

Daily Bulletin

INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY

Using solar to go green



"Part of our core mission of being good environmental stewards is (that) you have to walk the walk. And when we produce clean water for our customers we need energy, so we wanted to find green, emission-free sustainable sources."

PATRICK SHEILDS, executive manager of operations, Inland Empire Utilities Agency.

LEFT: Sheilds stands in front of solar panels at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency in Chino.

Neil Nisperos Staff

IEUA has solar panels installed

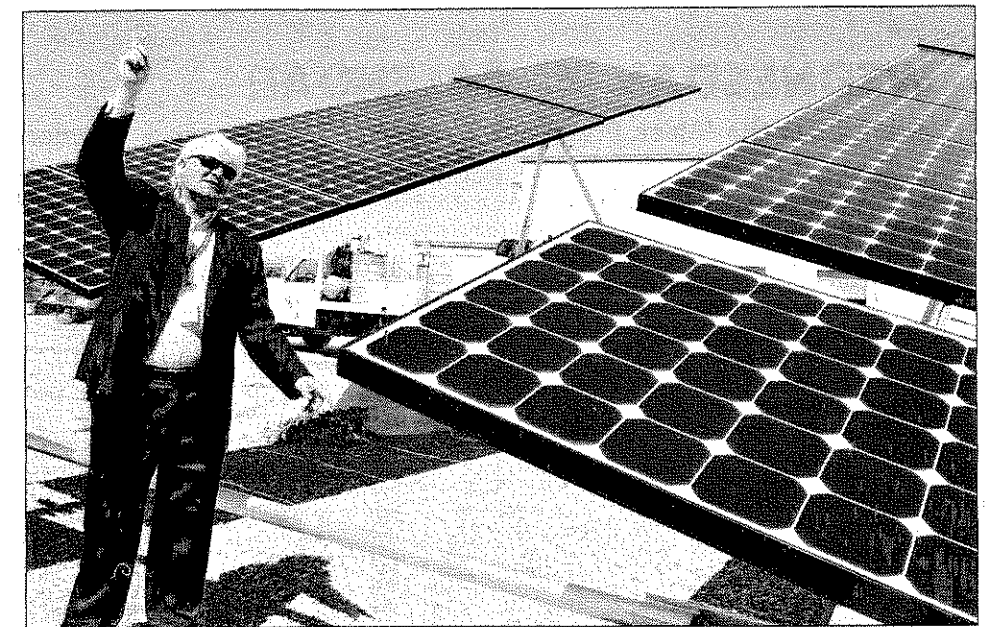
By Neil Nisperos Staff Writer

CHINO — The Inland Empire Utilities Agency has planned a celebration of its use of sun power. The power system for four of the agency's sites in the Inland Valley now depends on solar panels to collect energy from the sun. During peak daylight hours, the system of thousands of panels at the agency's headquarters and plant sites produces 10

percent of the electrical need for these buildings. The celebration is planned for April 3 at the IEUA headquarters, 8075 Kimball Ave. Patrick Sheilds, executive manager of operations, said the project began last fall and was completed and operational by December. The agency's headquarters on Kimball Avenue in Chino has a 7-acre array of tall, sun-tracking solar panels behind its main building. Other arrays were built above the roof of a compost facility in Rancho Cucamonga and at water reclamation plants in Ontario and Chino. Altogether, the panels produce 3.5 megawatts, or about enough power for 2,800 homes.

"We at the IEUA feel that we want to be good environmental stewards," Sheilds said. "Part of our core mission of being good environmental stewards is (that) you have to walk the walk. And when we produce clean water for our customers we need energy, so we wanted to find green, emission-free sustainable sources." Sheilds said the project should help offset the cost of energy from Southern California Edison. The work on the solar panels had a short time frame last year to take advantage of various government tax credits. The solar panels were installed by

SOLAR A4



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Patrick Sheilds, IEUA executive manager of operations, stands in front of solar panels at the agency's treatment facility in Chino. The agency is using solar energy at four of its locations. During peak daylight hours, the system of thousands of panels set at four of the agency's plants and at its headquarters produces 10 percent of the electrical need for the buildings. Altogether, the panels produce 3.5 megawatts, or about enough power for 2,800 homes.

SOLAR

From A1 the SunPower solar energy company, based in Richmond.

Cost of the project with SunPower was about \$25 million. The IEUA pays SunPower for the energy produced at a reduced rate compared with the rate it pays Edison for grid energy, Sheilds said.

Kevin Ross, project development manager for SunPower, said the firm has installed sys-

tems at 20 water agencies statewide. Ross said his company finds that water agencies are always looking for ways to save money and offset current electrical loads by generating their own electricity.

"Anything that you do with water, there is a fairly substantial electric load with it, so you've got a large displacement of pumps that require a lot of electricity to run," he said.

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