

News Briefs

WACA's Construction Excellence Awards Coming June 9



One of the biggest award shows in Northern California's construction industry, the Construction Excellence Awards (CEA) is coming to San Jose on June 9. The event recognizes the top achievements of large and small companies alike and will honor contractor members that have performed exceptional drywall and plaster work in Northern California, highlighting the brilliant work and technical merit of skilled wall and ceiling construction workmanship.

Award categories include the following: both exterior and interior for residential, commercial, retail and institutional, along with the categories of historical restoration interior, ceilings, green building, EIFS, and Projects of the Year.

The event takes place from 4pm – 9pm at the Fairmont San Jose Hotel, located at 170 South Market Street, San Jose, CA. Dress code is business attire. Please see below for ticket rates and sponsorship opportunities. Guests are encouraged to register early to get a seat.

To buy tickets online or sponsor this event, visit the WACA's Calendar of Events at www.wallandceilingalliance.org.

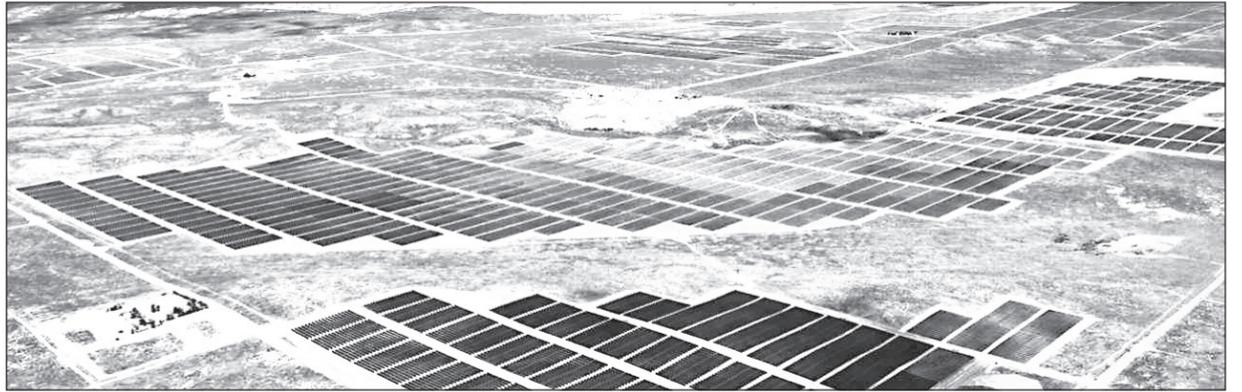
Event ticket rates: regular rate (until May 20) - \$60 per person; late registration rate - \$75 per person. Sponsorship opportunities will be available with the following rates: Platinum - \$2,000; Gold - \$1,500; Silver - \$1,000; Bronze - \$500; and Supporting - \$350.

For more information, contact Gina Garcia at gina@wallandceiling.org or call (925) 523-3900 for more details on sponsorships.

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SunPower to Deliver Power Systems to Santa Clara and LA



San Jose, CA-based SunPower Corp. announced May 3 that construction has started on 11.4 megawatts (DC) of solar power systems to power public facilities operated by the County of Santa Clara in California.

The County will own the systems, as well as their associated renewable energy credits. SunPower will construct a total of six systems at county facilities, all of which are expected to be operational by the end of 2016. SunPower estimates that the equivalent amount of electricity generated by the systems when they are operational could power more than 6,000 electric vehicles for 30 years.

"SunPower works with public agencies that require innovative, effective approaches to managing energy costs without reducing services in their communities," says Howard Wenger, SunPower president, business units. "Solar makes sense for counties and municipalities today because it's cost-competitive, fast to install, and supports sustainability goals."

Building the project in the County of Santa Clara brings things home for SunPower, where the company has been headquartered for the last 30 years.

To fund the project, the County of Santa Clara secured U.S. Department of Treasury clean renewable energy bonds (CREBs), which are available to certain entities, primarily in the public sector, to finance renewable energy projects. California's net energy metering (NEM) and RES-BCT pro-

"Solar makes sense for counties and municipalities today because it's cost-competitive, fast to install, and supports sustainability goals."

Howard Wenger, President,
SunPower Corporation

grams also helped make ownership of on-site solar power systems accessible for the county.

At five of the county sites, SunPower is installing ground-mounted solar power systems featuring SunPower solar panels, the most efficient solar panels commercially available today, says project officials. The sixth installation will be a solar carport that generates emission-free solar power while providing needed shade.

Another California project to recently break ground for SunPower is a 9.5-megawatt (AC) solar power plant in Los Angeles County. This project will generate power for use by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Located on DWR's property adjacent to its Pearblossom Pumping Plant, southeast of Palmdale, the project is expected to be operational by the end of this year.

DWR will purchase the power generated by the plant under a power

purchase agreement (PPA) with SunPower. The PPA provides DWR with competitive electricity rates. DWR is retaining the renewable energy credits associated with the system.

SunPower designed and is installing a SunPower Oasis Power Plant system at the site. Oasis is a fully-integrated, modular solar power block that is engineered for rapid and cost-effective deployment of utility-scale solar projects while optimizing land use. The technology includes robotic solar panel cleaning capability that uses 75% less water than traditional cleaning methods and can help improve system performance by up to 15%.

SunPower calculates the annual output from the power plant will be equal to the electricity needed to power approximately 8,500 electric vehicles for 30 years. The plant is expected to offset the equivalent amount of annual carbon emissions as 157 acres of preserved U.S. forests can neutralize in one year, according to estimates provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

SunPower has approximately 45 megawatts of large commercial and public agency solar power systems operating or under contract in Santa Clara County. SunPower has for more than a decade been delivering solar solutions to cities and counties around the state. Other customers in California have included Yolo County and the cities of San Francisco, Riverside and Ontario.

For more information on SunPower, visit www.sunpower.com

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