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Inland Empire Utilities Agency's Go Gridless by 2020

Inland Empire – At the February 15th regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency's (IEUA) Board of Directors adopted its Go Gridless by 2020 Initiative, with a specific focus on energy independence from the grid, during the peak energy usage hours by the year 2020.

“This is a very significant initiative given the uncertainty of future energy costs,” said IEUA Board President Terry Catlin. “The Energy Management Plan will reduce the demand on an already taxed California power grid system while enhancing IEUA’s energy reliability and rate stability in an environmentally prudent manner. By the end of 2012, IEUA will increase its self-generation of renewable energy from 35% of its energy demand to 66%,” continued Catlin.

The following projects are part of IEUA’s *Go Gridless by 2020* plan:

- Currently IEUA produces 3.5 megawatts of solar power and 1.5 megawatts from bio-gas at IEUA’s facilities, which save IEUA hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.
- In January 2012, IEUA’s 1 megawatt of wind generation located at its water recycling facility in Rancho Cucamonga was commissioned – a dedication of this project will take place on Monday, April 2, 2012 beginning at 10:00 a.m.
- IEUA is also adding fuel cells to its renewable energy portfolio. Installation of 2.8 megawatts powered by fuel cells operating on bio-gas and natural gas is underway and will be operational this spring.
- At IEUA’s water recycling facility in Ontario food-waste will be used to generate bio-gas which in turn will generate 1.5 megawatts of electricity in the first phase of this project. This not only produces renewable energy, but also diverts solid waste from landfill disposal.

The wind, solar, fuel cell and food-waste to energy projects are being implemented through public/private partnerships. Through these partnerships IEUA is able to implement these projects with minimal risk without expending capital.

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency will fulfill its mission and vision of enhancing the quality of life in the Inland Empire by demonstrating leadership and expecting prudent and cost-effective resource planning and management to meet the present and future needs of its residents.

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency covers 242-square miles, distributes imported water, provides industrial/municipal wastewater collection and treatment services, and other related utility services to more than 850,000 people.