

Mary Nichols

California Air Resources Board Chairman

Abengoa Mojave Solar Plant Inauguration Remarks

January 23, 2015

San Bernardino County

Pats on the back all around

- First, I want to congratulate Abengoa and PG&E on completing this monumental project. From start to finish, and throughout the daunting process of siting, permitting, design and construction, you have met the challenges with efficiency and professionalism.
- I also want to congratulate the state of California. Our long-term legislative commitment to renewable energy, spelled out in the Renewable Portfolio Standard and embodied in our landmark Climate Solutions Law, AB32, in no small way, helped to make this project, and other utility-scale renewable energy projects, become the affordable options that they are today.
- That policy leadership was matched by the vigorous support of the California Energy Commission and others who have worked diligently with the federal government to improve planning and streamline permitting for renewable energy in the California desert.
- And the federal government clean energy loan program helped to finance this project and others several others like it. Without the Obama Administration's championship of renewable energy we would

not be here today. The President has been a true leader on climate, and deserves more credit than he receives for all he's done.

- Working together – leading companies, utilities, and government agencies from across the local, state and federal levels... We've managed to double our renewable capacity in California in just four years – adding 11,000 megawatts of renewables in that time. And we have another 11,000 megawatts that have already received environmental permits for development.
- That is a remarkable, remarkable accomplishment. One which I don't think even the biggest optimist among us could have foreseen coming.

What's Next? To 50%, and beyond...

- Today is a day to celebrate. But of course we can't stop here. What's next?
- Well... 50% renewables.
- I'm sure you all have heard the Governor's State of the State Address by now, where he laid out a bold and compelling vision for addressing climate change and the future of California. By 2030, the Governor wants:
 - 50% renewable electricity,
 - Double the rate of energy efficiency improvement in existing buildings,
 - To cut petroleum use by up to 50%,
 - To target short-lived climate pollutants and cut emissions of methane, black carbon, and other highly potent greenhouse gases, and

- To turn our forests and natural lands into the strong carbon sinks and healthy ecosystems that we want and need them to be.

Meeting the Governor's Goals: Cooperation, Effective Policies

- How do we plan on meeting these goals, you may ask?
- We'll meet them by doubling down on our work with stakeholders to refine and improve the policies that will guide our climate framework beyond 2020.
- To achieve our ambitious goals for so-called preferred resources—energy efficiency and renewable electricity-- the barriers today are less about cost and technology more about integrating the institutions and protocols that affect planning and operation of the grid. Only through more effective coordination can we simultaneously address greenhouse gas emissions, reliability, and affordability.
- To that end, the Governor has directed the Principals of the four energy agencies – ARB, the Energy Commission, the Public Utilities Commission and the Independent System Operator to collaborate in producing recommendations for action on the goals he laid out in January.
- This is going to be a big undertaking, and it will require extensive collaboration with local governmental agencies, stakeholders and academia to figure it out.
- But if our successes of the past 4 years are any indication, I have no doubt that we will find elegant solutions that will allow companies like yours to continue to amaze us with your ability to outpace some of our wildest hopes... and once again vindicate our belief that

California's future prosperity rests on a foundation of respect for our natural environment.

- Thank you.