



Via Email

Governor Gavin Newsom  
 & Members of the Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery  
 State Capitol, First Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni G. Atkins, Senate President Pro  
 Tempore California State Senate State Capitol, Room  
 205 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon,  
 Speaker California State Assembly  
 State Capitol, Room 219  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: California Clean Energy & Transportation Recommendations for a  
 Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive Economic Recovery**

Dear Governor Newsom, Senate Pro Tempore Atkins, Speaker Rendon, &  
 Members of the Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery:

We appreciate your extraordinary efforts to restore California's public and economic health, and to reaffirm your commitment to its climate, clean energy and clean transportation goals. By making clean energy and transportation cornerstones of California's economic recovery, the Alliance for a Clean Economy (ACE)<sup>1</sup> believes the State can restore over one hundred thousand clean

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<sup>1</sup> ACE is a coalition of the leading clean energy associations, clean energy companies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including those whose logos are shown above. Together, we represent dozens of clean energy companies and hundreds of thousands of Californians through NGO membership. California's clean energy sectors are complementary; by growing and working together, they offer a clean, reliable, equitable, resilient and cost-effective future for California.

energy<sup>2</sup> and transportation jobs and over one billion dollars in economic investment lost as a result of the pandemic. Building on a key element of California's successful recovery from the Great Recession, we recommend formation of a Clean Energy Action Team to expedite clean energy deployment. Attached you will find recommendations focused on achieving significant job growth and investment now, from 2021-2022, and for 2023 and beyond. We request a meeting with you and your leadership team to discuss these recommendations.

Since our June 4th letter to you, California's clean energy job losses remain grave, at nearly 90,000.<sup>3</sup> The State has shed more clean energy jobs than any other, losing over 16% of its workforce to date. Regions across the State have suffered significantly since March, with Los Angeles County losing more total jobs (15,138) and Kern County losing a larger share of its clean energy workforce (29.7%) than any other county nationally. With clean energy employment comprising 3% of statewide employment and 30% of statewide construction jobs at the end of 2019,<sup>4</sup> a renewed and accelerated commitment to achieving California's clean energy objectives is essential. By taking action now, we can restore the vibrancy of this core California sector; jumpstart our economy; better protect our public health, climate and environment; and build a more resilient, equitable and robust future for all.

During the 2007-2009 Great Recession, California unlocked tens of billions of dollars in investment and created hundreds of thousands of job-years<sup>5</sup> through a coordinated, inter-agency focus on deploying "shovel-ready" clean energy projects. At that time, when clean energy technologies were considered unproven and risky, federal funding was required to assure private investors. Today, clean energy is widely recognized as a very attractive, "low risk, steady yield"<sup>6</sup> investment. Billions of dollars of private equity and credit are available for clean energy

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<sup>2</sup> Throughout this letter, our references to "clean energy" are intended to include the broad range of distributed energy resources, efficiency, utility-scale renewables and storage, smart grid and clean transportation sectors that ACE represents.

<sup>3</sup> This and all figures in this paragraph, except where noted otherwise, are derived from BW Research Partnership, "Clean Energy Clean Energy Employment Initial Impacts from the COVID-19 Economic Crisis, June 2020" (July 8, 2020)(Memorandum to E2, E4TheFuture, and ACORE), available at <https://e2.org/reports/clean-jobs-covid-economic-crisis-june-2020/>.

<sup>4</sup> E2, "Clean Jobs California" (June 2020), available at <https://e2.org/reports/clean-jobs-california-2020/>.

<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., Office of the President, "A Retrospective Assessment of Clean Energy Investments in the Recovery Act," (Feb. 2016), available at [https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/page/files/20160225\\_cea\\_final\\_clean\\_energy\\_report.pdf](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/page/files/20160225_cea_final_clean_energy_report.pdf); Black & Kemkar, "Obama Administration Efforts to Expand Domestic Energy Production: A View from the Public Lands" (Feb. 2012).

<sup>6</sup> Gold, "Wind, Solar Farms Are Seen as Havens in Coronavirus Storm," Wall St. Journal (Mar. 31, 2020), available at <https://www.wsj.com/articles/wind-solar-farms-are-seen-as-havens-in-coronavirus-storm-11585656003>.

deployment, if California again demonstrates its commitment to the clean energy requirements that sustain the market.

California's loss of clean energy jobs and investment will not solve itself; the state must take action, and soon, to stem further losses. Harnessing clean energy's potential as an engine for economic recovery will require marshaling the coordinated capabilities of California's agencies, and focusing them on actions to spur increased employment and investment now. A new, inter-agency focus is needed to remove bureaucratic barriers and streamline regulatory approvals. Coordination across California's clean energy-related agencies would also enable the state to make the most effective use of federal stimulus and bond funds for clean energy deployment. We have developed a set of recommendations to inform this inter-agency effort, and request the opportunity to meet with your recovery team leaders to discuss them.

California can use clean energy as a lever for economic recovery now, and for sustained prosperity into the future, if it takes the clear, concrete actions included in our attached recommendations. Our recommendations would not require major new expenditures or legislation, with few exceptions; instead, they focus on better utilization of existing authorities and budgets, including re-establishing the inter-agency coordination workgroup that helped California successfully recover from the Great Recession and sparked a boom in California's clean energy industry. We stand ready to support development of a Clean Economy Action Plan by the inter-agency workgroup, and have specific recommendations to help ensure such a plan would deliver success for California's economy and its environment, now and for decades to come.

Thank you for considering our meeting request, and our recommendations for a coordinated approach to accelerating clean energy deployment. To coordinate scheduling the meeting, please direct communications to V. John White, CEERT, at [vjw@ceert.org](mailto:vjw@ceert.org), and to Arthur Haubenstock, Gridworks, at [ahaubenstock@gridworks.org](mailto:ahaubenstock@gridworks.org). We are confident our recommendations would restore jobs and help California recover from the current crises, resume its climate and clean energy leadership, and sustain long-term economic, equity and environmental benefits.

The Alliance for a Clean Economy members endorsing this letter are:

1. American Wind Energy Association - California (AWEA - California)
2. California Efficiency + Demand Management Council (CEDMC)
3. California Solar Energy Association (CALSSA)
4. Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT)
5. California Energy Storage Alliance (CESA)
6. CRUISE
7. CYRQ Energy
8. Enel North America, Inc.
9. Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)
10. Geothermal Resources Council (GRC)
11. Golden State Clean Energy
12. Long Duration Energy Storage Association of California (LDESAC)
13. Large-scale Solar Association (LSA)
14. The Nature Conservancy
15. Silicon Valley Leadership Group
16. Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)
17. Sunrun
18. Vote Solar