



Governor's Renewable Executive Order: Scoping Meeting

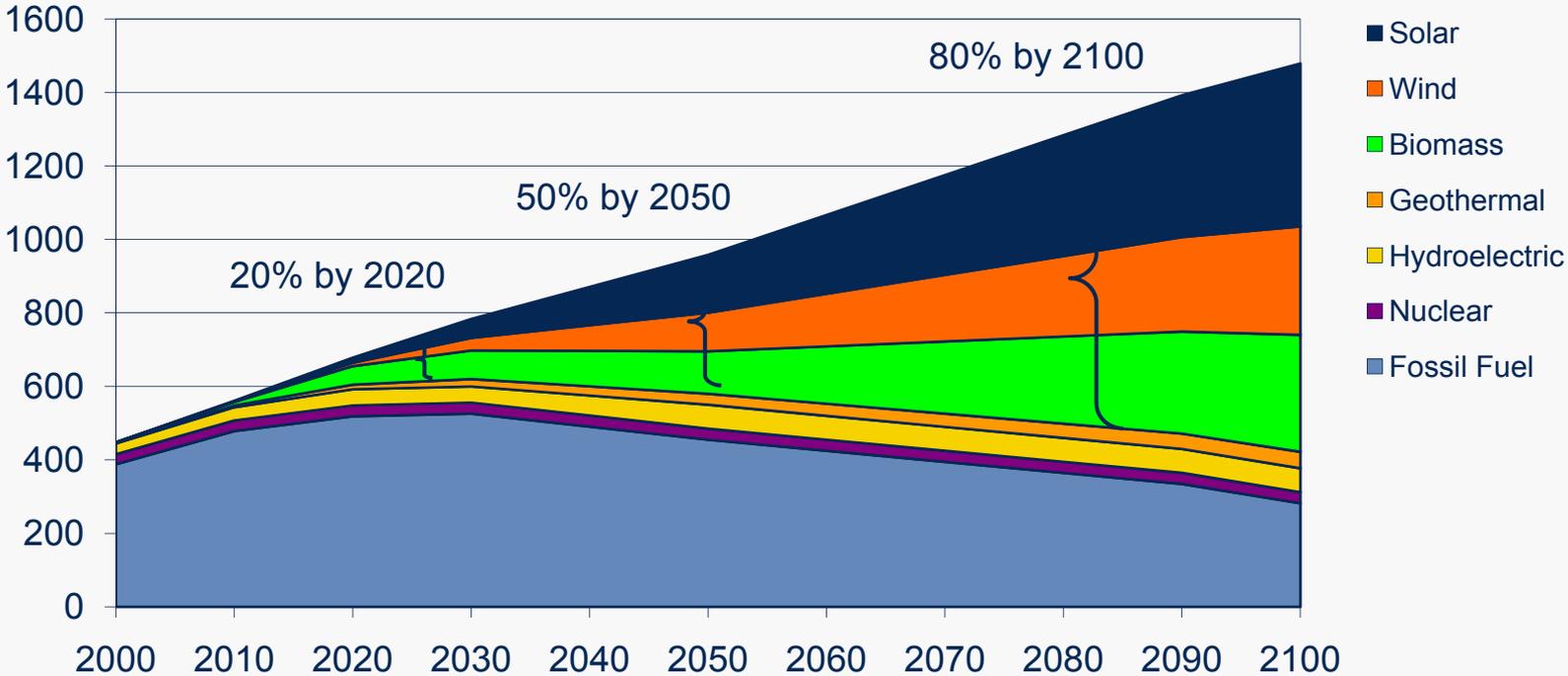
Wayne Hoffman, Director of Environmental Affairs

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Solar's Role in Climate Stabilization

Continuing at Recent Growth Rates, Renewable Energy Can Achieve Atmospheric Carbon Stabilization

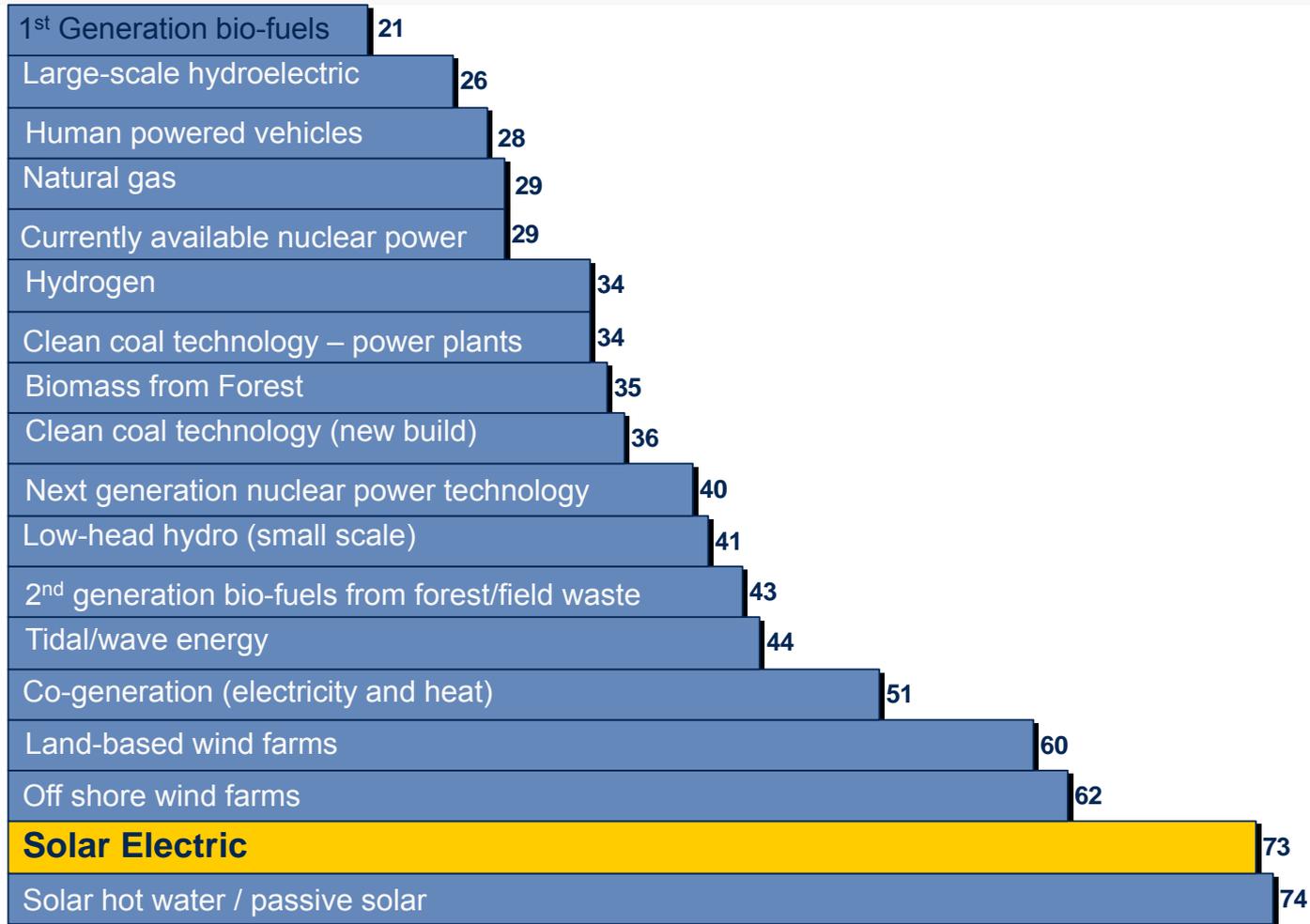
Examples of Global Primary Energy



Source: Don Aitken adapted from Bull and Billman, NREL 2004



Energy Technologies' Potential to Lower Carbon Levels over Next 25 years



Source: Climate Decision Makers Survey Bali Conference Indonesia, December 10th 2007, World Bank and The World Conservation Union (*IUCN*) invitation-only on-line survey conducted 22 Nov-5 December 2007



Environmental Benefits

One 550 MW Solar Plant:

- ▶ **Displaces 450,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) greenhouse gas emissions per year**
 - Equivalent of taking 90,000 average cars off the road
- ▶ **Displaces 35 tons of nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions per year**
- ▶ **Provides clean, safe, sustainable energy for approximately 190,000 average California homes**



Balancing AB 32 Objectives with NEPA, CEQA and ESAs

CHALLENGES:

- ▶ **Think globally, act locally...NOT think and act locally**
- ▶ **Align federal and state regulatory agencies with federal/state global warming objectives**
- ▶ **Key federal agencies: BLM and USFWS: history, challenges and solutions**
- ▶ **Key state agencies: CDFG: issues, challenges and solutions**
- ▶ **Positive trends and elements for success**



Why Change Now

▶ **Global warming results:**

- “Business as Usual” = 20-30% of species risk extinction
- Semi-arid areas increase, including Western United States
- Coastal Flooding and Rising Sea Levels threaten California

▶ **State RPS = 20% Renewables by 2010 and 33% by 2020**

▶ **Federal stimulus bill offers key solar benefits thru 2010**

▶ **Key solar resource areas with exceptional transmission service threatened by local opposition:**

- 3 Projects totaling about 1 Gigawatt = only 10% of PG&E’s 2010 renewable requirement
- Projects total about 2% of Carrizo Plains Land Area, predominately on non-prime agricultural land
- About 80% of California desert off limits due to military, wilderness, parklands, OHV areas, and desert wildlife management areas



BLM & USFWS: History, Challenges

- ▶ **Historical focus on grazing, mining, oil and gas and related impacts on public land**
- ▶ **Uses tended to benefit mainly narrow farming and industrial/oil and gas interests**
- ▶ **Renewable energy has broader global warming benefit range, extends to public interest at state, federal and global levels**
- ▶ **Change in land use demands a paradigm shift away from “business as usual” due to global effects of fossil fuels**



Solar Permitting Issues: BLM

► Recent history:

- Some projects in process 2 years have not initiated EIS process
- Major field office staff shortages
- Lack of direction and policy consistency
- Inconsistent approaches to wildlife management

► What is needed:

- Regulatory consistency
 - Same policies set and followed from federal, state, district and field office
 - Timely adoption and consistent implementation of guidelines
 - Expedited timelines for EIS/EIR approvals
- Funding and staff shortages
 - Need immediate filling of key DOI/BLM policy positions
 - Timely funding for key staff in Coordinating Offices and Field Offices
- Leadership involvement
 - Clear policies from Washington
 - Effective coordination between federal, state and local agencies
 - Clear timelines for project approvals from state, district and field offices



Solar Permitting Issues: CDFG

► Recent history:

- Field biologists proposing arbitrary mitigation ratios prior to EIRs
- Field biologists working with local solar power opposition groups
- Lack of flexibility to enable on-site mitigation, 3rd party management of mitigation conservation areas
- Opposition to solar/biological experiments on low quality desert habitat

► What is needed:

- Increased flexibility in setting and implementing mitigation measures
 - Minimize requirements for mitigation based on habitat restoration or improvement
 - Recognition of limited value of tilled agricultural land for habitat, set mitigation consistent with current value of site areas
 - Agreement to meet expedited timelines for Section 1600 and 2801 approvals
- Funding and staff shortages
 - Work with developers and local government to assure adequate staffing in place
 - Expedited Licensing/Certification of Mojave Ground Squirrel



Positive Trends and Elements for Success

- ▶ **New federal administration strongly supports renewables**
- ▶ **BLM has key POD policies, setting up renewable coordination offices**
- ▶ **CDFG involved in key communication at highest levels, showing increased flexibility in recent comment letters on mitigation**
- ▶ **Prioritization/urgency**
 - Time is of the essence
 - Policy mandates, contractual obligations, climate change imperative
- ▶ **Streamlined process**
 - Executive order goals, chance for an early siting success
 - Creativity AND solutions oriented approach
 - Move away from fixed County ratios
- ▶ **Leadership involvement**
 - Sacramento State BLM, Sacto USFWS & DFG headquarters
 - Regional: BLM district office and DFG regional offices
 - Accessible, responsive and regular interaction

