

# Gov. Brown, Japan sign pact to cooperate on water, high-speed rail, clean cars

Anne C. Mulkern, Environment & Energy Publishing, 9-10-14

California has signed a pact with Japan to work together on advancing measures that could help limit climate change.

Gov. Jerry Brown (D) and Kenichiro Sasae, Japan's ambassador to the United States, agreed to cooperate on renewable energy; zero-emission vehicles, or ZEVs; high-speed rail; water; and trade and investment.

Under the accord, California and Japan will collaborate on technologies that will help the Golden State put 1.5 million ZEVs on the road by 2025, a goal of Brown's. There also will be work to boost innovation on the environmental issues in the agreement.

It is the latest compact between Brown and another nation on climate. The Golden State governor in July signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Mexico officials. The state agreed to work with the nation on carbon trading, transportation emissions and other environmental policies ([ClimateWire](#), July 29).

Last fall, Brown signed a pact with China's central economic planning agency. That agreement committed China and California to cooperating on "activities to implement carbon emissions trading systems and other market-based instruments" ([ClimateWire](#), Sept. 16, 2013).

Last year, the governor signed an agreement with Osaka Gov. Ichiro Matsui to work on clean energy, environmental protection, tourism and other areas.

The latest accord with Sasae said that California and Japan will cooperate on "promoting dialogue and joint projects on climate change mitigation and adaptation, including on short-lived climate pollutants and cleaner freight transport."

## Focus on energy efficiency and storage

On renewable energy, there will be a "particular focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy development."

Work on energy storage will include "cooperative support for and expansion of the use of energy (electricity) storage technologies that are particularly focused on integrating higher penetrations of variable and intermittent renewable energy resources."

As part of the work to accelerate ZEV adoption, California and Japan agreed to cooperate "on possible demonstration project(s) on the effectiveness of DC fast charging and enhanced EV use through EV charging infrastructure deployment in California."

On high-speed rail, they will share information on "safety including seismic safety measures, planning, operations reliability, environmental friendliness, technology including tunneling,

station area development, and social and economic effects of high-speed rail and other passenger rail services."