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California to Vote on Curbing Global Warming Pollution

*November Statewide Ballot Measure Seeks Solar and Clean Energy Production
in California's Deserts*

Proponents of the Solar and Clean Energy Act (SACE), representing a coalition of climate scientists, economists, labor leaders, environmentalists, consumer advocates, and business leaders, today submitted 735,000 signatures to county registrars across California -- 41% more than the 433,971 required to place this statewide ballot proposition on the November 4, 2008 General Election ballot. The Act requires that 50% of all electricity sold by California utilities after 2025 be generated from clean, renewable sources, including solar, geothermal, wind, biomass, small hydro, and tidal.

"The measure's qualification will allow 16 million California voters -- representing the world's 8th largest economy, and the world's 16th largest contributor of global warming pollution -- to vote on a major solution to the climate change crisis," said former San Francisco County Supervisor Jim Gonzalez, the measure's proponent. "The Solar and Clean Energy Act (SACE) will provide California jobs, boost our energy independence, and greatly reduce the poisoning of

our environment by dirty power plants. By passing the act, California could help lead the way in the fight to stop global warming and to secure energy independence. Californians want to lead the fight against global warming and climate change and reduce our dependence on dirty energy generated by coal and oil. This measure will dramatically increase and promote the use of sustainable solar and clean energy,” Gonzalez added.

Solar and clean energy production zones will be established primarily in our state’s vast desert lands. All environmental and desert protection laws will be observed, but solar, wind, geothermal and other renewable energy producers may qualify for fast-track approval for building environmentally smart power plants.

“The Solar and Clean Energy Act is both a moral and a practical response to the global warming and climate change crisis. Electricity generation from fossil fuels accounts for 40% of global warming pollution, and this puts California at high risk for drought, heat waves, wildfires, and depletion of our water resources.” said former State Senator Martha Escutia, a co author of the measure.

Further, the Solar and Clean Energy Act of 2008 (SACE) will simultaneously launch a new industry in California and create a massive number of new jobs that cannot be outsourced. Recent studies indicate a total of 371,000 construction jobs will be added between now and 2025 alone.

“A dramatic increase in renewable energy in California will allow us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy independence, create more green collar jobs and also protect us from volatile fossil fuel prices. The Solar and Clean Energy Act (SACE) will help us achieve the sustainable future we all want,” said Tam Hunt of the Community Environmental Council of Santa Barbara.

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Energy Act (SACE) will help us achieve the sustainable future we all want,” said Das Williams, City Council Member, Santa Barbara and Campaign Co-Chair Central Coast.

The initiative assures that home electricity rates cannot be raised more than 3 percent (\$3 on an average \$100 electricity bill). Further, the independent, non-partisan Legislative Analyst Office issued a report indicating that the initiative has the potential to result in cost savings over the long term to the extent that the measure hastens renewable energy development.

The Solar and Clean Energy Act is supported by:

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(Partial list) Titles for identification purposes only.*

California's major investor-owned utilities, as well as coal and nuclear power interests have indicated that they will vigorously oppose this ballot proposition.

A fact sheet is attached describing the SACE initiative in detail.

