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The County of Orange Announces Request for Proposals to Establish “OC Sunergy,” a Renewable and Solar Technology Program

SANTA ANA, CA. – On September 29, 2009, the County Board of Supervisors authorized the release of a request for proposal to solicit a program administrator for development and implementation of a County Financing Initiative for Renewable and Solar Technology (FIRST) Program, which is proposed to be referred to as “OC Sunergy.” OC Sunergy will be an innovative program designed to provide access to financing for installation of energy efficiency and renewable energy systems for privately owned residential and commercial properties throughout the County. Residents and business owners will have the opportunity to voluntarily participate in this program, which will support decreasing energy costs and ultimately reduce the County’s carbon footprint.

OC Sunergy will be established using the provisions of AB 811 (2008), which allows local jurisdictions to establish a financing district wherein property owners can voluntarily enter into a contractual agreement for the installation of permanently fixed energy efficiency or renewable energy systems and repay the loan through their property tax bill. Property owners will have the opportunity to obtain energy audits, energy efficiency improvements (i.e., double-pane windows, insulation, updated furnace or air conditioning, etc.) and the latest available solar technology through participation in the program.

When selected, the Program Administrator will be responsible for the totality of the program under the direction of the County of Orange. The Program Administrator will be paid through the program with no program costs to be borne by the County or participating cities. In addition, this program is expected to create “green jobs” and help stimulate the economy in Orange County. The County is also encouraging local cities to participate in this exciting new program.

Orange County Public Works posted the Request for Proposal for this project on October 8, 2009. Prospective bidders can find information on this bid via the County of Orange’s homepage at www.ocgov.com under the “Business” link.

For further information on the program, please contact OC Planning Project Manager Ruby Maldonado at (714) 834-4414.