

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2161**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Achadjian**

February 23, 2012

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An act to amend Section 25619 of the Public Resources Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2161, as introduced, Achadjian. Energy: renewable energy resources.

Existing law requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to provide up to \$7,000,000 in grants to qualified counties for the development or revision of rules and policies that facilitates the development of eligible renewable energy resources, and their associated electric transmission facilities, and the processing of permits for eligible renewable energy resources.

This bill would additionally include the County of San Luis Obispo as a qualified county to receive the above grants.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 25619 of the Public Resources Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 25619. (a) For purposes of this section, "qualified counties"
- 4 means the Counties of Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Los
- 5 Angeles, Madera, Merced, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego,
- 6 San Joaquin, *San Luis Obispo*, Stanislaus, and Tulare.

1 (b) The commission shall provide up to seven million dollars  
2 (\$7,000,000) in grants to qualified counties for the development  
3 or revision of rules and policies, including, but not limited to,  
4 general plan elements, zoning ordinances, and a natural community  
5 conservation plan as a plan participant, that facilitate the  
6 development of eligible renewable energy resources, and their  
7 associated electric transmission facilities, and the processing of  
8 permits for eligible renewable energy resources. The commission  
9 may allocate not more than 1 percent of appropriated funds to  
10 provide training to county planning staff to facilitate the siting and  
11 permitting of eligible renewable energy resources. A general plan  
12 element or zoning ordinance that is adopted or revised pursuant  
13 to this section shall be completed within two years of receipt of  
14 the grant and shall be consistent with the conservation strategies  
15 of any natural community conservation plan if one has been  
16 approved, or is under development, pursuant to the Natural  
17 Community Conservation Planning Act (Chapter 10 (commencing  
18 with Section 2800) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code). For  
19 counties within the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan  
20 planning area, the commission shall not award a grant to a county  
21 that is not a “plan participant,” as defined by paragraph (1) of  
22 subdivision (j) of Section 2805 of the Fish and Game Code, in the  
23 Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.

24 (c) In its initial round of grant funding, the commission shall  
25 establish a preference for a grant to a qualified county in an amount  
26 that is adequate to develop a renewable energy element in its  
27 general plan that will facilitate the development and siting of  
28 eligible renewable energy resources that utilize multiple renewable  
29 energy technologies. The commission shall also establish a  
30 preference for a grant for those counties that have experience in  
31 geothermal energy development and have adopted a geothermal  
32 element, as defined in Section 25133, to its general plan.

33 (d) The commission shall only implement this section upon  
34 receiving a specific appropriation for the purposes of this section  
35 by the Legislature from the Renewable Resources Trust Fund or  
36 other funds from the Energy Resources Program Account.