

CALENDAR ITEM
65

A Statewide

10/29/10

B Statewide

M. De Bernardo

AS PROPOSED BY STAFF

**RESOLUTION BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
SUPPORTING A NATIONAL RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD
THAT IS COMPARABLE TO CALIFORNIA'S 33 PERCENT
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD**

WHEREAS, the state of California is a world leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preparing for sea level rise, increasing renewable energy production, and promoting energy efficiency and energy conservation; and

WHEREAS, California gained international recognition for the first comprehensive law to reduce greenhouse gas emissions when it adopted the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32), which mandates a reduction of California's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and calls for an 80 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2010, the California Air Resources Board set in place one of the state's largest emission-reduction strategies by adopting regulations that require that 33 percent of electricity sold in California comes from clean, renewable sources by 2020—this new standard is expected to eliminate 12 to 13 million metric tons of carbon dioxide per year starting in 2020; and

WHEREAS, California's 33 percent renewable electricity standard will decrease greenhouse gas emissions, promote green jobs, significantly reduce harmful air pollution, and help free the state and nation from their dependency on foreign oil and gas; and

WHEREAS, the public trust lands and school trust lands under the jurisdiction of the California State Lands Commission have viable wind, solar, geothermal, and wave energy potential that has gained the interest of renewable energy developers; and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2008, the California State Lands Commission officially adopted a resolution supporting the environmentally responsible development of school lands under the Commission's jurisdiction for renewable energy related projects; and

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WHEREAS, approximately half of the states in the United States of America have a renewable electricity standard, including New York, Texas, Oregon, and Washington—a sturdy indication that a significant portion of America is serious about reducing greenhouse gases and ending its dependency on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Renewable Electricity Promotion Act of 2010 (S. 3813) would establish a national 15 percent renewable electricity standard by 2021 without preempting the ability of a state to adopt or enforce stricter standards; and

WHEREAS, a national minimum renewable electricity standard would illustrate the federal government's dedication to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ending the country's dependency on foreign oil and gas; however, several organizations, including the Union of Concerned Scientists, United Steelworkers, Audubon, National Wildlife Federation, and League of Conservation Voters, believe that existing renewable electricity standards adopted by states and the financial incentives enacted by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will already achieve the standard proposed in S. 3813; and

WHEREAS, the federal government should look to California, which is taking major but achievable steps toward renewable energy development, and adopt standards that are comparable to California's 33 percent renewable electricity standard;

WHEREAS, the Union of Concerned Scientists estimates that over 295,000 new jobs will be created and consumers will save over \$60 billion in lower electricity and natural gas bills by 2025 if the national renewable electricity standard is established at 25 percent—presumably, these estimates would be higher if they were based on a 33 percent national standard; therefore be it

RESOLVED THAT THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION supports a national renewable electricity standard that is comparable to California's 33 percent renewable electricity standard and opposes any amendments to further weaken the current proposal in S. 3813; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commission's Executive Officer transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Governor of California, to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, to the Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author, Senator Bingaman.