



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCE Press Contact
Kalicia Pivirotto - (415) 464-6036
kpivirotto@mceCleanEnergy.org

JHS Properties Press Contact
Misti Norton - (415) 497-4379
mistimnorton@gmail.com

MCE, JHS PROPERTIES, AND CITY OF RICHMOND CELEBRATE NEW TWO-MEGAWATT FREETHY INDUSTRIAL PARK SOLAR

11 A.M. – Noon, [Elmar Court at Goodrick Ave., Richmond](#)

RICHMOND, CA – Today MCE and JHS Properties unveil Freethy Industrial Park Solar, a new, two-megawatt, ground-mounted project in Richmond, marking the completion of MCE's third [Feed-In Tariff](#) project.

The Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program invites local entrepreneurs to develop and sell renewable energy to MCE within its service area at a fixed price for twenty years. Four new FIT projects are being completed within a six-month period, between November 2016 and April 2017, totaling 3.3 megawatts. Bob Herbst, property manager for JHS Properties, also managed MCE's first FIT project at the San Rafael Airport – one megawatt of solar which came online in 2012.

The Freethy Industrial Park solar project supplies enough power for up to 600 homes annually, with greenhouse gas reductions equivalent to taking 114¹ cars off the road each year.

Richmond Mayor Tom Butt, who led the City's effort to join MCE in 2013, stated "This two-megawatt project is the latest to join a list of large scale solar projects that make Richmond a renewable energy leader in the state. Our workforce is gearing up for the expanding opportunities in green collar jobs with commercial-scale job training. RichmondBUILD is ensuring that the benefits from solar projects extend beyond environmental sustainability to generate social mobility and careers in clean energy."

Sunstall Inc. and the City of Richmond's RichmondBUILD program provided labor to construct the solar panel installation, which supported twenty-three jobs. Through RichmondBUILD's program, workers gained a new skill set, making them eligible for further opportunities to work for local solar installation companies. Three permanent jobs were created for Energy Systems Development to maintain the system for ten years.

The racking for Freethy Industrial Park is steel manufactured in the USA, and the inverters are made by U.S.-based Yaskawa – Solectria Solar, the top commercial PV inverter supplier in the U.S.

Solar modules for the project were produced by REC, which holds the top position among solar module companies supplying the California residential sector. REC owns and operates the third largest silicon plant in the USA, which is powered by hydroelectricity.

"MCE's local renewable energy projects replace carbon-emitting fossil power on the grid while creating local jobs. This project helps California lead the way to a secure energy future with underutilized land becoming a source of revenue for property owners and solar developers," said Dawn Weisz, CEO of MCE. "We're proud to have 4.2 megawatts of new, local renewable energy projects online and fifteen megawatts under construction."

"At JHS Properties, we're proud to support MCE's goal of producing local renewable energy projects. In 2012 we completed the first-ever FIT project with MCE, a one-megawatt solar project on hangar rooftops at the San Rafael Airport. With the addition of this two-megawatt project in Richmond, we now supply clean, sustainable energy for local homes within the MCE service area," said Bob Herbst,

JHS Properties Manager and North Shore Solar Partners Project Owner and Developer.

In four years, MCE customers have eliminated over 122 metric tons of polluting greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to taking nearly 26,000 cars off our roads for an entire year.

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About MCE: MCE is a not-for-profit, public electricity provider that gives customers the choice of having 50% to 100% of their electricity supplied from clean, renewable sources such as solar, wind, bioenergy, geothermal and hydroelectric at competitive rates. MCE provides service to 255,000 California customers in Marin County, Napa County and the cities of Benicia, El Cerrito, Lafayette, Richmond, San Pablo, and Walnut Creek. By choosing MCE, customers help support new in-state and local renewable energy projects and jobs. For more information, visit www.mcecleanenergy.org

About JHS Properties: JHS Properties is the developer, owner, and operator of the new two-megawatt Freethy solar farm. JHS is a family company that owns and manages over 500,000 square feet of office and industrial projects in Marin and Richmond, including San Rafael Airport and Autodesk World Headquarters.

About Energy Systems Development: ESD is a full service and premier provider of on-site Cogeneration (COGEN) and Solar power. The ESD team brings twenty-five years of experience in project, financial and construction management, and eleven years of direct experience in the design, development, construction and commissioning of solar and cogeneration energy systems. ESD offers end-to-end services, including a No Cost Feasibility Study of customer's energy usage. Our expertise includes customized engineering designs, quality equipment choices, integration with current infrastructure, full system installation and commissioning, with ten-year maintenance options and twenty-year warranty options.

¹ www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator