



Project Title: Water Reclamation Plant Energy Sustainability Project

Sponsor/Developer: Hidden Valley Lake CSD Board of Directors

Officials: Bob Barton, Frances Bunce, Linda Herndon, Judy Mirbegian, Lyle LaFaver

General Manager: Mel Aust

Project Manager: Tasha Klewe

Engineer: Winzler & Kelly

Contractor: Real Goods Solar

USDA Rural Development
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Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

From left to right - Linda Herndon, President of the HVLCSO Board, Judy Mirbegian, Vice President of the HVLCSO Board, Reef Atwell USDA, Bob Barton, HVLCSO Director, Frances Bunce, HVLCSO Director, Lyle LaFaver HVLCSO Director, Brad Onorato, Congressman Thompson's Office, Jim Comstock, Board of Supervisor, Mel Aust, HVLCSO General Manager, Tasha Klewe, HVLCSO Project Manager, Brian Costa, Real Goods Solar and Wendy Ziegler, Winzler and Kelly.

PRESS RELEASE OCTOBER 24, 2011

HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BREAKS GROUND ON CARBON-FREE POWER PROJECT

The Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District breaks ground on a solar power project for its wastewater treatment plant. This project will effectively take the wastewater treatment plant off the grid and convert to 100% solar power. The net benefit is two-fold: the stabilization of energy costs at the water reclamation plant for the next three decades ; and the significant reduction of the District's carbon footprint. In the face of the rising cost of fossil fuels that is a significant benefit to the ratepayers of the District.

The project was funded on October 18, 2011, by USDA grants of nearly \$1 million and \$640,000 in low-interest loans. The USDA's support of the District's project reflects the agency's ongoing commitment to supporting the development of sustainable utility service for rural communities. The District will be able to fund its loan payments from the savings in power purchase costs. Winzler & Kelly (www.w-and-k.com), a subsidiary of GHD (www.ghd.com/usa/) serves as the District Engineer and developed the project, which includes fixed photovoltaic arrays located at the water reclamation plant. Real Goods (www.realgoods.com) is the contractor who will supply and install arrays utilizing labor and sub-contractors from south Lake County.

"This project realizes a long-term goal of our District," says District General Manager Mel Aust. "With USDA's support we'll achieve energy independence and be able to protect our rate payers from long-term volatility in the power market. The solar project will reduce our carbon emissions by 112 tons per year. We already reuse all of our treated wastewater and this project enhances the sustainability of our operation. Our staff, our District Engineer and USDA worked hard to put this project together. Special thanks go to the Hidden Valley Lake CSD Board of Directors whose strong leadership has been instrumental and demonstrates that small communities can do bold and innovative things" and Congressman Mike Thompson for his advice and complete support of the solar project.

Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District is a California Special District serving a community of 7,000 in south Lake County. Winzler & Kelly is an Engineering News Record Top 500 firm that emphasizes quality, value-engineering, and sustainable design.