



**SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
City College • Mesa College  
Miramar College • Continuing Education



## NEWS RELEASE

September 25, 2009

**Media Contact:**  
Ursula Kroemer  
Communications Director  
Propositions S & N Construction Program  
(760) 705-6919  
[ukroemer@gafcon.com](mailto:ukroemer@gafcon.com)

**Media Contact:**  
Mark Pearson  
Senior Energy Consultant  
Borrego Solar  
(619) 792-1166  
[MPearson@borregosolar.com](mailto:MPearson@borregosolar.com)

# Going solar! The San Diego Community College District to implement photovoltaic program

*The 2.4 megawatt system will generate more than four million kilowatt hours of green energy per year and reduce carbon emissions by more than 5.5 million pounds annually*

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) has approved a 20-year agreement with Borrego Solar, a national solar power contractor based in El Cajon, to construct and maintain a photovoltaic system that will provide about 2.4 megawatts of green energy across the district. This project is one of the largest of its kind for a college or university system in the nation.

The system will be financed through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) which will enable the District to access and use solar-generated energy, without the upfront capital costs or operational expenses. Under the agreement, Borrego Solar would build, operate and maintain the solar system, and sell the generated solar energy back to the District at rates approximately 18% below those of San Diego Gas & Electric; a savings of more than \$110,000 annually. The solar energy generated by the District system would be enough to meet 26% of current peak electrical demand, helping to reduce the increasing demand for power from San Diego's existing utility grid.

The [photovoltaic program](#) calls for the solar panels to be installed on building rooftops, parking structures and atop new solar panel shade structures in parking lots throughout the District.

“This is a win-win for the San Diego Community College District, and the community in general,” said David Umstot, Vice Chancellor of Facilities. “By taking advantage of modern solar technology and current renewable energy incentives, we are able to promote our environmental commitment by producing clean electricity on site, reducing our carbon footprint, and working to find solutions for meeting the growing energy demands within the San Diego community.”

“We are delighted to partner with the San Diego Community College District on a project that will raise the bar locally in sustainable energy development,” said Mark Pearson, Senior Energy Consultant for Borrego Solar. “The District is setting a great example of how projects of this scale can make significant, long-lasting and positive impacts in their operations and working and learning environment. We applaud them for taking the stand that the future is now!”

The new solar energy system will generate 2.4 megawatts of energy annually, or the equivalent of powering 650 homes per year. The first 20 years of production will generate a number of environmental benefits, including:

#### **Reduction of global warming emissions**

Carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced by 111,747,343 pounds. This is the equivalent of 176,169,816 vehicle miles *not traveled*, or the equivalent of planting 260,817 mature trees.

#### **Reduction of fossil fuel consumption**

The system will conserve the burning of 159,751 barrels of oil, substantially reducing the amount of fossil fuel typically burned for generating electricity.

#### **Reduction of other emissions**

The system will reduce nitrogen oxide emissions, a major contributor to smog and air-induced respiratory problems, by 28,501 pounds. Nitrogen and sulfur oxide emissions, primary components of acid rain, will be reduced by 31,351 pounds.

The SDCCD program will be implemented at City College, Mesa College, Miramar College, the Mid-City Continuing Education campus, the West City Continuing Education campus and the District Office located in Mission Valley.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) currently places limitations on the amount of energy a meter at a single location can generate and still remain connected to the electrical grid to one megawatt. Should this cap be raised to allow for additional generation, SDCCD could produce an additional 2.5 megawatts of solar energy in addition to the 2.4 megawatts planned.

The new solar energy plan is in keeping with the District’s Green Building Policy, which requires all new construction performed under the \$1.555 billion Propositions S and N construction bond program to produce ten percent of the energy utilized by the project from renewable sources with at least five percent of the total project’s energy generated on site.

The Propositions S and N construction program is providing for new instructional facilities, major renovations and campus-wide infrastructure projects at City, Mesa and Miramar Colleges, and six Continuing Education campuses. For additional information, please visit [www.sdccdprops-n.com](http://www.sdccdprops-n.com).

Borrego Solar Systems, Inc. specializes in commercial and public sector turnkey, grid-connected solar electric systems. Based in El Cajon, California, the company has more than 25 years of experience, and a portfolio of over 1,000 solar photovoltaic projects in California and New England. Local installations include the Padre Dam Municipal Water District, the University of California at San Diego (UCSD), Qualcomm Inc., the Villa Nueva apartments in San Ysidro, and the Stone Brewery in Escondido. For additional information, please visit <http://www.borregosolar.com/>.