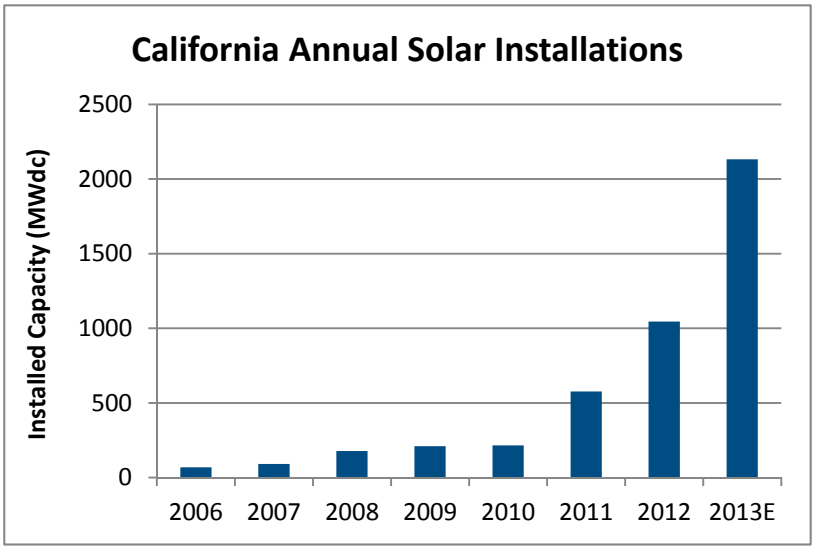
Solar Spotlight: California

At a glance

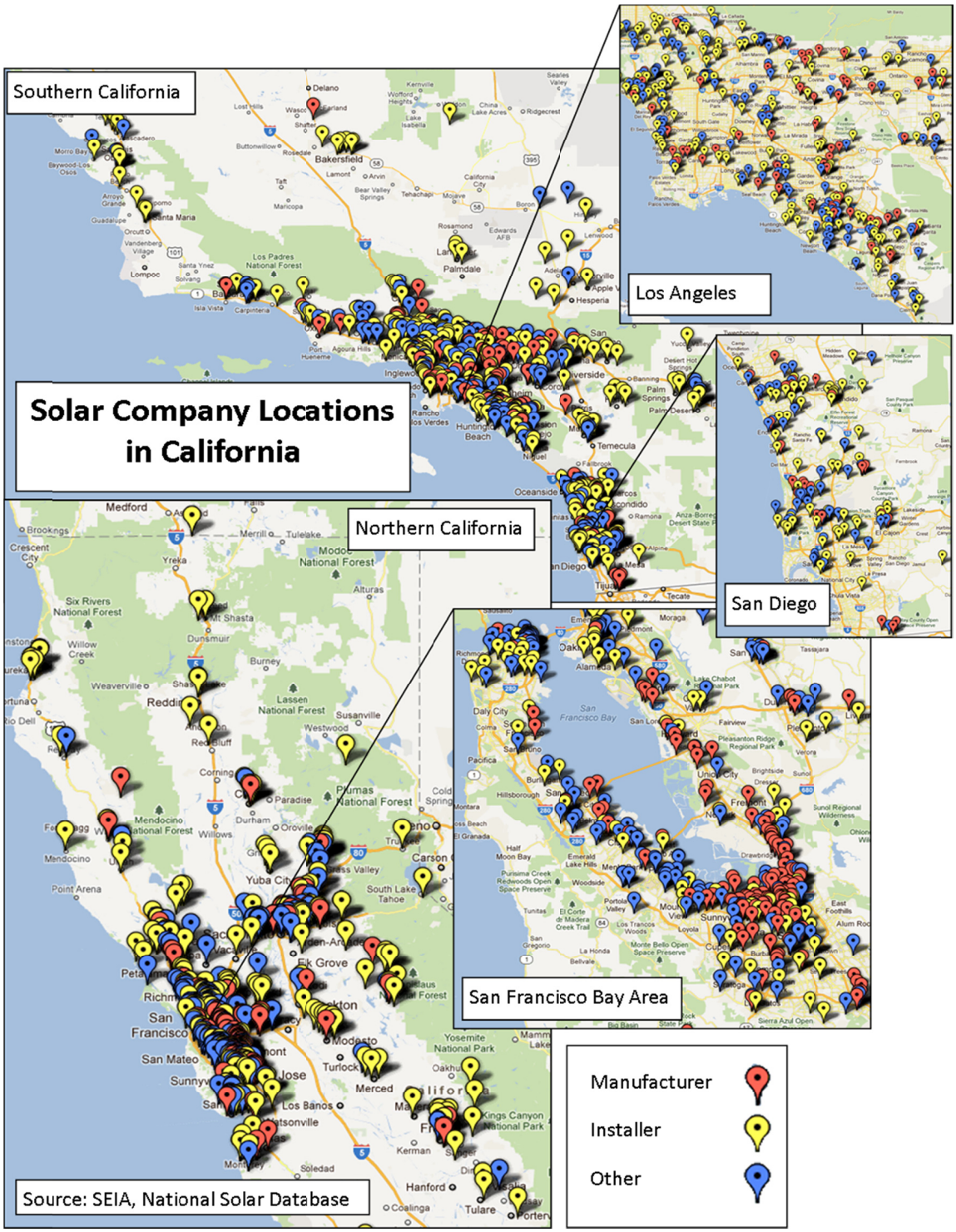
- There are currently more than **1,672 solar companies** at work throughout the value chain in California, **employing 43,700**. These companies provide a wide variety of solar products and services ranging from solar system installations to the manufacturing of components used in photovoltaic panels. These companies can be broken down across the following categories: 336 manufacturers, 88 manufacturing facilities, 812 contractor/installers, 104 project developers, 101 distributors and 319 engaged in other solar activities including financing, engineering and legal support.



- **455 MW of solar were installed** in California in the third quarter of 2013. This marks a 4% increase over the last quarter and a 147% increase over the same quarter last year. California ranked 1st nationally in third quarter installations.
- In 2012, California **installed 1045 MW of solar electric capacity**, ranking it 1st nationally. Of this capacity, 196 MW were residential, 307 MW were commercial and 542 MW were utility-scale.
- The **4,167 MW of solar energy currently installed** in California ranks the state 1st in the country in installed solar capacity. There is enough solar energy installed in the state to power 900,100 homes.
- In 2012, **$2.6 billion was invested in California** to install solar on homes and businesses. This represents a 31% increase over the previous year, and is expected to grow again this year.
- Average installed residential and commercial photovoltaic system **prices in California have fallen by 5% in the last year**. National prices have also dropped steadily— by 5% from last year and 28% from 2010.

Notable Projects

- **California Valley Solar Ranch** was completed in 2012 by developer SunPower. This photovoltaic project has the capacity to generate 250 MW of electricity– enough to power over 54,000 California homes.
- Another utility-scale project, **Ivanpah** in Barstow, is currently under construction in California and is scheduled to come online in 2013. Developed by BrightSource, this 392 MW concentrating solar power project will generate enough electricity to power 140,000 homes.
- At 170 MW, **Centinela Solar Energy Facility** is among the largest solar installations in California. Completed in 2013 by LS Power, this photovoltaic project has enough electric capacity to power more than 36,700 homes.



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