Project to help plant create energy onsite

8/25/2009 1:36:55 PM

LOS ANGELES — The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on August 24 joined the Perris, CA-based Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) for the groundbreaking of a $46.3 million wastewater treatment energy efficiency project designed to benefit Moreno Valley, CA, residents, the EPA reported in an August 24 press release.

Funding for the project is coming from California's Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund, which was augmented with an additional $280 million by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus funding). The project is called the Moreno Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility Preliminary Treatment and Acid Phase Anaerobic Digestion Project.

Upgrades funded by the loans will enable the district to produce 40 percent of the Moreno Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility's energy needs onsite, resulting in reduced energy production and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Upgrades also will reduce sludge production, which will lower truck emissions resulting from sludge hauling, the release said.

A separate EMWD $38 million project, which began in May, is designed to increase treatment capacity and improve treatment processes, enabling the district to continue to efficiently recycle treated wastewater for non-potable uses. Funding for this project also is in the form of an CWSRF loan containing ARRA funds.

"The project will enable our Moreno Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility to become more self-reliant in energy generation and more cost- and energy-efficient in its treatment of wastewater," EMWD Board President Ron Sullivan is quoted saying. The zero- to low-interest loan should result in a $4 million savings in interest payments, he added.

The Eastern Municipal Water District provides water and wastewater services in a 555-square-mile service area with a population of about 687,000 in western Riverside County.

To read the release, click here.

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