IEUA SOLAR POWER PROJECT DEDICATION
Remarks by Julia Lester, PhD

Good morning. My name is Julia Lester and it is my honor to be here today at the dedication of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency's 3.5 MW Solar Power Project. This Solar Project includes solar cells installed at several IEUA facilities, including the site where we are today. The Project is designed to offset 9% of IEUA's 13 MW load and was implemented at record speed, being completed in less than 9 months. It was done through an innovative purchase power agreement with Sunpower, the type of private-public partnership that many believe will be necessary to bring new environmentally-friendly projects such as this on-line. It is my understanding that this is one of the largest solar power installations by a public agency.

I am personally excited by this Project. I have worked on Air Quality issues here in Southern California for over 19 years, including 14 years with the South Coast Air Quality Management District. When you understand the enormous challenge it will be to achieve healthful air in this area, this Solar Project takes on even more significance. Although the area has made great progress in cleaning the air over the last 40 years, regulators believe that the next 15 years are going to be even more challenging. Essentially, the overwhelming majority of local government, industrial, and mobile sources will have to emit no emissions. This Solar Project is a bold step down the path that we will all need to follow.

I was first introduced to the IEAU over 10 years ago when I was working to reduce emissions from local dairies. I was told that IEUA was contemplating some innovative approaches to using manure as a resource. I was impressed by IEUA's approach to their mission. Today it would be called Sustainability, but back then it was a novel approach to water quality, renewable energy, and biosolids and manure management. They used a comprehensive,

multi-media, business plan approach that few were attempting (or even conceiving) at that time.

As I have continued to work with IEUA, I have seen their commitment to their mission through their Dairy Digester, Renewable Energy, Facilities Modernization, Conservation/Efficiency/ Resource Management, and Carbon Emission Reduction programs. The Dairy Digester Program that removes fresh manure from local dairies and turns it into biogas has prevented hundreds of tons of air emissions each year, including greenhouse gases and precursors to ozone and airborne particulates while preventing groundwater impacts. IEUA has modernized its facilities, including a state-of-the-science biosolids composing facility, high energy efficiency system upgrades, and the first government LEED Platinum building in the country. IEUA has worked to maximize development of local water supplies to replace more energy-intensive imported water supplies. For greenhouse gases, IEUA was the first in California to quantify, certify and sell greenhouse gas credits generated through the operation of its anaerobic digesters; it also produced over 54,000 MW-hr of energy from renewable fuel supplies.

I am not the only one who has noted IEUA's efforts and successes in these areas. IEUA has received awards from California's Governor for Environmental and Economic Leadership, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a "Green Power Partner" and for IEUA's Environmental work, from the South Coast Air Quality Management District for Excellence in Advancement of Pollution Technology, and many others.

Not content to rest on its laurels, IEUA has now implemented this 3.5 MW Solar Power Project on sites throughout its facilities. This seems to me to be a natural continuation of IEUA's vision. This project produces local power with no air

pollution, no greenhouse gases, reduces the need for other facilities to produce air pollution and greenhouse gases from fossil fuels, moves the agency along the path of increased energy independence and represents an innovative use of IEUA facilities. Once again, IEUA is on the forefront of making a sustainable, environmentally-friendly, business-wise project work in the here and now.

I know of IEUA's visionary commitment to produce all the energy needed to run its own facilities by 2020. That you are looking at taking your existing programs to the next level, including zero-emission fuel cells powered by biogas. This 3.5 MW Solar Project is clearly taking IEUA closer to achieving its goal of taking local public services "off the state's electricity grid." I congratulate IEUA – its forward-thinking Board and dedicated, innovative staff, as it dedicates this 3.5 MW Solar Power Project. Congratulations to you! And thanks from us for the bold and timely steps you are taking to bring your vision of more healthful local air and sustainable, environmentally-friendly public services into reality.