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Butte County Announces Groundbreaking Ceremony for its Landfill Gas to Energy Project

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 11, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.
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Oroville, CA – Butte County officials announced a groundbreaking ceremony for its landfill gas to energy project scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. The ceremony will take place at the Neal Road Waste and Recycling Facility (formerly known as the Neal Road Landfill) located at 1023 Neal Road (1 mile east of Highway 99).

In 2006, the Butte County Board of Supervisors endorsed pursuing renewable energy projects at the Neal Road Waste and Recycling (NRWRF). The concept is known as the energy farm. Through a competitive process, the County selected Ameresco Energy to collect methane gas produced by decaying organic materials at NRWRF and combust it to generate electricity. Through a 25-year contract, the County will receive a percentage of revenue Ameresco Energy generates from the sale of electricity.

The project initially will generate up to 2.2 megawatts (power for approximately 1,383 homes) and upon build out is expected to generate at least 4.3 megawatts. Additionally, the project will reduce CO2 emissions (equivalent to removing 17,096 cars from the road). The project is tentatively scheduled to go online in January 2012.

“I am excited to get this project under way,” said Steve Lambert, the Chair of Butte County Board of Supervisors. “This is truly a win-win situation for us as we generate revenues for the County and reduce greenhouse gases at the same time. When we installed a 1.14 megawatt solar array in 2004, Butte County became one of the leading solar-energy generators in the country. With this landfill gas-to energy project, we are demonstrating our strong commitment to renewable energy production.”

Representatives from Ameresco Energy, PG&E, local waste collection companies, municipalities, and the County will attend the ceremony.

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