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SMUD and SRCSD Team Up to Develop Region's First Co-digestion Facility

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) have begun construction of a co-digestion facility as part of the region's renewable energy efforts. The facility will provide a new local disposal option for wastes such as fats, oils, grease (FOG) and liquid food processing waste.

SMUD and SRCSD received approximately \$1.45 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding from the United States Department of Energy and \$100,000 in matching funds from the California Energy Commission to help construct the facility at the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP) in Elk Grove. The remainder of the project will be funded by SRCSD. The construction cost of the FOG receiving station is approximately \$2.1 million.

The project will increase the production of biogas already being produced at SRWTP by injecting waste materials directly into the digestion system, bypassing initial steps that are currently depleting the energy value of the waste. The additional biogas captured will be used by SMUD to generate renewable energy at SMUD's Cosumnes Power Plant located in southern Sacramento County.

Benefits of the project include:

- Saving local businesses money by providing an advanced, local disposal option for wastes that will eliminate fuel and fleet costs associated with trucking the waste to distant locations.
- Increasing the production of biogas which will be used to generate renewable electricity for up to 2,000 homes in the region.
- Utilizing existing waste processing and power generation infrastructure to minimize capital costs.
- Eliminating greenhouse gas emissions associated with organic waste in landfills and its transportation to disposal sites outside the region.
- Reducing the amount of wastes that enter the local sewer system.

The project is expected to be complete by December 2012 and is the culmination of years of study and a successful pilot test in 2009.

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