

E-LETTER

Greater Yuma Economic Development Solar Forum Annual Dinner

On June 12, at the Yuma Golf and Country Club, Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation held its Annual Investors' Dinner. The annual event is staged to express our sincere gratitude to the stakeholders in the community that believe in our work and support GYEDC efforts to make this a more economically sound region. The event this year focused on alternative energy and in particular, solar power. The solar forum brought together four of the foremost experts in the southwest for discussion on the potential for development, expansion and sustainability of solar power in Arizona and Yuma. The panel consisted of Valerie Rauluk "Emerging Opportunities for Communities and Industry", Erik Ellis "Utility Scale Solar Thermal Power for Arizona", Laurie Woodall "Power Plant & Transmission Line Siting in Arizona" and Toni Bouchard "APS Renewable Energy".

Being located in the highest concentrated energy source for solar in the entire world would lead people to believe that Arizona is at the forefront of solar power transmission. On the contrary, the state lags far behind domestic and global competitors, such as California and Germany, for solar power generation and industry development. The forum exposed the audience to the economical potential and impact that solar development would bring to state and local regions that embrace these projects.

The dinner was also a time for Chris Camacho, President/CEO of Greater Yuma Economic Development, to unveil to the audience the 2008-2009 Action Strategy. The plan outlined an aggressive strategy focused on six pillars to achieve economic success for the organization and the communities we represent. The plan will strive to: 1. Promote Educational Excellence 2. Focus on Competitiveness 3. Create High Skill/High Wage Jobs 4. Increase Focus on Resource Development 5. Further Enhance Yuma's Sense of Place and 6. Cultivate Collaborations & Stewardship between Public and Private Sector. Chris also reviewed the past year in which our organization exceeded all but one of our target matrix for FY 2007-2008.

In review, 2007-2008 proved to be the most successful year in Greater Yuma Economic Development history. Our staff, board and investors combined to produce historical benchmarks and achievements that will not be easily reproduced. We would like to thank all of our partners and stakeholders for such a tremendous year. We assure you that we will strive to meet and exceed those expectations going forward.

Solar Benefits

Standard 100 MW Project:

- 3,000 — 4,000 Construction Jobs
- 75– 100 High Wage Maintenance and Engineering Positions
- \$500 Million - \$1 Billion Capital Investment
- Long-Term Cheaper Energy Alternative to Fossil Fuels
- Solar Energy in Yuma is Dependable and Reliable

GYEDC Performance Matrix

For FY '07-'08, GYEDC Assisted or Helped Create:

- 1,026 Net New Jobs
- 261 High Wage Jobs
- \$31.8 Million in New Payroll
- \$212.8 Million in Capital Invest.
- 78 Lead Prospect Generations
- 5 New Impact Programs:
 - Yuma Manufacturers Ass.
 - IM2C3
 - NexGen Leadership
 - San Luis Border Group
 - Bi-National ED Startegy
- +7.2% Expanded Budget
- \$16:1 Public Sector ROI

An Economic Development
Publication of the Greater
Yuma Economic Development
Corporation

July 2008

WCC Properties In Talks With Hotel Developer

The developer of the 70-acre Rio Vista Commerce Center is negotiating to bring a 100-120-room hotel to the \$30-million development. If all goes as planned, a deal for a hotel on three acres will be set by late summer.

WCC Properties of San Diego has 64-acres up for grabs in the commerce center junction of Giss Road and Interstate 8. Rio Vista can support several pads, including a 250,000-sf retail project and up to 60,000-sf of office space.

Source: *GlobeSt.com*

News in the Region

- Delta Airlines has decided to suspend their commercial operations from Yuma to Salt Lake City, Utah due to the rising fuel costs and operational maintenance. The company has not cancelled service from Yuma but will reevaluate the route in the near future.
- Allied West Paper received their ADEQ environmental air quality certificate.
- GYEDC became a participating member of the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corp.'s International Committee

Monthly Stat Report

May 2008	Yuma	San Luis	Somerton	Wellton
Residential Permits	17 - \$2,547,356	14 - \$2,512,052	3 - \$248,423	1- \$281,610
Total Value of Permits	118- \$16,321,594	58 - 2,947,767	21 - \$684,252	9 - \$320,410
Total City Tax Collections (5/08)	\$2,439,707	\$419,465	\$87,565	\$94,957

NWI Has Plans For Expansion

Northwestern Industries, a glass fabrication company, has begun the expansion of their Yuma operations. The plant, which opened its doors in 2006, currently employs approximately 90 employees at its 78,000-sf facility. The capital investment of the expansion will be \$4 Million.



Northwestern Industries Plant

The plant began expanding their two new product lines ahead of schedule and due to the exponential growth, foresaw a need to increase its capabilities now. The addition will create approximately 20 new jobs and will allow NWI to more efficiently manage the increased work order flow they are experiencing. NWI-Yuma's parent company is pushing to grow not only in Yuma but to start up in other markets as well.

Bi –National Update

This past month, GYEDC participated in the Arizona Mexico Commission (AMC) as a representative on the Economic Development Committee as well as a general member. Critical issues for the Economic Development Committee were: business opportunities as a result of the Punta Colonet project, creation of a bi-national plan for Economic Development and promoting the inland port development in the Tucson region. The committee has recently achieved the design and printing of bi-national marketing materials to promote our Arizona-Sonora region.

Several items discussed at the June Plenary session from the Transportation and Agribusiness committees also have significant impact on the Yuma region, including funding for border infrastructure projects, San Luis I Port of Entry re-configuration, collaboration on the new cattle-crossing at the San Luis II Port of Entry and bi-national agribusiness council cooperation. GYEDC participated in the AMC Plenary along with the Greater Yuma Port Authority, the City of Yuma, the City of San Luis, R.L. Jones Custom Brokers and other local business representatives.

The Arizona-Mexico Commission (AMC) is a cross-border nonprofit organization supported by the Governor of Arizona with the mission to improve the well-being and quality of life for residents of Arizona by promoting a strong, cooperative relationship with Mexico and Latin America through advocacy, trade, networking and information.