

California State Board of Food and Agriculture
Resolution On
Renewable Energy

WHEREAS, domestic renewable energy production can help provide energy security for the State of California and the United States of America;

WHEREAS, renewable electricity from distributed generation sources and specifically on-farm energy offers environmental, societal and economic benefits, including electric grid support;

WHEREAS, efforts to install renewable energy systems on farms, including gasification technology and biogas digesters, have encountered considerable barriers in California, particularly related to interconnecting these systems to the electric grid;

WHEREAS, even where there is legislation to encourage renewable energy production, such as AB 920 in the case of solar and wind and SB 32 for biogas digesters, biomass facilities and other renewable generators, legislation has not overcome the interconnection barriers that California agricultural growers and producers encounter;

WHEREAS, the resulting tariffs are often confusing, contradictory, uncoordinated and done without reference to real world conditions, including where you have more than one type of renewable energy system on site or where the systems involve engine generators;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the State Board of Food and Agriculture formally requests that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) review their tariff promulgation process for renewable energy generation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the CPUC consider the values of agricultural renewable energy generation and establish favorable tariffs to interconnect this energy to the grid;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the CPUC recognize the value of and establish favorable tariffs to interconnect multiple forms of renewable energy to the grid from a single connection;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the CPUC solicit input from agricultural generators of renewable energy and/or their consulting interconnection engineers on barriers to interconnection;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the CPUC assess the time, difficulty and expense that interconnection entails;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the CPUC formally introduce changes in their tariffs and decisions that incorporates expedited permitting requirements for renewable energy generators;

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the CPUC adopt more transparent and accessible processes that are better coordinated and less costly to obtain interconnection approval;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the CPUC does this at the same time as it prepares the tariff decision to implement SB 32 and AB 920;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the CPUC understands that there is great value in completing these tasks and allocates the resources necessary to adopt these changes no later than January 1, 2011.

Subscribed
Joshua Eddy, Executive Director
Approved June 30, 2010