

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 30, 2012

Contact: Nancy Rader

510.845.5077

FIVE PERCENT OF CALIFORNIA'S ELECTRICITY SUPPLY NOW COMES FROM WIND

More than 900 MW of Wind Projects Installed in 2011

BERKELEY, CA – With the addition of 921 Megawatts (MW) of wind energy projects installed across California in 2011 – bringing the state's total wind generation capacity to 3,927 MW – wind energy now accounts for 5% of California's total electricity needs according to the California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA). The 921 MW built in 2011 is enough electricity to power more than 400,000 households.

“The total amount of wind energy installations in 2011 created a banner year for wind generation in California and is helping to drive California closer to reaching its goal of 33% renewable energy,” said Nancy Rader, CalWEA's Executive Director. “There are a number of projects on the drawing board that will continue wind capacity's growth in 2012, but we need Congress to extend the wind energy production tax credit very soon to keep up that momentum. The investments companies are making in California to develop wind energy projects is a boon for cleaner air and greener energy, and also for creating jobs and retooling manufacturing here and across the country.”

Of the 921 MW of wind capacity built in 2011, almost 700 MW of added capacity came from the Tehachapi area of Kern County, with large new projects also installed in Solano, Contra Costa and Riverside Counties. This year will see even more growth, with several additional projects totaling in excess of 1,200 MW of wind generation capacity slated for Kern, Solano, Riverside, Imperial and San Diego Counties in 2012, which is expected to create more than 1,000 new construction jobs, in addition to permanent and indirect jobs.

Since 2002, wind capacity in California has more than doubled, rising from 1,600 MW to nearly 4,000MW. Combined with wind supplies coming into California from surrounding states, wind energy will account for 5% of California's electricity supply in 2012. The total capacity of wind projects installed in California during 2011 was more than any other state. Illinois and Iowa were second and third, installing 692 MW and 646 MW, respectively, of wind-power capacity in 2011. Overall, California ranks third in total wind capacity.

Nationwide, the American Wind Energy Association reported Friday that the U.S. wind industry installed 6,810 MW during 2011, a 31% increase from 2010 total installations. Overall, cumulative installed wind capacity in the U.S. grew 17% from 2010, and now totals 46,919 MW. Over 100 wind projects are currently under construction across 31 states and Puerto Rico. Almost 3,500 MWs of new projects broke ground during 4Q 2011 and the year ended with 8,320 MWs under construction.

#