



PRESS RELEASE

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AFTER MAJOR MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS, WIND TURBINE BACK PRODUCING POWER

Palmdale, CA – The wind turbine that has provided power to the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant since 2004 is again generating energy after undergoing extensive maintenance and repairs.

Located on the southwest corner of the treatment plant on Avenue S, the Palmdale Water District (PWD) wind turbine was inoperable for about a year due to several serious mechanical and maintenance issues. Contractors had to repair the turbine's generator and replace the hydraulic unit. Some of the parts from Denmark had to be specially made and shipped.

"I am very pleased to see the wind turbine operating once again," said PWD Board of Directors Treasurer Marco Henriquez. "Every time it generates energy, it is saving the District money. It has saved us tens of thousands of dollars every year. This is excellent news for our ratepayers."

By producing its own energy for the treatment plant, PWD saves on its Southern California Edison bill. It can be costly because of the large amount of electricity that is required to run water from Lake Palmdale through the treatment process 24 hours a day. The plant uses an average of 5,000 kilowatts per hour (kWh) each day.

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Thirteen years ago when the turbine was installed, it was estimated that maintenance costs would be about \$20,000 annually. Records show that maintaining and repairing the wind turbine has cost PWD a total of about \$220,000. With energy savings that can exceed \$50,000 annually, the turbine has been a positive asset.

The wind turbine starts producing power when the wind is blowing at a minimum of nine miles per hour for about 10 minutes. At that rate, it is generating up to 250 kWh. Once the wind reaches about 20 miles per hour, it starts producing electricity up to 950 kWh.

“Depending on the wind speed, the turbine saves us 30 to 50 percent on power while the treatment plant is running,” said Operations Manager Mynor Masaya, who oversees PWD’s state-of-the-art facility that treats the water that is distributed to a population of about 115,000 people within the District’s service boundaries.

The Vestas/NEG Micon NM54/950 wind turbine stands 237 feet tall. Each of its three blades is 85 feet long. It has become an iconic landmark for people driving through Palmdale.

With proper maintenance, the turbine is expected to last at least another 10 years.

“It’s doing well,” said PWD Construction Inspector John Mendenhall. “I’ve been checking it regularly, and there have been no glitches.”

Since 1918, the Palmdale Water District has provided high-quality water at a reasonable cost. We pride ourselves on providing great customer service; advocating for local water issues that help our residents; educating the community on water conservation; and leading our region in researching and implementing emerging technologies that increase operational efficiency. For more information about PWD, visit www.palmdalewater.org.