

August 29, 2008

## **ALERT: CSI Solar Technology Research Funding to be diverted!**

Dear ETAAC, please be aware that:

- A) the Million Solar Roofs bill (SB1) specifically promotes research investment in the forward-thinking technologies referred to in the AB32 Draft Scoping Plan,
- B) and the California Solar Initiative (CSI) Research Development (RD&D) program is just about to commence,
- C) BUT, there is a bill AB2224 by de La Torre in consideration that would **remove the RD&D funding and divert it to other uses**. The bill will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on **August 4th**. If this bill passes from committee the CSI RD&D program is gravely threatened as the CPUC is likely to put the program on hold.

*There are many cutting-edge solar technologies and Smart Grid solutions that need just a final push of research funding to get them past the final hurdles to the marketplace. Let the CSI RDD program help deploy these technologies in the Climate Change battle.*

The legislature clearly understood the importance of investing in new energy technology solutions when they passed SB1, and ETACC even predicts our current situation with the legislature considering removing the solar research funding before it even starts the program.

The CSI RDD program includes several review periods and safeguards to ensure this research funding produces marketable results. Please don't cancel the program before it starts.

### SCOPING PLAN LANGUAGE

On page C-57 of the Draft Scoping Plan Appendix in the Electricity and Natural Gas Sector Reduction Strategies it states:

[emphasis added]

***Looking beyond 2020, research and deployment of new technologies will play an essential role in delivering the technologies needed to change the way we generate and use energy. ....***

To reduce emissions to the level needed by 2050, California needs to promote innovation that produces significant improvement in technology and infrastructure. Furthermore, ***we must ensure that the policies and technologies deployed over the next few years do not detract from the implementation of even more promising technologies that emerge in the future.***

### California Solar Initiative Research and Development LANGUAGE

**Production Technologies - 10-25%: Supporting commercialization**

of new photovoltaic (PV) technologies.

Demonstrate economic viability of distributed concentrating PV systems.

- Building integral PV products become cost competitive with rooftop PV and key technical integration issues are addressed (e.g. spacing/cooling).

**Grid-Integration - 50-65%:** Improving PV integration with transmission and distribution systems.

- Identify and address key barriers to the development of PV minigrids or central PV;
- Demonstrate economic viability of new PV system storage technologies;
- High value locations for distributed generation (DG) PV on transmission and distribution (T&D) are identified and the impacts/benefits of large concentrations of DG PV in one location on transmission and distribution are assessed.

**Business Development and Deployment - 10-20%:** Supporting the market and end-users.

Potential roles for utilities in solar PV, including attractive business models, are identified and vetted with utility companies;

- Lower cost, utility grade PV system control, metering, and monitoring capacity developed consistent with 1% cost parameter established by the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for CSI;
- Perform field tests to quantify operational risks and benefits of PV.
- Demonstrate improved PV economics using advanced metering, price responsive tariffs (e.g. Time of Use--TOU, Feed-in Tariff) and storage.