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**November 19, 2024**

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## **Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc. Solar Expansion Project Increases the Safety and Reliability of Big Bear's Power Grid and Helps Control Costs**

**Big Bear Lake, CA** – In March 2024, Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc. (BVES) submitted an application with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to request approval to own and operate the Energy Storage System (Battery Project) and the Bear Valley Solar Energy Project (Solar Project). In October this year, BVES held community meetings to introduce the solar project and planning process to neighbors.

“This solar project is essential to enhancing the safety and reliability of Big Bear Valley’s power grid, providing an additional power source if extreme weather conditions and the threat of wildfires require a Public Safety Power Shutoff,” said Paul Marconi, BVES, Inc. President, Treasurer & Secretary. “Our valued customers will also appreciate that the solar project has the added benefit of controlling the cost of electricity by reducing the need for expensive infrastructure upgrades.”

The Bear Valley Solar Energy Project is being developed with EDF Renewables Distribution-Scale Power. This solar project will be located on approximately 21 acres of undeveloped land bordered by Erwin Ranch Road and Lakewood Drive. This 5 MW/AC (megawatt/alternating current) facility will reduce the grid’s dependency on off-mountain power sources. As California transitions to carbon-free resources, the projects will generate renewable electricity directly into the BVES distribution system, providing clean, emission-free power to local homes and businesses. Additionally, it will produce Renewable Energy Credits to help BVES meet state-mandated renewable energy targets.

The project will adhere to local, state, and federal land use and environmental regulations. After construction, the site will be re-vegetated, allowing the soil to rest and regenerate throughout the project’s lifespan. Vegetation management will be conducted on-site.

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Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc. (BVES) is a wholly owned electric utility subsidiary of American States Water Company (NYSE:AWR). BVES distributes electricity to over 24,500 customers in the City of Big Bear Lake and surrounding areas in San Bernardino County, California.