

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Public Affairs

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**Department of Energy Offers Conditional Commitment for \$1.187
Billion Loan Guarantee to Support California Solar Generation
Project**

*Recovery Act-Supported Project Estimated to Create Over 350 Jobs and Avoid over 430,000
Tons of Carbon Dioxide Annually*

Washington D.C. --- U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced the offer of a conditional commitment for a \$1.187 billion loan guarantee to support the California Valley Solar Ranch project, sponsored by SunPower Corporation. The project, which is being built in San Luis Obispo County, CA, includes the construction of a 250 megawatt alternating current photovoltaic (PV) solar generating facility and associated infrastructure. California Valley Solar Ranch is expected to create 350 jobs during construction and 10-15 permanent jobs. The project is also expected to avoid over 430,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually and produce enough to power for nearly 60,000 homes.

“The efficiencies created by the California Valley Solar Ranch project will help lower the cost of solar power and encourage more utility-scale solar deployment,” said Secretary Chu. “The project will also create hundreds of jobs and will generate clean, renewable power to fulfill increased energy demand.”

"President Obama and Secretary Chu are to be commended for helping California's green economy grow with this investment in the California Valley Solar Ranch project," California Governor Jerry Brown said. "By committing to more than \$1 billion in loan guarantees, the Department of Energy is jump-starting a project that will power 60,000 homes and create hundreds of clean energy jobs."

California Valley Solar Ranch will be the largest utility-scale PV project in the U.S. to utilize tracking technology combined with an innovative monitoring system that will improve annual

output by approximately 25 percent compared with traditional fixed PV installations. The project will utilize single-axis trackers controlled by the innovative wireless tracker monitoring and control (TMAC) system to orient the PV modules toward the sun and maximize solar collection. The TMAC monitoring system receives real time weather updates so the solar array can be stowed in harsh weather conditions to preserve the life of the solar modules. Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the largest utility in California, will purchase all the output from the project.

The Department of Energy, through the Loan Programs Office, has issued loan guarantees or offered conditional commitments for loan guarantees totaling over \$19 billion to support 21 clean energy projects. The program's 10 generation projects will produce over 23 million megawatt-hours, enough to power over two million homes. Additional DOE-supported projects include two of the world's largest solar thermal projects, two geothermal projects, the world's largest wind farm and the nation's first new nuclear power plant in three decades. For more information, please visit <http://www.lpo.energy.gov>.

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