



## News for Immediate Release

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### **DWR Adds Green Energy for the State Water Project**

**SACRAMENTO** -- The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), in an effort to "green" the energy portfolio of the State Water Project, has entered into a renewable power purchase agreement with Alameda Municipal Power. The agreement runs for slightly more than four years, from October 15, 2012 through December 31, 2016.

The renewable power procured under this agreement will help fill the energy gap for the State Water Project with a much cleaner resource than an expiring DWR contract for coal-fired generation. The new contract will provide 33 megawatts (MW) of certified renewable energy with 28.3 MW from an existing geothermal project and 5.3 MW from landfill gas energy. Under this agreement, DWR will receive an estimated 183,000 megawatt-hours of annual generation.

The geothermal plants are owned and operated by the Northern California Power Agency and located at The Geysers geothermal field in Middletown, California.

The landfill gas energy under the new contract will come from the Republic Services' Ox Mountain Landfill gas-to-energy plant in Half Moon Bay. The plant is owned and operated by a subsidiary of Ameresco, Inc. Landfill gas is created when organic waste decomposes, producing methane -- the primary ingredient in natural gas and a greenhouse gas.

The landfill gas-to-energy plant captures the methane and turns it into electricity for use by residential and business customers. This prevents the release of

greenhouse gases and reduces the need for power generated by burning fossil fuels.

The new energy contract will move DWR closer to its goal of reducing emissions by 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2020.

DWR uses electrical energy to move water through the State Water Project, the largest state-run water and power system in the United States. The project provides water to an estimated 25 million Californians and 750,000 acres of irrigated farmland. By generating electricity at Oroville Dam and its other hydroelectric facilities, the State Water Project produces much of the energy it needs, but still must buy some electricity.

To learn more about DWR's efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions, click on this link to access DWR's Climate Action Plan:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange/CAP.cfm>