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**Jason Song**

**Not Your Father's Energy Deal - Sun and Wind Fuel Megawatt Transactions**

First wind, now the sun. Next the moon?

Probably not, since nobody's figured out how to convert lunar reflections into energy.

But **Joseph M. Karp**, an attorney at the San Francisco office of Chicago-based **Winston & Strawn**, has closed two of the biggest alternative energy deals of the past several years, one with solar power and the other using wind.

Last week, Karp helped broker an agreement between Pacific Gas & Electric and Solel Solar Systems under which the utility will purchase 550 megawatts of solar thermal power from the Israeli company. The companies did not disclose the deal price, but the transaction is the largest solar deal in the state, edging out Southern California's 2005 agreement to buy 500 megawatts from Stirling Energy Systems.

Last year, Karp worked on a 1,500 megawatt power purchase agreement between Alta Windpower Development and Southern California Edison. That price tag was also undisclosed, but it ranked among the highest wind deals in the state and doubled Edison's wind energy capability.

"It's a sign of things to come," said Karp, who specializes in alternative energies and said he has several more deals in the works. "We know there are more of these projects in the pipeline."

Winston & Strawn attorneys **Jerry Bloom** in Los Angeles and **Karen Bowen**

in San Francisco also worked on the solar deal.

Overall, alternative energy deals are on the upswing. It's unclear exactly how

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many companies have purchased cleantech energy, but over the past year San Diego Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison both signed deals with thermal solar energy companies. And on Monday, SoloPower, a Silicon based-solar energy company that makes solar cell modules, acquired \$30 million in financing.

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman attorneys advised SoloPower. Lawyers who worked on that deal include: Al Boro and Dave Lillevand in San Francisco, Tom Gump in New York, and Dave Jakopin in Silicon Valley.

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati represented three Norwegian venture capital firms that invested in the deal. The Wilson Sonsini team was led by Robert O'Connor in Palo Alto. Attorneys Whit Bissell, Sean Butler, Peter Eng in Palo Alto, and Sheridan Pauker in San Francisco also worked

on the transaction.

The solar rush is driven by several factors, technological advances, increased concern about global warming and, especially in California, legislation aimed at cutting back on greenhouse gases.

California lawmakers have mandated that utilities acquire a fifth of the electricity they sell from renewable energy sources by 2010.

That encouraged power companies to reinvest in nearly forgotten technologies, Karp said. Under the deal, Solel will produce energy using mirrors that focus the sun's rays on a small pipe that holds liquid. The fluid will then turn to steam and turn a turbine.

The technology isn't new but "wasn't really cost effective before," Karp said.

Solel plans to build a nine-square-mile plant near the Nevada state line close to Barstow and should be the largest such facility in the world, according to Solel executives.

The area is ideal for a solar plant because it produces power during summer days, when demand is highest, said PG&E executives. The plant should be operational by 2011. PG&E officials wouldn't say how much they would pay for the power.

In addition to solar power, the deal also represented another trend for Karp. Solel, based in Beit Shemesh, is one of three Israeli energy companies that Karp counts as clients. "I think it's just a coincidence," he said.