



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Newsom Signs AB 1156 and AB 550, Advancing Renewable Energy Development, Agricultural Resilience, and Wildlife Conservation

The Large-scale Solar Association (LSA) applauds Governor Gavin Newsom's for signing Assembly Bill 1156 (Wicks) and Assembly Bill 550 (Petrie-Norris), furthering California's clean energy leadership while supporting agricultural communities and wildlife conservation.

AB 1156 creates a pathway for solar development while also addressing the challenges associated with evolving agricultural land-use needs. As groundwater in over-drafted basins becomes increasingly constrained, many agricultural areas of the state face major economic and sustainability challenges. AB 1156 creates an opportunity for landowners to help advance the state's renewable energy goals through appropriate use of parcels that are no longer suitable for agricultural use. Under the final legislation, qualifying solar projects on land within critically overdrafted groundwater basins or subbasins may receive relief from Williamson Act cancellation fees when specified environmental and community-focused requirements are met.

AB 550 similarly advances clean energy development while also protecting wildlife conservation by helping developers and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife plan for species protections earlier in the permitting process. The new legislation allows projects to address potential future listed species under the California Endangered Species Act and incorporate the necessary mitigations before a species is formally listed.

LSA along with a broad coalition of renewable energy, agricultural, labor, and environmental stakeholders supported AB 1156 and AB 550 with the help of policymakers to get these measures across the finish line after copious consideration and effort.

"These bills are tangible examples of California's dedicated effort to find solutions to complex problems," said Shannon Eddy, Executive Director of the Large-scale Solar Association. "AB 1156 creates new economic opportunities for agricultural communities confronting serious water constraints, while AB 550 provides a more proactive way to protect species; both while helping California build the clean energy resources it needs. We appreciate Assemblymember Wicks, Assemblymember Petrie-Norris, Governor Newsom and his Administration, and the many collaborative stakeholders who helped to reach this outcome."

Governor Newsom's signature marks an important milestone for California's clean energy and agricultural communities. LSA is proud to have supported AB 1156 and looks forward to seeing its benefits put into practice across the state.

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