

**CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION**

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**RESOLUTION BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL LANDS UNDER THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY RELATED PROJECTS**

**WHEREAS**, California's current energy use is taking a financial toll on its citizens and the economy, as well as making the State more dependent on foreign oil; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of traditional energy sources has caused detrimental effects on the environment by polluting the air and contributing to climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, California is already feeling the effects of climate change through sea level rise, changes in snow melting patterns, extreme weather, and threats to species, such as the American pika and the desert bighorn sheep; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the climate change challenge, California has taken the environmental lead, nationally and internationally, by officially adopting a policy to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition, California is committed to obtaining 20% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2010 with the possibility of 33% by 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, California's commitment to renewable energy sources will not only help slow down climate change, but it will also lead to less dependency on foreign oil, cleaner air, a healthier population, and creation of new jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, California is home to abundant renewable energy resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass; and

**WHEREAS**, the California State Lands Commission (Commission) manages on behalf of the State hundreds of thousands of acres of "school lands," a great deal of which has serious potential for siting renewable energy projects; and

**WHEREAS**, California acquired its school lands from the United States Congress in 1853, which, as it previously did with other newly admitted states, transferred federal lands to California for the specific purpose of providing support for the public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Legislature declared that it is in the best interest of the State that school lands be managed as a revenue source for the State Teachers' Retirement Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission has a duty pursuant to State law to take all action necessary to fully develop school lands into a permanent and productive resource base; and

**WHEREAS**, much of the school lands are not currently producing revenue because they are isolated, landlocked parcels, the majority of which are desert lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission believes that the State can increase its renewable energy output and fully develop school lands into a permanent and productive resource base if it supports the use of these lands for renewable energy projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission has already approved leases for renewable energy projects and is currently considering applications for new projects; and

**WHEREAS**, if school lands are used for renewable energy projects, the State will receive benefits in the form of reduced carbon emissions, cleaner air, cheaper energy, stronger national security, new jobs, and more funding for teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission insists that any development of any lands within its jurisdiction is done with assurances that the State's unique and sensitive environment will be protected; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION** that it supports the environmentally responsible development of school lands under the Commission's jurisdiction for renewable energy related projects; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that it encourages the submission of applications for the use of school lands for environmentally responsible development of renewable energy; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Commission's Executive Officer publish this resolution on the Commission's website, as well as transmit copies of it to the Governor of California, the California Energy Commission, the California Public Utilities Commission, all members of the California Senate and Assembly, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Minerals Management Service, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Forest Service.

Adopted by the California State Lands Commission on October 16, 2008.