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PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Terrie Prosper, 415.703.1366, news@cpuc.ca.gov

CPUC SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON SOLAR PROGRAM SUCCESS

SAN FRANCISCO, June 30, 2015 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today said that consumer solar installations continued to increase in 2014, largely without rebate incentives, demonstrating that the state's California Solar Initiative (CSI) program has substantially reached its goal of stimulating widespread adoption of solar energy and creating a self-sustaining market.

In its 2015 Annual Program Assessment report issued today, the CPUC shows that:

- The CSI program has installed 1,647 megawatts (MW), or 94 percent of its 1,750 MW goal, and will surpass its goal with another 258 MW waiting in pending projects.
- Between the last quarter of 2008 and the last quarter of 2014, the average cost of installed residential systems has decreased 53 percent from \$10.87 per watt to \$5.14 per watt, further demonstrating that the CSI program has substantially reached its goal of stimulating widespread adoption of solar and creating a self-sustaining market, free of direct cost-support in the form of program rebates.
- Between the last quarter of 2008 and the last quarter of 2014, non-residential solar system costs have decreased 62 percent from an average of \$10.30 per watt to \$3.93 per watt.

In 2014, California installed a record 670 MW of customer-sited solar energy capacity, achieving a 31 percent annual growth from the capacity installed in 2013. The majority of these solar energy systems did not receive any CSI program rebates, as Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas & Electric are no longer offering residential rebates because they have either installed or reserved enough solar capacity to meet their residential CSI program goals.

Other CSI program highlights include:

- Through the end of 2014, an estimated 2,529 MW of solar capacity has been installed on the customer side of the meter (including projects that didn't receive CSI program incentives) at 302,266 customer sites in California.
- All but 254 MW, or 9 percent, of customer-sited solar energy systems interconnected into the grid in the large investor-owned utility territories are enrolled in Net Energy Metering.
- The CSI Single-Family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) program has completed a total of 4,499 projects, representing 13.6 MW of installed capacity. There are an additional 316 SASH projects in progress, with a total capacity of 1 MW.
- The CSI Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing (MASH) program has completed 349 projects, representing 23.2 MW of installed capacity. There are an additional 41 MASH projects in progress, with a total capacity of 6.3 MW.
- In just over five years of operation, the CSI Thermal program has approved 2,585 applications for solar water heating systems, totaling \$33.7 million in incentives of the available \$205 million CSI Thermal incentive budget.
- The CSI Research, Development, Demonstration and Deployment program has conducted five project solicitations since its inception, resulting in grant funding for 36 projects, totaling \$44.4 million. Funded projects have focused on the following areas: integration of solar photovoltaics into the electricity grid; energy generation technologies and business development; and grid integration and production technologies.

In January 2007, California began a \$3.3 billion ratepayer-funded effort to install 3,000 MW of new solar energy systems over the next decade and transform the market for solar energy by reducing the cost of solar generation equipment. The CPUC's portion of the solar effort is known as the CSI program. The CSI program's goal is to install 1,940 MW of solar capacity by the end of 2016, and, along with other statewide solar programs, transition the solar industry to a point where it can be self-sustaining without subsidies.

The report is available at: www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Solar/legreports.htm.

Weekly solar program data is available at www.CaliforniaSolarStatistics.ca.gov and www.csithermalstats.org.

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