

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.dfg.ca.gov



Notice of Public Meetings

Scoping Meetings to Discuss Implementing the Renewable Energy Executive Order: Facilitating Renewable Energy Development and Natural Resource Conservation Planning

Purpose

The California Energy Commission and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) will be joined by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) at two scoping meetings. Other governmental agencies that are also invited to participate include counties whose jurisdictions include portions of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts: Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside, and San Bernardino.

The meetings are scheduled for March 12th in Sacramento and March 17th in Palm Springs. See details below.

Governor Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-14-08 on November 17, 2008 that established a target for all retail sellers of electricity within the state to serve 33 percent of their electric load with renewable energy by 2020. The order directs the California Energy Commission and the CDFG to implement a number of specific directives pertaining to natural resource conservation planning and renewable energy permitting. At these scoping meetings, we plan to describe progress being made in meeting the directives of the Governor's Renewable Energy Executive Order and solicit input from interested stakeholders. The meetings will include:

1. Overview and summary of the Governor's Renewable Energy Executive Order and the status of each Executive Order element;
2. Description and summary of the supporting efforts including Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) and Western Renewable Energy Zone (WREZ);
3. Discussion among the regulatory agencies, industry, and environmental organizations pertaining to the Executive Order: and
4. Comment and input from the public.

The meetings will be held on:

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009
9:30 a.m.
California Energy Commission
Hearing Room A
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(Wheelchair Accessible)

Audio from the meeting will be broadcast over the Internet.
For details, please go to:
www.energy.ca.gov/webcast/

To participate by phone, call **888-469-3347** before 9:30 a.m.
Pass code: **Renewables**, Call Leader: **Paul Richins**

and

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009
10 a.m.
Palm Springs City Hall
City Council Chambers
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262
(Wheelchair Accessible)

The meeting in Palm Springs can be viewed live on Time Warner Cable, Channel 121, and
on the Internet: PSCTV.org at

http://palmsprings.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=2

Background

California has established goals and policies to increase its renewable energy generation and to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. The Executive Order S-14-08 sets a target of obtaining 33 percent of the state's electricity from renewable resources by 2020. To meet the 33 percent target it will be necessary to add substantial new renewable generating capacity within California. Many of these facilities will be located on federal public land necessitating close cooperation between the permitting agencies, such as the Energy Commission and the CPUC, the land management agencies, such as the BLM, and the resource agencies, such as CDFG and the USFWS. The state's greenhouse gas emissions reductions goal was established by Assembly Bill 32 (Nunez, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006) and calls for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. A key component of achieving these reductions is to reduce the use of fossil fuels to generate electricity and substitute the use of cleaner renewable resources.

Licensing renewable energy generation and transmission facilities is challenging given the nature of the potential impacts to be analyzed and mitigated, the often disparate interests of the involved parties, and the competing land use interests that must be addressed and resolved. Within the context of these challenges, the Executive Order directs the Energy Commission and the CDFG, among other things, to reduce permitting times for projects located in designated renewable development areas. While more comprehensive planning processes are underway, including the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) and the development of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), the Energy Commission and CDFG have been directed in the Executive Order S-14-08 to facilitate siting in the short term by identifying areas for development where permitting can be expedited, to develop a Best Management Practices manual, to identify other areas in California where a renewable energy-focused Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) would be beneficial, and to ensure close coordination among regulatory agencies.

In connection with identifying specific areas where renewable energy development would be encouraged and preferred, the agencies are examining the feasibility of providing developers with written guidelines to follow when preparing siting applications. These guidelines would identify both the data needed up-front by the agencies to facilitate timely application review, and, more importantly, the potential issues that need to be addressed and resolved prior to filing an application in order to significantly expedite the review of a project. The agencies are considering a variety of criteria and measures that could be taken to reduce agency approval time for renewable projects including the possibility of agency-sponsored environmental review and data collection in preferred areas, development of tools and processes to maximize the reduction of conflicts during the siting process, and potential of more efficient alignment of agency review and approval processes.

Written Comments

The meeting will provide an opportunity to provide input to the agencies on how to improve their current review and regulatory processes related to the siting of renewable energy infrastructure and to offer comments on the attributes that areas should possess, or specific areas, that should be identified/designated as renewable development areas.

Please provide written comments on the topics covered in the meetings by March 31, 2009. Include the docket number 09-Renew EO-01 and indicate "Renewable Energy Executive Order" in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments. Please hand deliver or mail an original plus 10 paper copies to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 09-Renew EO-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

The Energy Commission encourages written comments by e-mail. Please include your name or your organization's name in the name of the file. Those submitting comments by e-mail should provide them in either Microsoft Word format or as a Portable Document Format (PDF) to [docket@energy.state.ca.us]. One paper copy must also be sent to the Energy Commission's Docket Unit at the above address.

Public Participation

Notices, documents, reports, and public comments will be posted on the Energy Commission's website at [<http://www.energy.ca.gov/33by2020>]. To receive notices and information about the implementation of the Executive Order, sign up for the electronic list server on this webpage.

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission activities. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser, Elena M. Miller, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free at (800) 822-6228, by FAX at (916) 654-4493, or by e-mail at [**PublicAdviser@energy.state.ca.us**]. If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance.

Please direct all news media inquiries to Media and Public Communications, at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at [**mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us**]. If you have questions on the technical subject matter of this forum, please call Paul Richins at (916) 654-4074, or by e-mail at [**prichins@energy.state.ca.us**].

Date: February 24, 2009

Mail Lists: Renewables, Wind, 30%by2020, Siting, and RETI