



News from EMWD

Community Involvement Department
951/928-3777, ext. 4226
FAX 951/928-6171
P.O. Box 8300
Perris, CA 92572-8300



For Immediate Release

EMWD reduces costs and carbon footprint with onsite power generation

Perris, CA (October 28, 2009) — Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) recently upgraded its Moreno Valley Wastewater Reclamation Facility, adding three ultra-clean power plants.

Using fuel cell technology, the District will reduce its energy costs and carbon footprint while generating clean, renewable, reliable, energy onsite. The three 250 kilowatt fuel cells will allow the District to run 40 percent of the plant at peak hours free of charge, with near zero emissions, reducing the carbon footprint by approximately 1,200 tons of carbon dioxide per year. This will save about \$500,000 per year in electrical energy costs.

“The fuel cell cogeneration project helps the District to become more self-reliant in energy generation, using clean technologies. As a renewable energy project, we were able to secure partial funding through incentive programs. This is in the best interest of EMWD and the customers we serve,” says EMWD Board President Ron Sullivan.

--MORE--

The wastewater treatment process uses anaerobic digesters for solids treatment, which generates methane gas. The fuel cells electrochemically convert the methane gas byproduct into hydrogen, water, and electricity with no combustion, producing energy more efficiently than traditional power plants. The conversion produces heat that can be used in the wastewater treatment process.

The District's Moreno Valley facility processes nearly 11 million gallons of wastewater per day from approximately 150,000 nearby residents and businesses. The plant removes solids from the wastewater and produces recycled water which is used to irrigate school grounds, parks, and some agriculture – it is also used in some commercial operations.

The proposed construction cost of the fuel cell project was \$7.8 million with up to \$3.375 million rebated from Southern California Edison's Self-Generation Incentive Program.

EMWD has a design to install three additional 300 kilowatt fuel cells at its Perris Valley Wastewater Reclamation Facility which could be operational by 2012.

###

EMWD is the freshwater, wastewater service and recycled water provider to a 555-square mile area from Moreno Valley southward along the I-215 corridor to Temecula and eastward to Hemet and San Jacinto. Approximately 687,000 people live and work in this area. In addition to its own water customers, EMWD supplements water to eight local water agencies and municipalities that have their own water departments. Nearly 80 percent of the freshwater supplied by EMWD comes from imported sources. EMWD operates four water reclamation facilities and treats some 46 million gallons of wastewater daily. More information can be found at EMWD's web site www.emwd.org.