# TOWN OF GILA BEND

### MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



# APS-Owned Solar Plant Announced for Gila Bend

NEWS RELEASE February 16, 2011

17-Megawatt AZ Sun Project Will Come Online Later This Year

PHOENIX--(BUSINESS WIRE)--For the first time, Arizona's largest electric utility — Arizona Public Service Company — and Arizona's largest solar manufacturer — First Solar — are working together to harness the power of the sun. APS has contracted with First Solar to design and build the Paloma Solar Plant, a 17-megawatt photovoltaic facility in Gila Bend, Ariz. APS will own the plant, which is expected to come online in September 2011.

"The Paloma plant represents another major solar energy investment APS has made in our community. We appreciate this continuing partnership, and we are proud to foster the development of solar energy."

Paloma is one of five solar plants currently under development in APS's AZ Sun program. Through the program, APS will finance and own 100 megawatts of solar photovoltaic power plants in Arizona. Upon completion, the program is expected to have at least six plants, which will be designed and constructed by third-party solar developers, contractors and equipment providers. With Paloma, the AZ Sun Program now has commitments for 83 megawatts of solar capacity. The entire program is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

"Through the AZ Sun program, we have been able to move quickly to begin building new solar power plants to complement our other generating resources. We expect these plants to provide clean, reliable energy to our customers for at least the next 30 years," said <a href="Don Robinson">Don Robinson</a>, APS president and chief operating officer.

With Paloma, APS's total renewable energy portfolio is 875 megawatts, counting projects online and in development. Of that total, 288 megawatts are in service today, providing enough electricity to meet the needs of 72,000 Arizona homes. Complete details on current and future APS renewable projects are available online at <a href="mailto:aps.com/remap">aps.com/remap</a>.

The Paloma plant will be built on the site of a former

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alfalfa farm. The facility will use 300,000 thin-film photovoltaic panels mounted on fixed-tilt steel frames. It is the first time thin-film panels will be used for an APS solar plant.

"First Solar is pleased to be working with APS, a leader in green energy," said Jim Lamon, First Solar senior vice president of engineering, procurement and construction. "Our advanced thin-film technology and our systems engineering and construction expertise will help APS turn Arizona's vast solar resource into clean, renewable energy."

Paloma and Cotton Center, APS's other AZ Sun photovoltaic project in Gila Bend, will be located less than a mile apart.

"In collaboration with APS, the Town of Gila Bend is continuing to demonstrate its national leadership in promoting, locating and fast-tracking utility scale solar," said Ron Henry, mayor of Gila Bend. "The Paloma plant represents another major solar energy investment APS has made in our community. We appreciate this continuing partnership, and we are proud to foster the development of solar energy."

Gila Bend is also home to Solana, a concentrating solar plant being built by Abengoa Solar. APS has a contract to purchase all of Solana's generation beginning in 2013.

APS, Arizona's largest and longest-serving electricity utility, serves more than 1.1 million customers in 11 of the state's 15 counties. With headquarters in Phoenix, APS is the principal subsidiary of <a href="Pinnacle West Capital Corp">Pinnacle West Capital Corp</a>. (NYSE: PNW).

### **Butterfield Stage Days This Weekend**

Don't forget to attend Butterfield Stage Days this weekend, March 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>.

## March/April 2011 Community Calendar

February 1, 2011

- 03/04, 05 & 06 Butterfield Stage Days
- 03/07 Special Council Meeting (12:00 noon)
- 03/08 Town of Gila Bend Primary Election
- 03/08 Council Meeting Cancelled
- 03/11 Pitch-In for Gila Bend Clean-Up (8:30 2:30)
- 03/22 Council Meeting –Regular Meeting(6:00pm)
- 04/04 Little Diamondbacks Sign-Up Starts
- 04/12 Council Meeting –Regular Meeting(6:00pm)
- 04/26 Council Meeting –Regular Meeting(6:00pm)

## Gila Bend Projects: What Have They Cost Us?

February 28, 2011

Town staff have been asked recently how much of the public's money has the Town been spending on all of these projects that have been done. Here is a breakdown of what the town has actually spent on these projects:

**Butterfield Trail Waterline Project:** \$885,931.<sup>35</sup> Funded by USDA Rural Development. **Cost to Town:** \$ 0

**USDA Grant Application:** \$40,000.00 Funded by USDA Rural Development. **Cost to Town:** \$0

Waterline and Fire Hydrant Project: \$1,547,653.<sup>32</sup> Funded by USDA Rural Development paid \$1,085,149.<sup>37</sup>; CDBG paid \$196,707.<sup>10</sup>; WIFA paid \$265,796.<sup>85</sup>

Cost to Town: \$ 0

**Airport Shade Hangar Project: \$263,500.** Funding by FAA = \$250,000. Cost to Town: \$13,500.00

**Street Improvement Project:** \$167,750.00 Funded by HURF. **Cost to Town:** \$0

Pedestrian, Landscaping & Monument (Airport) Sign Project: \$297,916.00 Funded by ARRA. Cost to Town: \$ 0

Airport Park & Ride Project: \$170,000.00 Funded by ARRA. Cost to Town: \$0

The Town of Gila Bend has spent a total of \$13,500.00 to do all of these projects. These projects have upgraded the quality of service to the residents of Gila Bend and beautified the community for both residents and visitors.

# Alternative Expenditure Limitation (aka Home Rule) Fact Sheet

March 2011

#### What is Home Rule?

In 1980 Arizona voters approved a tax reform package that put a limit on what cities and towns could spend regardless of the needs of the city or town . However, the tax reform also allows *local voters* to approve an exception to the state imposed limit for their community, known as Home Rule. Under the Home Rule Option, each city or town may determine its own spending based on its budget.

#### Why is it on the Primary Election Ballot?

Since 1995, the Town of Gila Bend voters have approved the Home Rule Option. To continue staying on Home Rule, it must be voted on and passed every four (4) years. It was last passed in 2007.

#### Have other cities and towns authorized Home Rule?

YES! In 2009, Home Rule was voted on and approved in 79 cities and towns across the state.

#### What happens if Home Rule is not continued?

If not continued, the Town of Gila Bend will have to operate under the state imposed limit. Under this limit the Town may not be able to budget or spend the revenues it collects which fund services such as Fire, Water, Sewer, Garbage pick-up, Social and Senior services, Recreation, MCSO services, and Park and Street maintenance for Gila Bend residents. The current state imposed limit for <a href="next year's">next year's</a> budget is \$16,981,124.00 (subject to change depending on population figures and other factors). The Town of Gila Bend's current, <a href="this year's">this</a> year's, budget is \$17,589,973.00.

### Does approval of Home Rule give the Town authority to impose new taxes?

NO! It does not give authority to impose or raise taxes.

### If Home Rule is continued, what will it mean for Gila Bend Residents?

It allows the Town to spend the revenues it receives to provide services to residents after citizen input through the budget. Spending is restricted by available revenues.