



## California Wind Energy Association

### NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**

Saturday, September 12, 2009

**Contact:**

Nancy Rader, CalWEA - (510) 919-6358 or  
(510) 845-5077

### **California Wind Energy Industry Lauds Passage of Landmark Renewable Energy Bill; Urges Governor to Resist Calls for Veto**

September 12, 2009 --The California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA) today praised the California Legislature for adopting legislation requiring the state's utilities to acquire 33% of their power from renewable-energy sources by the year 2020, which the state's Air Resources Board has said is essential if the state is to achieve its ambitious greenhouse-gas reduction goals for that year.

The package of bills -- AB 64, SB 14, and SB 62, adopted late last night -- reflects two years' of intensive legislative effort and compromises by all affected interest groups. The bills were supported by consumer, labor, environmental and renewable energy groups as well as several electric utilities.

"Without this legislation, state agencies will have no clear authority for whether and how to expand renewable energy in California, and transmission planners will be unable to plan and upgrade the grid as necessary to achieve the state's greenhouse-gas reduction goals," said CalWEA's Executive Director, Nancy Rader. She urged the Governor to resist calls to veto the bill.

"Were the Governor to heed calls for a veto, he would bring renewable energy development efforts to a standstill and set back the state's environmental goals by years," Rader said. She said that those calling for a veto "either have never supported a renewable energy future or are renewable energy companies that are not well-positioned for the market created by the legislation and are trying to kill the market for everyone else."

Rader said the Legislature understandably crafted a bill that encourages a majority of the required renewable energy to come from sources located in California, or from sources that deliver

energy to California, rather than enabling the state's utilities to comply by purchasing only "renewable energy credits" from projects outside of California that do not deliver energy to California consumers. The bills enable about 25% of the renewable energy mandate to be fulfilled with credits, which is a reasonable compromise, Rader said. She noted that, unlike some of the renewable energy companies calling for a veto, CalWEA's 20 member companies have pursued wind energy projects within California and for delivery to California which will be competitive in the market created by the bill.

"We can achieve California's ambitious renewable energy goals by developing projects in and for California that create jobs, taxes and environmental benefits for Californians," Rader said. "But companies that are investing millions of dollars to do that need a clear commitment from the state that a market will exist to support those projects, so it is absolutely essential that the Governor sign these bills. A veto would create years of uncertainty and chaos and destroy the Governor's green credentials."

More information about CalWEA can be found at <http://www.calwea.org/about.html>.

###

