

# REAP - Renewable Energy Accountability Project



*A Project of*

**Californians for Solar and Clean Energy**

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Contact: Steve Hopcraft (916) 457-5546; steve@hopcraft.com

## **Californians for Solar and Clean Energy Applaud Governor's Renewable Energy Order; Announce Renewable Energy Accountability Project**

SACRAMENTO, CA - Californians for Solar and Clean Energy (the proponents of Proposition 7 – 2008 General Election) today praised Governor Schwarzenegger for issuing an Executive Order establishing a Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) target of 33% by 2020. The group also announced their plans for a citizens' watchdog project to ensure the Executive Order is not derailed by the utilities and their allies.

“The Governor, through Executive Order S-14-08, has raised the renewable energy bar for California, and has embraced renewable energy standards which are attainable and can provide thousands of green jobs while combating global warming and climate change,” said Jim Gonzalez, Chair of Californians for Solar and Clean Energy. “The Governor’s Executive Order embraces several of the key components of Proposition 7, and represents a step forward.”

*Features common to both Prop. 7 and the governor's Order include:*

\* A significant increase in the Renewable Portfolio Standard from 20% in 2010 to 33% in 2020. (Prop. 7 called for 40% RPS in 2020 and 50% in 2025.)

\* Inclusion of the municipal utilities in the RPS by including “all retail sellers.” (Prop. 7 called for all retail sellers to be included in the RPS requirements Existing RPS requirements do not extend to municipal utilities such as the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.)

\* Placing the California Energy Commission in a lead implementing role, in conjunction with the Resources Agency and the Department of Fish and Game. (Prop. 7 called for the California Energy Commission to approve all renewable energy plants over 30 megawatts, with smaller facilities to be approved by local governments and agencies.)

\* Creating a one-stop permit process through the Resources Agency, the CEC and the Dept. of Fish and Game. (Prop. 7 called for the CEC to have the power to approve all completed applications for renewable energy production plants over 30 megawatts.)

\* Requiring that desert areas be identified for renewable resource production. (Prop. 7 envisioned that California's 25 million acres of desert could serve as the backbone for renewable energy development in California.)

\* Creation of Renewable Energy Production Zones. (Prop. 7 called for the creation of renewable energy production zones, which mirror the Governor's Executive Order.)

S. David Freeman, California's most experienced energy expert, and former manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), and the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD), said, "We applaud Governor Schwarzenegger's Administration for seeking to respond effectively to global warming and energy independence. The governor's bold action calls for intense vigilance to assure its success. I'm joining Californians for Solar and Clean Energy to announce the formation of REAP (the Renewable Energy Accountability Project)."

"REAP will publicize the progress of the Governor's Office, Executive Agencies, the CPUC, other agencies and governmental and quasi-governmental associations in implementing Executive Order S-14-08," Gonzalez said. "REAP will also support any necessary legislation and be a watch-dog by carefully monitoring the activities of the Legislature and environmental organizations in support of this Executive Order."

"REAP will examine carefully the activities of legislators, environmental organizations, renewable energy advocates, political parties, and fossil fuel industry support groups to assure that all parties support this vital implementation process," Gonzalez stated.

(end)