

For Immediate Release:
September 17, 2009

Contact:
Dave Low, Office of Mayor Reed
(408) 535-4857, (408) 499-8328 - cell

Arleen Arimura, Environmental Services Department
(408) 975-2557, (408) 455-4513 - cell

San José Goes Solar at Alviso Library

Event: Mayor Chuck Reed and Councilmember Kansen Chu will be speaking on the City of San Jose's efforts to move towards renewable energy as they unveil a new 3.36 kilowatt (kW) solar panel system at the Alviso Library. The event will also include a community resource fair to promote green job opportunities and simple, energy-saving tips.

When: Saturday, September 19, 2009
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1:00 – 1:15 p.m.

- Opening remarks from Mayor Chuck Reed and Councilmember Kansen Chu

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

- Presentations on clean tech jobs and career opportunities in the solar industry.
- Residents and businesses are invited to attend a public resource fair to learn how to save money through energy and water conservation. Kids can learn to build a solar oven from a pizza box.

Where: Alviso Library – 5050 North First Street, San José

Background: Alviso Library is one of six City buildings that have been installed with new solar panels. After installation of the 3.36 kW solar panel system and implementation of new energy efficiency measures, the Alviso Library's energy consumption will be reduced by 10 percent per year (10,752 kilowatt-hour). This will save the City \$1,700 per year and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 7.7 metric tons, which is equivalent to planting 198 mature trees. This project advances two of the City's Green Vision goals to reduce per capita energy use by 50 percent and receive 100 percent of San José's electrical power from clean renewable sources by 2022.

Through a Community Development Block Grant, the City conducted energy and water audits at 10 public buildings to determine where energy and water could be conserved. Six buildings were chosen to receive solar panels and energy efficiency upgrades, including: Alviso Library, Alum Rock Youth Center, Gardener Community Center, Washington United Youth Center, and Fire Stations 1 and 16. The solar panels and energy and water retrofits are made possible by a Community Development Block Grant administered by the City's Housing Department through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City's Department of Environmental Services is managing the grant and coordinating the project with the Department of Public Works.