CITY OF OCEANSIDE

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

WATER UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Cari Dale, Water Utilities Director
(760) 435-5827 cdale@ci.oceanside.ca.us

For Immediate Release
August 29, 2012

CITY OF OCEANSIDE BREAKS GROUND ON NEW SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

San Luis Rey Water Reclamation will use green, reliable renewable energy

The City of Oceanside will break ground on a new solar energy facility on Thursday, August 30, 2012. This project will produce a renewable source of energy for the San Luis Rey Water Reclamation Facility that is cost-effective and reliable. When completed, the improvements will generate more than $1.6 million in savings for City of Oceanside ratepayers over the next 20 years.

"This is the first project of this magnitude for the City of Oceanside and we are excited to break ground," said Water Utilities Director Cari Dale. "It will be a one-megawatt solar facility which will generate approximately 25 percent of the plant's electricity demand."

Through a power purchase agreement, the City of Oceanside will purchase electricity at rates competitive with those offered by the regional utility. The City will own the renewable energy credits associated with the project.

SunPower Corp., a global solar technology company based in California, will design and build the facility. On approximately 10 acres of City land adjacent to the San Luis Rey Water Reclamation Facility, SunPower will install SunPower T0 Trackers, which track the sun during

– more –

the day, enhancing energy capture up to 25 percent over conventional fixed-tilt systems, while significantly reducing land use requirements.

“Living in sunny Southern California, solar seems to be the best investment for the City and its ratepayers,” added Dale. “More importantly, this system is beneficial for the environment. It will offset 1,339 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually which is equivalent to greenhouse gas emissions from 256 passenger vehicles. This is an important step in keeping Oceanside clean and green.”

# # # # #