



News Release

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Construction on Solar Power System Underway at Wastewater Treatment Plant 1.1-Megawatt SunPower System to be Completed by Year End

RIVERSIDE, CA – September 10, 2009 – Construction on a 1.1-megawatt solar power system for the West Riverside Wastewater Treatment Plant, a joint powers authority administered by Western Municipal Water District, began this week in Norco. The system, which is expected to generate the amount of power equivalent to powering more than 200 homes per year, should be completed in December.

Western, which also manages the 8 million gallon a day (MGD) plant under the auspices of the Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority (WRCRWA), is working with SunPower Corp. to design and construct the high-efficiency solar power system. "Solar power systems help public agencies, like Western and the WRCRWA, reduce costs, and benefits the community by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere," explained Western's General Manager John V. Rossi.

Under a SunPower solar power purchase agreement, Wells Fargo is financing the solar power system that the treatment plant will host, and SunPower will operate and maintain. Western will buy the electricity at prices that are competitive with retail rates, providing the District with a long-term hedge against rising power prices for no initial capital investment. Wells Fargo will own the associated renewable energy credits and environmental benefits.

SunPower's solar panels, the most efficient solar panels on the market today, will be installed with the SunPower Tracker® system. The Tracker follows the sun's movement during the day, increasing sunlight capture by up to 30 percent over conventional fixed-tilt systems, while significantly reducing land use requirements. "SunPower offers high performance solar technology and financing expertise that helps customers maximize savings on their electricity expenditures," said Howard Wenger, president of global business units for SunPower. "Based on our experience delivering systems and service to more than 20 water agencies in the Western U.S., Western and the JPA can count on the reliability and performance of this SunPower system."

"Capturing solar power to provide the equivalent of 25 percent of the power needed to run the wastewater treatment plant is smart business and intelligent for our ecosystem," said Tom Evans, Western's board president, who presides on the WRCRWA Board of Directors along with fellow Director Brenda Dennstedt, WRCRWA board president.

JPA partners, which include Jurupa Community Services District, Home Gardens Sanitary District, the City of Norco and the Santa Ana River Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA), are looking forward to the launch of this turn-key project. "Our district welcomes this energy technology with high anticipation and appreciation; it's going to be very good for the plant and our community," said Kathryn Bogart, board president at Jurupa Community Services District. Echoing Jurupa's sentiments, Malcolm Miller, mayor pro tem at the City of Norco and vice chair for WRCRWA, said, "Our partnership in the WRCRWA and the harnessing of solar power is a significant step toward greater sustainability." Home Gardens Sanitary District concurred. "We're thrilled that this groundbreaking has begun," said Director Robert Seymour. "All of the members of the JPA are looking forward to celebrating this solar power system completion in December." SAWPA's General Manager Celeste Cantu concluded the group's thoughts by stating, "Projects like solar power are a significant element to managing a sustainable region and watershed."

Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner.

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