

**GTH CLIENT ALERT: RENEWABLE ENERGY  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE ADOPTS 33% RPS STANDARD**

After a years-long effort, the California Legislature on March 29 approved legislation requiring California utilities to procure 33% of their power from renewable resources by 2020. If signed by Gov. Brown, as expected, the legislation will drive continued expansion of renewable resources in the Pacific Northwest. Key features of the legislation include:

- Expansion of California's renewable portfolio standard ("RPS") to 33% by December 31, 2020, with interim goals of 20% by December 31, 2013, and 25% by December 31, 2016.
- Of particular interest to Pacific Northwest entities, the legislation largely abandons complicated resource integration rules that have hampered sales of renewable resources from the Northwest into California. The legislation requires only that renewable generators be connected to the Western Interconnection, a requirement easily satisfied by Northwest generators.
- The legislation expands the RPS requirements to California's publicly-owned utilities. Previous legislation applied the RPS only to California's investor-owned utilities.
- The legislation also eases regulatory barriers for developing renewable resources in California. For example, it requires the California Public Utilities Commission to act on requests for certificates allowing construction of facilities supporting renewable development, including transmission, within 18 months of application.

If signed, the legislation should bring much-needed clarity to California's renewable generation mandates after years of political wrangling, regulatory vacillation, and attempts to artificially favor California developers over those from outside the state.

For additional information on this new legislation and how it may affect your business, contact one of our Renewable Energy Group partners:

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The attorneys at Gordon Thomas Honeywell have extensive experience assisting clients in all areas affecting the energy and utility industries, including regulatory matters, project development, renewable energy, power purchase agreements, REC purchase agreements, transmission, taxation, municipal law, cooperative law, public records requests and general operations. For more information about the Firm's areas of practice and our attorneys, please visit our website at [www.gth-law.com](http://www.gth-law.com).