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*Our mission is to provide
our community a safe,
economical, dependable
and environmentally-
friendly water supply,
wastewater collection
system, and Subregional
Wastewater Treatment and
Reclamation System for our
customers and our
Subregional partners.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**City of Santa Rosa recognized by U.S. Department of Energy
for solar leadership**

SANTA ROSA, Calif., May 27, 2011 – Representatives from the 25 U.S. Department of Energy Solar America Cities, including the City of Santa Rosa, met in Philadelphia last month to share their cities’ solar successes. Santa Rosa’s Mayor Ernesto Olivares and City of Santa Rosa staff working on a U.S. Department of Energy grant funded program, gathered for the 4th annual Solar America Cities meeting to share findings on emerging trends in urban energy use. They discussed solutions to solar implementation barriers, such as zoning, financing and the unwieldy permitting processes.

The City of Santa Rosa’s Solar America City team received a Steel on the Roof award for having facilitated the installation of 42 megawatts of solar PV throughout Sonoma County; more than any other county participating in the Solar America Cities program. The City was also honored with a Certificate of Recognition from U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu for advancing the city’s solar market and serving as a model for communities nationwide.

“It is clear to me that there is tremendous value in the connections we have with the U.S. Department of Energy and with our partnering Solar America Cities throughout the nation as we forge a common vision for other communities to follow. These resources and strong partnerships continue to strengthen Santa Rosa’s commitment to our GHG reduction targets while highlighting our abilities to remain a leader in renewable energy generation and overall market transformation.” said Mayor Ernesto Olivares.

Through U.S. Department of Energy grant funding, the City of Santa Rosa has established a Clean Energy Advocate (CEA) program which provides an independent, unbiased advocate to assist Sonoma County homeowners in navigating the renewable energy, energy efficiency, and water efficiency upgrade process. The City is in partnership with local non-profit Solar Sonoma County, and continues to work at the regional and state level to further overall solar market transformation. For more information please visit: www.srcity.org/CEA. For more information on Solar America Cities please visit: www.solaramericacommunities.energy.gov.