



News Release

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Contact:

Mary Anne Groen
Office of Councilmember Pete Constant
(408) 535-4917 office
(408) 858-1724 cell

Councilmember Pete Constant Celebrates Installation of First Solar Powered Bus Shelter in the City of San José

San José, CA—Monday, June 8, 2009 Councilmember Pete Constant joined members of the Blackford Neighborhood Action Coalition (NAC) in a ribbon cutting celebrating the installation of the first solar powered bus shelter in the City of San José on the corner of Williams and Boynton Roads. “District 1 is always on the forefront of new technology and innovative city services. That’s why our residents chose the District Motto of ‘One Community Inspiring Our City,’” states Councilmember Constant. “I was thrilled to partner with the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and Clear Channel Outdoor to provide this sustainable bus shelter.”

Permission for the bus shelter was mired in red tape and efforts to place it in the high use bus stop had stalled. That’s was when Councilmember Constant stepped in and helped move the installation forward. “Sometimes government complicates things that should be simple. I was happy to be a voice of reason and common sense,” explains Councilmember Constant.

VTA and Clear Channel have developed a public/private partnership called the Shelter Partner Program where Clear Channel provides the shelters and amenities for VTA. The Urban Solar PV-Shelter is a stand alone, autonomous solar powered LED lighting system. A photovoltaic module (solar panel) charges the battery bank during the day. At night, the stored energy is released via the Energy Control Module to power the bright white Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). The Williams and Boynton bus shelter is the first of six solar powered bus shelters scheduled to be installed in San José.

“The installation of the bus shelter didn’t cost the city anything and the solar power saves on energy consumption at a time when the city and county are facing budget deficits. I want to inspire my colleagues and other communities to help VTA and Clear Channel, because it just makes good economic sense,” states Councilmember Pete Constant.

For more information about this or upcoming District 1 events please call the District 1 Office at (408) 535-4901.

#####