

## Brown's Green Vision for California

During the campaign season, it was easy to dismiss the idea of a green energy future for California as mere campaign rhetoric. But with the second coming of Jerry Brown, the reelection of Barbara Boxer and voter endorsement of state policies to curb global warming, California really is poised to lead the country to a greener future. Why were California voters not carried away by the Republican wave? We have certainly had

our conservative hiccups in the past. There was the 1978 election when voters passed Proposition 13, which cut property taxes but also damaged school funding and caused chronic budget crises. And in 1984, California had its Arizona moment when voters passed Proposition 187, which would have terminated many public services, including schooling, for undocumented immigrants had the courts not struck it down. But through all

the political back and forth, alternative energy has been a settled idea in California, and for that we owe a large debt to Brown. He has been ahead of the curve on energy conservation and renewable resources for decades.

To read this article in its entirety please go to:  
[latimes.com/news/science/environment/la-oe-hayden-green-california-20101104,0,7578000.story](http://latimes.com/news/science/environment/la-oe-hayden-green-california-20101104,0,7578000.story)

### Inside this issue:

Brown's Green Vision for California	1
Celebration of Renewable Energy Facility	1
California Election Results	2
Major Proposition Results	2

## Calif. Gov. Schwarzenegger Celebrates First-of-Its-Kind Renewable Energy Facility

SACRAMENTO, Calif. /California Newswire/ — On October 27, 2010, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger celebrated the groundbreaking of BrightSource Energy's Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in Ivanpah, California. The approximately \$2 billion project is the first-of-its-kind to be built on federal land, will produce 370 megawatts (MW) of clean, renewable energy and create more than 1,000 jobs.

"Today we are breaking ground on the largest solar project in the world, right here in California," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "The construction of this

renewable energy plant is great news for our state, and further proof that it is possible to both protect the environment and grow the economy. Projects like this one are helping us meet our long-term energy and environmental goals, while creating jobs and moving us toward a cleaner, more sustainable future – a future where California leads the nation and the world in a clean energy revolution."

Once completed, the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System will nearly double the amount of solar thermal electricity produced in the U.S., according to BrightSource. It will cover

about 3,600 acres in San Bernardino County and will produce enough clean energy to power 140,000 homes and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 400,000 tons annually, the equivalent of taking more than 70,000 cars off the road. BrightSource has contracted with Pacific Gas and Electric and Southern California Edison to sell the power generated from this project, which is the first of this scale to break ground in 20 years.

The Ivanpah project is one of the projects jointly processed through The Bureau of Land [Management](#) and the California Energy Commission (CEC)

established by a 2009 agreement between Secretary Salazar and Governor Schwarzenegger. The system was among the first commercial solar thermal power plants to be permitted on federal public land in the U.S., and the CEC issued a permit for construction for the project on September 22, 2010.

California has consistently led the nation in renewable energy development. The state currently has over 270 renewable energy projects, totaling approximately 70,000 MW, interested in building and running facilities in the Golden State.

## California 2010 – Elections Results

California will maintain its Democratic leadership with Jerry Brown prevailing in the Governor race over the Republican nominee, Meg Whitman and Democrat, Gavin Newsom has won his bid for Lieutenant Governor. Debra Bowen won re-election to the Secretary of State seat while two other Democrats, Bill Lockyer and John Chiang, won re-election as Treasurer and Controller. The results on the Primaries were perhaps more surprising with a variety of messages coming from the California voters.

### Major Propositions Results:

Proposition 19: REJECTED - The initiative would have allowed adults over 21 to possess up to an ounce of marijuana and cultivate small amounts of marijuana at home. If this proposition would have passed, it would have made California the first state to legalize marijuana beyond medical use.

Proposition 21: REJECTED - would have imposed a \$18 annual fee on car registrations to support state parks, voters indirectly decreed that the parks must continue to be financed from the deficit-ridden state budget.

Proposition 22: PASSED - makes it more difficult - bordering on the impossible - for the state to tap local government revenues, such as redevelopment funds, to balance the state budget. In addition to protecting local government monies, Proposition 22 punches an immediate billion-dollar hole in the state budget by forcing the state to directly pay for transportation bonds, rather than tapping gasoline taxes for bond service.

Propositions 23: REJECTED - would have suspended California's law to curb climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions. *Note: The rejection of this proposition indicates that the current greenhouse gas emissions standards will move forward under the jurisdiction of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as will the implementation of Governor Schwarzenegger's Executive Order increasing the state RPS requirement to 33% by 2020.*

Proposition 24: REJECTED - this initiative was backed by public employee unions and other liberal groups and would have repealed a couple of billion dollars in new corporate tax breaks that Republicans demanded last year as a price for passing a budget.

Proposition 25: PASSED - lowers the legislative vote margin for budgets and related bills from two-thirds - part of California law for many decades - to a simple majority.

Proposition 26: PASSED - will raise the legislative vote threshold on many state and local fees from a simple majority to two-thirds making it more difficult for Democrats to turn to fees to relieve the budget dilemma.

Proposition 27: REJECTED - would have eliminated the redistricting commission that voters approved two years ago and give the authority to draw legislative and Board of Equalization districts back to the state Legislature.