



HANSON BRIDGETT ENERGY PRACTICE GROUP



Utility electricity rates are increasing and distribution reliability is decreasing. Accordingly, public institutions and large private sector energy consumers are exploring on-site, dedicated energy supply options and energy efficiency and conservation measures in order to reduce energy costs and increase reliability. Further, both public and private sector large energy consumers are finding alternative energy resources, such as solar, fuel cells, biomass, methane processed from waste water treatment plants, and combustible solid waste, to be attractive because of various Federal and California rebates and incentives to encourage development of alternative energy systems and because of a commitment to “green” power. Our attorneys assist clients to evaluate their energy supply, conservation and energy efficiency options, provide advice on related utility issues such as interconnection and back-up power supply, prepare a comprehensive energy plan, advise on and resolve related environmental issues, secure all necessary governmental permits and approvals, and negotiate and draft all transaction documentation.

The Firm’s lawyers have many years’ experience advising clients on small scale, customer-dedicated alternative energy projects, and in negotiating, drafting and reviewing all related documentation. Examples of renewable energy projects in which the Firm’s lawyers have been involved include:

- Stationary fuel cell power plants located at Chevron Corporation’s business park and at Alameda County’s Santa Rita Jail.
- A micro-turbine cogeneration facility located at the City of Millbrae’s waste water treatment plant producing electricity and process steam. Kitchen grease is collected from local restaurants and, through an innovative process, converted into methane gas used to fuel the generating facility.
- Large-scale photovoltaic systems, including an installation providing power to the new Solano County Government Center in Fairfield and another serving the Moscone Center in San Francisco.

The Firm’s attorneys also have extensive experience in the development and implementation of innovative power quality solutions, conventionally fueled on-site generation projects, competitive retail electric supply, and energy efficiency and conservation measures. Examples include:



- Solid state on-site power conditioning equipment and high speed static transfer switches to enhance the reliability and power quality for critical operations of several high-technology companies.
- Natural gas-fired cogeneration units and related utility interface facilities to meet the thermal and electricity requirements of many public institutions and private sector businesses.
- Energy management, conservation and efficiency measures for many public institutions and private sector businesses, including upgrading and replacing lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, windows and roofs, and installation and operation of automated energy information and control systems.

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