

Solar Development in the San Joaquin Valley

Farmland in Transition

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Andrew Ayres, Annabelle Rosser, Ellen Hanak, Alvar Escriva-Bou, Darcy Wheelles, Michelle De Leon, Curtis Seymour, and Abigail Hart



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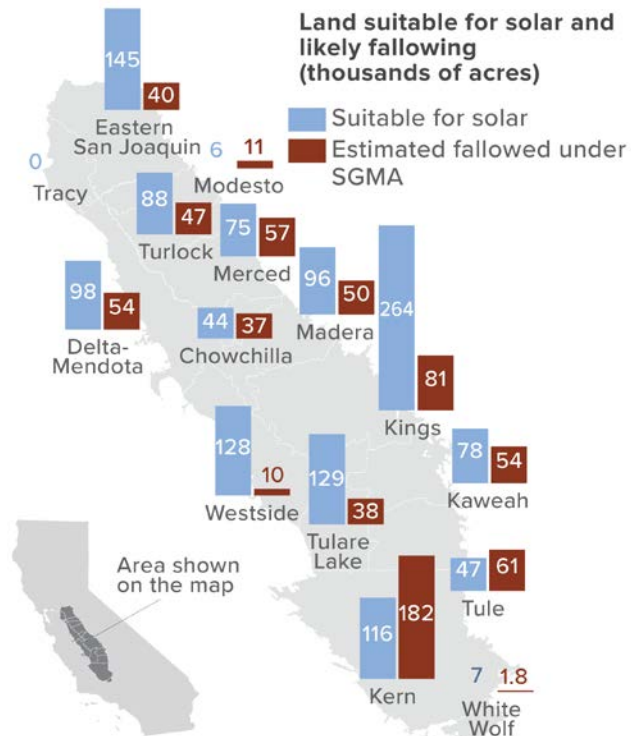


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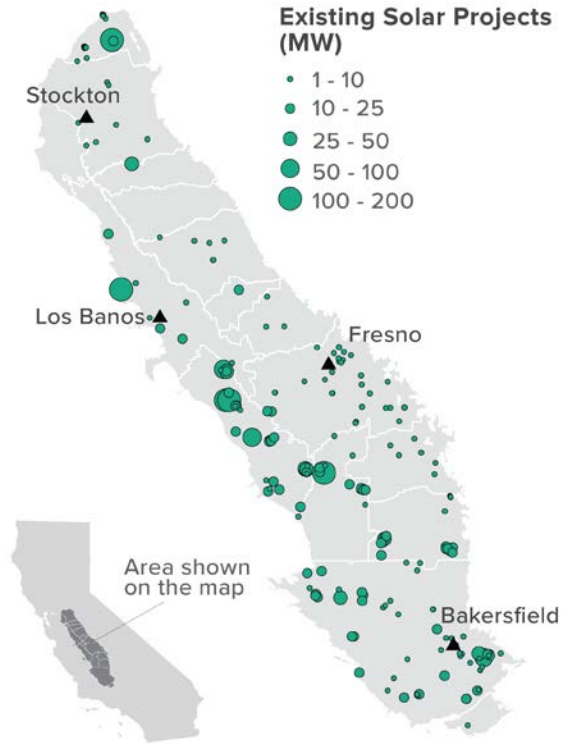
Much potentially fallowed land is suitable for solar



Source: PPIC and TNC's Power of Place

- Implementing SGMA may require taking **>500,000 acres** out of irrigation in SJV
- SJV has a very high potential for solar
- SB 100 will require an unprecedented build-out of solar
 - At least 300,000 acres statewide
 - Perhaps 150,000 acres in SJV
- Likely significant overlap between solar suitability and fallowing estimates

Solar is already an attractive land use in the SJV



Source: CEC and CAISO

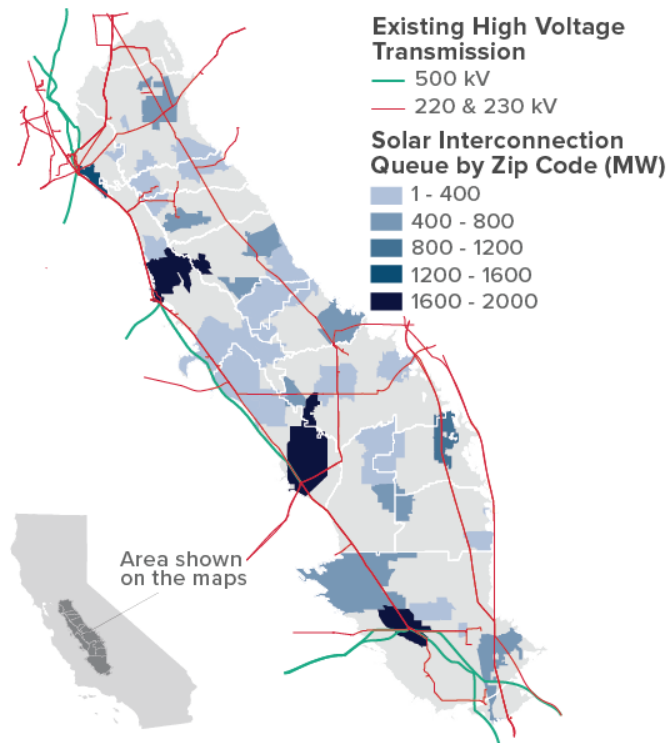
- Solar can be more profitable than many crops
 - Renting land for solar offers >2-5 times the return of annual crops
 - Can even exceed orchard crop returns
 - Key consideration: retaining water rights
- Over 3 GW already installed
- 20+ GW slated in the project queue

How to maximize the benefits from solar in the San Joaquin Valley

1. Increase coordination between disparate planning processes
2. Develop a robust local workforce pipeline
3. Simplify permitting for solar projects



1. Better integrate planning efforts



Source: CEC and CAISO

- Where we build solar will have lasting impacts
- New developments will necessarily follow interconnection capacity
- Link lands likely to come out of production, transmission planning, and other siting considerations

2. Strengthen the local workforce pipeline

- Some agricultural jobs will be lost with fallowing
- Solar could fill part of this gap while providing a pipeline to adjacent trades
- A steady stream of projects and robust apprenticeship programs will help



Aquamarine Westside Solar, SOLV Energy

3. Simplify permitting to meet renewable energy goals

- Programmatic permitting can quicken build-out on highly suitable lands while maximizing co-benefits like:
 - Water savings
 - Soil health
 - Habitat conservation
 - Air quality



Facilitating a transition that supports state clean energy goals and valley communities

- **Coordinate on expanding transmission:** Energy planners, GSAs, and counties
- **Simplify permitting for lands suitable for solar:** Federal, state, and local agencies
- **Maximize local workforce development:** Developers, unions, CBOs, state agencies, counties, and local leaders
- **Facilitate project co-benefits:** Developers and state agencies

Note on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

Annabelle Rosser

 rosser@ppic.org

Thank you for your interest in this work.