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U.S. EPA ADMINISTRATOR JOINS BAY AREA LEADERS TO CELEBRATE INNOVATIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

Gina McCarthy, Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, joined local officials at a Hayward landfill site today to announce plans for an expansive Alameda County solar energy project and to celebrate an unprecedented collaboration of government agencies that is bringing renewable energy projects to Hayward and nearly 200 other public facilities across the Bay Area. McCarthy, the federal government's point person in the battle against global warming and climate change, took part in a special celebration hosted by Alameda County at the now-closed West Winton Landfill. SunEdison, Inc. (NYSE: SUNE), the world's largest renewable energy development company, will transform the site with a solar system comprising thousands of photovoltaic solar panels - enough to generate over 6 megawatts (MW) DC of renewable power. The project is the centerpiece of the Regional Renewable Energy Procurement Project (R-REP), a venture spread across four Bay Area counties that is the largest collaborative in the U.S. involving government agencies deploying renewable energy systems at their facilities.

"We must work collaboratively to develop effective and innovative solutions to combat climate change," McCarthy said. "That's why I'm proud to celebrate the regional partnership today; it is a model for government agencies joining together in a project that is good for the environment, the regional economy and local taxpayers who will save millions of dollars through the use of renewable energy."

McCarthy was joined by a host of Bay Area officials and solar industry representatives in celebrating the West Winton Landfill solar project as a model for sustainable land development. The project is the largest installation among the 186 Bay Area government facilities that are part of R-REP. The innovative partnership involves 19 public agencies in Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara and San Mateo counties that have pooled their resources to purchase and deploy renewable power systems at prices that could save taxpayers over \$100 million in energy costs.

Over the coming year, SunEdison will transform 24 acres of the capped West Winton Landfill property by installing approximately 19,000 photovoltaic solar panels as part of a solar system that will generate 6.6 MW of renewable power to offset the energy use at other County facilities. The project will be the first of its kind in the Bay Area and one of the largest such landfill conversion projects in California. Such conversions are the focus of an EPA initiative spearheaded by McCarthy that touts transforming landfills and other contaminated lands into productive renewable energy projects.

Officials who joined McCarthy at today's celebration included Susan S. Muranishi, the Alameda County Administrator who lauded the R-REP partnership for enabling a dormant swath of land that has sat unused since the 1970s to be converted into one of the region's most potent sources of solar energy. "This project is nothing short of transformational, not just in how we are finding cost-effective and productive new uses for public facilities, but also for creating a model in which government agencies can partner to maximize limited resources and support the advancement of technologies designed to overcome the greatest threats to our environment," said Muranishi.



To date, bids have been submitted for about 70 solar projects that would generate nearly 23 MW of renewable power. The multi-agency effort leverages Alameda County's longstanding leadership in bringing renewable energy to local government operations, which dates back to the County's installation of a major solar power system at Santa Rita Jail that was the largest of its kind in the nation at the time of construction.

Alameda County worked closely with Joint Venture Silicon Valley and Contra Costa Economic Partnership on R-REP, two Bay Area nonprofit organizations that focus on regional collaboration.

"Our organization exists because we and our leaders so wholeheartedly believe in the power of collaboration," said Russell Hancock, President and CEO, Joint Venture Silicon Valley. "The R-REP project is a great example of how collaboration can save time and money, and drive forward regional projects on important topics like clean energy. We were very happy to serve as a convening partner on the R-REP, and are excited to see the many installations as they go into place."

By acquiring solar power projects together, R-REP-participating agencies across four Bay Area counties are achieving economies of scale, and reducing design, installation and other startup costs. As a result, R-REP partners are enjoying pricing that is up to 45 percent lower than comparable Bay Area solar power projects. The solar projects will pay huge dividends in the coming decades in the form of reduced energy costs.

Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle, whose district includes the West Winton landfill, said it is a point of pride that the County is serving as lead agency in R-REP and asserting the expertise that has been gained through renewable energy projects at Santa Rita and many other County buildings, including libraries, youth centers and detention facilities.

"Alameda County has led by example through R-REP, proving that governments can tackle climate change and increase local job growth," Valle said.

Sam Youneszadeh, Managing Director of Distributed Generation Sales for Western USA at SunEdison, said the major solar projects at West Winton and elsewhere under R-REP will give participating Bay Area agencies a vital advantage as they seek to conserve water during the current drought. Solar power, he noted, requires only a fraction of the water needed to generate electricity when compared to traditional power generation methods.

"Together, we are delivering cost effective clean energy solutions that are good for both the environment and the local economy," Youneszadeh said. "Solar is the perfect solution to repurpose sites like the Winton Landfill – solar systems are scalable and can be rapidly constructed on almost any site, delivering cost-competitive energy while saving millions of gallons of water annually."

In total, R-REP is expected to generate as many as 839 local jobs, while providing an important boost to the region's already thriving clean-energy industry by tapping the expert services of Bay Area engineering, procurement and construction contractors. Along with SunEdison, two other vendors were awarded contracts under R-REP: Cupertino Electric, Inc. and SolarCity.

For more information about the R-REP, visit: <http://www.acgov.org/rrep/>