



**REAP**

*You Reap What You Sow.*

**Renewable Energy Accountability Project**

1830 "N" Street, Sacramento, California 95811

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

September 24, 2009

**CONTACT:** Pablo Rodríguez

(916) 444-2425

## **WERE \$50k IN OIL & COAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCHWARZENEGGER PAY-TO-PLAY? Unusual ConocoPhillips & Occidental Petroleum Contributions Noted**

**SACRAMENTO, CA** – According to the California Secretary of States' web-site, ConocoPhillips and Occidental Petroleum made donations totaling \$50,000<sup>1</sup> to Governor Schwarzenegger's Dream Team, ballot measure committee account. Each company made a \$25,000 contribution on September 10, 2009.

"The contribution from oil companies with significant dirty coal-interests<sup>23</sup> reaffirms the need for a complete chronology of recent meetings between Big-Energy lobbyists and the Governor's office," stated Jim Gonzalez, Chair and Principal of REAP.

"The \$50,000 in contributions took place just one day before the California Legislature passed SB 14 and AB 64; Just five days before the Governor announced that he would veto both renewable energy bills- and instead bypass the California State Legislature by signing Executive Order S-21-09," continued Gonzalez.

**By issuing Executive Order S-21-09 and vetoing both bills renewable goals now:**

- Do not carry the weight of law and can be repealed when a new governor takes office in 16 months.
- In effect the executive order creates a loophole for the 2010 hard target date for 20% renewable requirements for the Big Utilities.
- Vaguely establishes a 33% renewable requirement for 2020.
- Does not provide for the long-term contracts renewable energy companies need in order to attract financing. As a result the Executive Order does nothing to create in-state green jobs

The Big Utilities (PG&E, SCE, and Sempra) curiously dropped their vehement opposition to SB 14 and AB 64 at the last minute; this raises the question – did the Big Utilities know that SB 14 and AB 64 would certainly be vetoed by the pro big-utility Governor? Since 2003 – Governor Schwarzenegger's various campaign and office-holder committees have received at least \$772,500<sup>4</sup> in combined contributions from PG&E, Southern California Edison, and Sempra Energy.

"The Governor's actions, following the \$50,000 coal-contribution (and on the heels of the Duvall scandal involving a Sempra lobbyist) regarding these bills - calls for an investigation of the influence Big Utilities and their allies have on the Governor's Office of California," concluded Gonzalez.

<sup>1</sup> CA Secretary of State web-site, Late contributions, see: <http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Committees/Detail.aspx?id=1261406&view=late1>

<sup>2</sup> ENews, Stimulus helps bring Calif. Petcoke plant closer to reality, 7/20/09, see: <http://www.eenews.net/public/Greenwire/2009/07/20/2>

<sup>3</sup> ConocoPhillips web-site, E-gasification, see: <http://www.conocophillips.com/EN/tech/downstream/e-gas/Pages/index.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> CA Secretary of State web-site, Campaign Finance, see: <http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Misc/filerSearch.aspx?SEARCH=schwarzenegger>