



COUNTY OF YOLO

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New Solar Project Unveiled July 27

(Woodland, CA) – On July 27 at 9:00 a.m., the Yolo County Board of Supervisors will “flip the switch” on the county’s new 1-megawatt solar photovoltaic project installed to supply power to both the Monroe Detention Center (county jail) and the Juvenile Detention Facility, both located at E. Gibson Road and County Road 102 in Woodland. The public is welcome to attend this special event.

All costs for this project are being covered through utility savings, expected to amount to at least \$8.7 million over the assumed 25-year life of the project. According to the Department of Energy this is the first known solar project to use Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECBs), and subsequently the first known combination of QECBs with Clean Renewable Energy Bonds. Based on formulas provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the system is expected to avoid more than 2.2 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions each year, equivalent to the emissions displaced from removing over 5,700 cars from California’s roads over the life of the system.

“This new solar project is just one more step we have taken as local government in recent years to reduce our carbon footprint,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Helen M. Thomson. “From 2006 to 2009 we reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by 38%, returning the county to mid-1980 levels. This solar system at the justice campus will take us to 50% by 2011.”

Yolo County has achieved this significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the following:

- Addition of LED lighting to parking lots
- New energy-efficient doors, a savings twice the cost of the doors
- Improved efficiencies in air conditioning and heating equipment
- Purchase of cleaner and “greener” computers and monitors
- Installation of solar cells on the Herbert Bauer Health and Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Building
- Replacement of windows and roofs and added insulation
- Reduction of county fleet
- And many other day to day energy efficiency efforts which every employee has contributed to, including turning off computers and monitors, lights, etc.

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