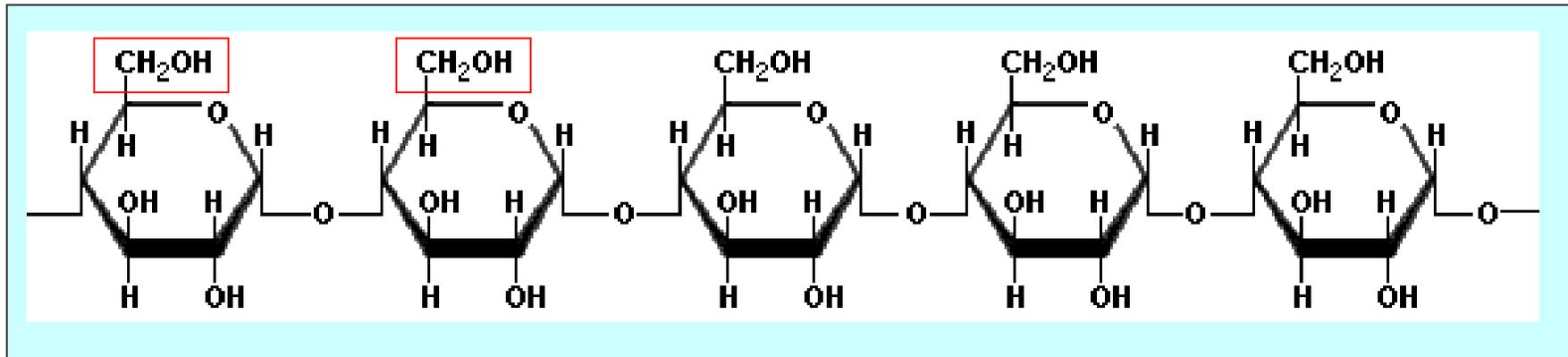
## • 3 Sugars



Raffinose

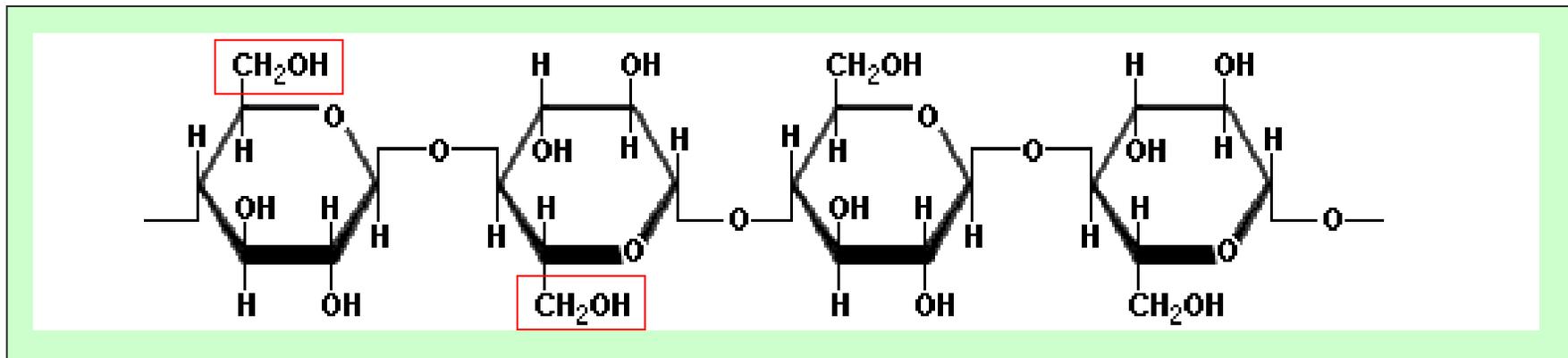
# Starch and Cellulose

Starch is a polymer of  $\alpha$ -D-Glucose (linear and branched)



Starch

Cellulose is a polymer of  $\beta$ -D-Glucose (linear)



Cellulose

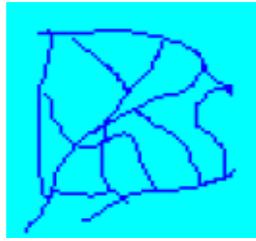
# LignoCellulosic Biomass



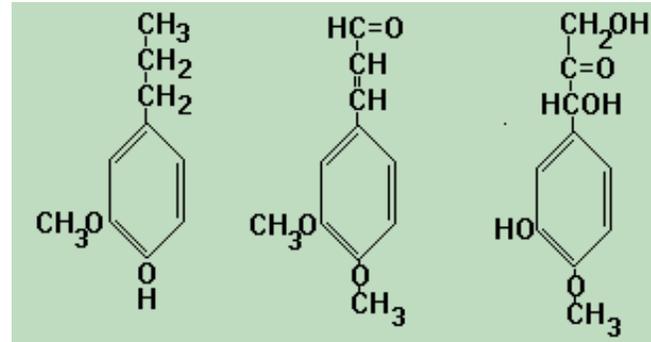
(Linear)  
Cellulose



(Branched)  
Hemi-cellulose



(Network)  
Lignin

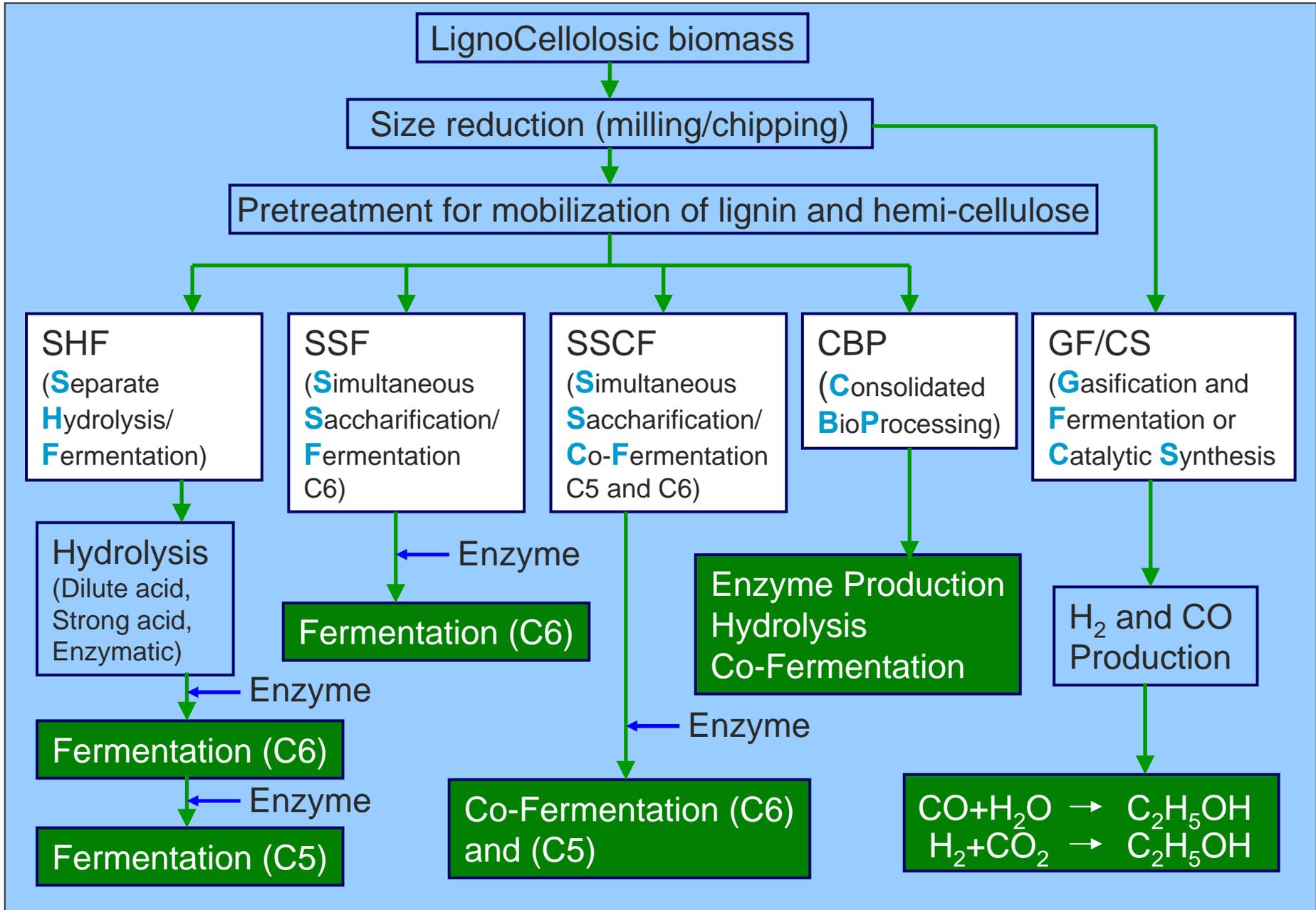


Typical lignin monomers

- Lignocellulosic biomass is composed of cellulose (40-60%), hemi-cellulose (20-40%), and lignin (10-25%).
- Lignin is composed of aromatic polymers which are not biodegradable.
- The steps of ethanol fermentation process using lignocellulosic biomass include
  - remove lignin
  - hydrolyze the cellulose and hemi-cellulose into simple C5 and C6 sugars
  - ferment simple sugars into ethanol



# Conversion Pathways of LignoCellulosic Biomass to Ethanol



# LignoCellulose Ethanol Technology Development Companies Leading the Industry

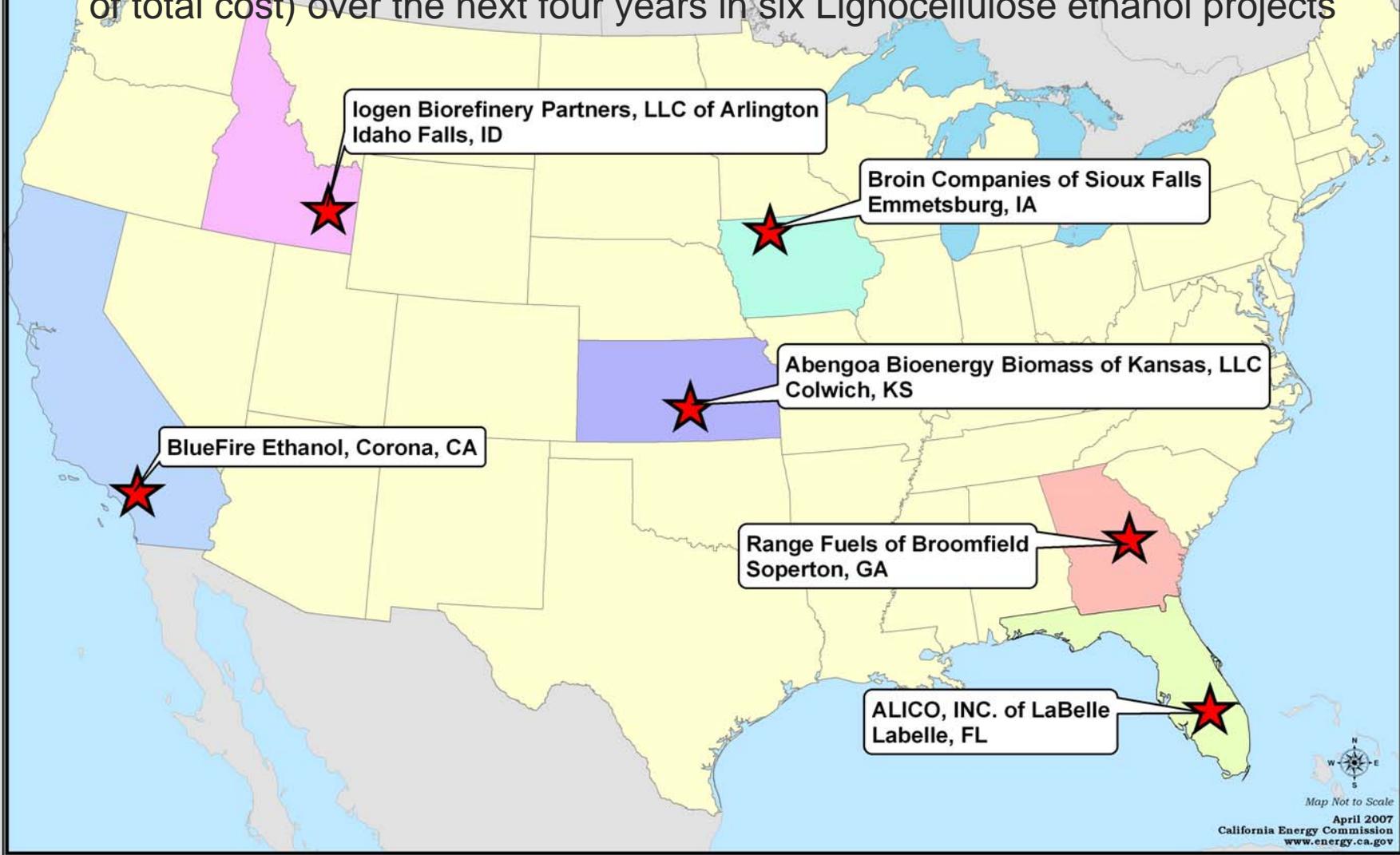


- Abengoa <http://www.abengoa.com/>
- Archer Daniels Midland <http://www.admworld.com/>
- American Process, Inc. <http://www.americanprocess.com/>
- BRI Energy <http://www.brienergy.com/>
- BlueFire <http://www.bluefireethanol.com/>
- Borin <http://www.poetenergy.com/broin/>
- Celunol <http://www.celunol.com/>
- Ceres <http://www.ceres-inc.com/>
- Colusa <http://www.colusabiomass.com/>
- Diversa <http://www.diversa.com/>
- DuPont <http://www2.dupont.com/>
- Dyadic <http://www.dyadic-group.com/wt/home>
- Green Star Products Inc. <http://www.greenstarusa.com/>
- Iogen Crop <http://www.iogen.ca/>
- Range Fuels <http://www.rangefuels.com/>
- Lignol Energy Corp. <http://www.lignol.ca/>
- Mascoma <http://www.mascoma.com/welcome/index.html>
- Nova Fuels <http://www.novafuels.com/>
- Novozymes <http://www.novozymes.com/>
- Pure Energy <http://www.pure-energy.com/pureindex.html>
- SunOpta <http://www.sunopta.com/bioprocess/>
- Xethanol <http://www.xethanol.com/>



## Proposed Ethanol Facilities Awarded by DOE

(2/28/07) DOE announced a potential investment of up to \$385 million (40% of total cost) over the next four years in six Lignocellulose ethanol projects



Map Not to Scale

April 2007  
California Energy Commission  
[www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)

# DOE Awards - Continued



Ethanol Projects	Feedstock	Technology	Ethanol Capacity (mgy)	Potential DOE Funds (million dollars)
Abengoa	Agricultural residues	SSF and GCS	11	76
Alico	Yard, wood, and citrus peel	GF	14	33
Bluefire	Green and wood wastes from landfill	SHF	24	40
Broin	Corn fiber and corn stover	SSF	26	80
logen	Wheat straw, barley straw, corn stover, switch grass, and rice straw	SSCF	18	80
Range Fuels	Wood residues and energy crops	GCS	40	76

# Current Development of LignoCellulose Ethanol in California



- **Bluefire Ethanol**

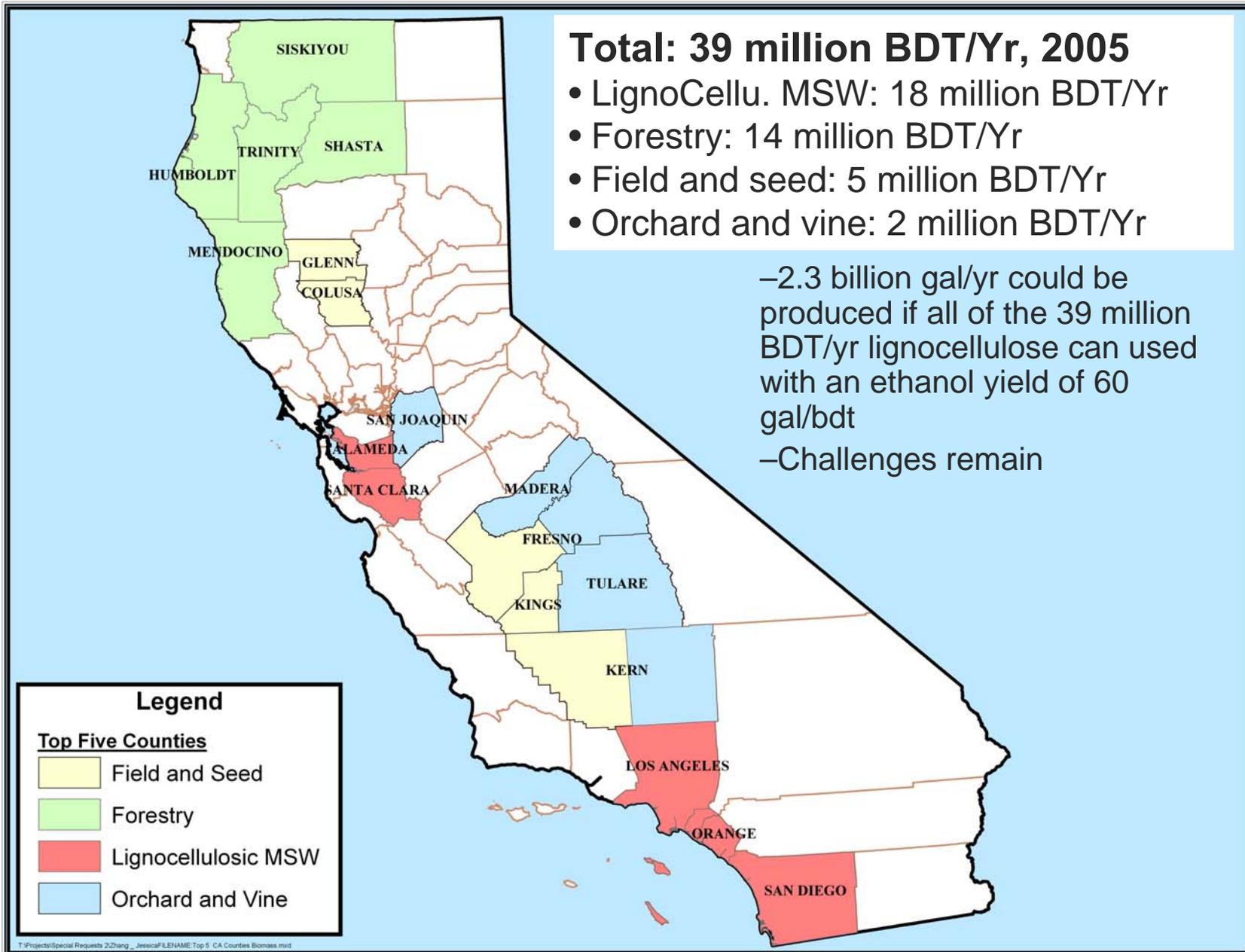
- Received \$995,938 from California Energy Commission's PIER program on April 11, 2007 to develop and test a pre-commercial biorefinery system using green and wood wastes to produce ethanol

- **Technical Tasks** (to be performed under the PIER program)

- Size of feedstock
- Decrystallizer
- Filterability
- Acid recovery and sugar yield
- Energy and cost of acid recovery
- Dryer selection
- Fermentation scale up and validation
- Gypsum production



# Outlook of LignoCellulosic Ethanol in California



Data source: California Biomass Collaborative

# Challenges of LignoCellulose Ethanol



- Dilute and Strong Acid Hydrolysis (SHF)
  - The need to regenerate acids
  - Formation of inorganic waste streams
  - High operational temperatures and pressures
  - The corrosiveness of the pretreatment
  - High water consumption: 28-54 gallon water/ gallon lignoCellulose ethanol produced vs 15 gallon water/gallon corn ethanol produced
- SSF, SSCF, and CBP
  - Effective enzymes to separate lignin from cellulose and hemicellulose
  - Effective enzymes to simultaneously hydrolyze cellulose and hemi-cellulose into simple C5 and C6 sugars
- GF/CS
  - Feedstock homogeneity (moisture and composition)
  - Capital cost
  - Tar formation
  - Syngas cleanup

# Conclusions



- While technologies to convert lignocellulosic biomass to ethanol currently exist, they still need to demonstrate economic and financial feasibility
- At this moment, there is no integrated commercial plant anywhere around the world producing ethanol from lignocellulosic biomass
- Strong and weak acid hydrolysis and steam pretreatment still suffer from major drawbacks
- Fundamental researches (laboratory) are still needed on effective enzymes, fungi, and/or bacteria working on lignocellulosic biomass
- Fundamental data including material and energy balances using lignocellulose are still needed to validate the existing integrated pilot-scale results
- California has 39 million BDT/yr lignocellulosic biomass that could be used to produce lignocellulose ethanol when commercial technology is brought into the market