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**WASHOE TRIBE TO BE FIRST
SOLAR DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANT**

Carson City, Nev. – The Public Utilities Commission today approved an application by the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California to participate in the Solar Energy Systems Demonstration Program.

“I would like to congratulate the Washoe Tribe on becoming the first participant in the Solar Demonstration Program,” said Don Soderberg, PUC chairman. “By installing a PV system, the Washoe Tribe will help reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and will provide a showcase for sustainable development.”

The Solar Energy Systems Demonstration Program was created by the passage of AB 431 in the 2003 legislative session and provides incentives to participants utilizing photovoltaics (PV) or solar energy for generating electricity.

The Tribe plans to install three 2.5-kilowatt (“kW”) modular photovoltaic solar panels for a total of 7.5 kW on the Washoe Environmental Protection Department building in Gardnerville, Nev.

The Tribe acquired the modular building and moved it to the site last year with the intent of installing a PV system as well as demonstrating a variety of sustainable development practices.

According to the application, the Tribe has met the program requirements for public buildings by making the project available for public display as well as by using a contractor licensed for solar installations.

Through the incentive program, the Tribe will be eligible for the \$5 per watt buy-down or may elect to transfer the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) associated with the project to the utility by signing a contract.

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