Valley Voice: Solar Trust committed to Blythe solar project

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Written by Uwe T. Schmidt Special to The Desert Sun

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On June 17 of this year, I stood with Gov. Jerry Brown, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Blythe Mayor Joey DeConinck to break ground on the 1,000-megawatt Blythe Solar Power Project, the world's largest solar facility.

After thorough consideration, my company, Solar Trust of America, recently announced its intention to develop the project with photovoltaic panels instead of solar thermal technology.

While this change of plan will require a delay in the start of construction, we remain as firmly dedicated today as we were in June to building the Blythe Project.

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It is not uncommon for large-scale infrastructure projects to experience changes and delays, and solar projects of this magnitude are no different.

Although changes in market conditions have led us to develop the project using a different technology than originally planned, the Blythe Project continues to move forward. The project will yield significant economic and material benefits for the local community, businesses and trades. It will also provide clean solar power to over 300,000 homes each year while employing hundreds of local workers to construct and operate the

plant.

Over the next year, Solar Trust of America will work diligently with the regulatory agencies to amend our existing permits to allow us to use photovoltaic technology at the site. During this time, we will maintain the Blythe site in its current condition and in full compliance will all environmental regulations. We are extremely grateful to the hardworking men and women at these agencies for their continued dedication to seeing the Blythe Project through to fruition.

If the re-permitting process goes according to plan, we will commence the hiring process for local construction workers in late 2012. Our ongoing commitment to the Blythe and Riverside County communities has never been stronger. To that end, we have set up a new special email address to answer any questions you may have regarding the Blythe Project:

Blythe@SolarTrustOfAmerica.com.

Solar Trust of America would like to extend its thanks to the good people of Blythe for their ongoing support of the Blythe Project. Together, we will make Blythe the home of the world's largest solar facility!

Uwe T. Schmidt is the chairman and CEO of Solar Trust of America. He can be reached at: CEO@SolarTrustOfAmerica.com Advertisement



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