

**CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION**

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As drafted by staff**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 CO₂ 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.