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Energy-saving partners cut the ribbon for L.A.'s largest solar panel system. From left, Chevron Energy Solutions CEO John Mahoney, LADWP CEO David Nahai, Metro CEO Art Leahy, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jan Perry and SoCal Gas Vice President Hal Synder. *Photos by Juan Ocampo*

## Metro, Chevron, Utility Officials Unveil Largest Solar Power Project in Los Angeles

- Metro's newest solar project will save \$550K annually; it's considered to be the largest solar power project at a transit facility in the U.S.

BY LAURA KLOTH  
*Staff Writer*

(April 28, 2007) Though the sun never quite peeked through the clouds, Metro Board Chair Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa Monday unveiled Metro's latest and largest energy savings effort -- a \$16.5 million solar panel project on top of Metro's Support Services Center on Lyon Street.

"Even on a day like this, the solar panels will work," the mayor said standing at a podium steps away from the rooftop where the "massive sea" or 6,720 solar panels were installed.

The new solar panel array is the largest ever installed at a transit facility - and largest within the City of Los Angeles - the energy and is expected to save Metro \$550,000 annually in energy bills, the mayor said. That's a 50 percent reduction in the facility's annual energy costs.



Department of Water and Power CEO H. David Nahai, second from left, presents check representing LADWP's contribution of \$4.9 million in cash and energy rebates.

"I want you all to celebrate today because this is a milestone. But tomorrow I want you to look at this facility and see something else," the mayor said.

Villaraigosa issued a challenge for others to break Metro's record by building a larger array of panels to create even greater savings and he applauded the efforts of all those involved in the project – Chevron Energy Solutions, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Southern Calif. Gas Co. and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

"With our economy in recession and President Obama calling on all of us to reinvent commerce in America, and create green-colored jobs, let's embrace this challenge, expand opportunity and set the bar high for an energy revolution that's taking place here in the city," the mayor said.

CEO Art Leahy told the media the five-building facility, which serves as a maintenance center for buses, is the fourth location to get solar panels saving the agency a cumulative \$1 million in energy costs.

Leahy lauded Metro's hardworking managers and employees for "doing a great job" in helping to make the project happen.



**Metro's Solar Legacy**

In 2006, 1,648 solar panels were installed at Bus Divisions 8 and 15 in the San Fernando Valley. And in 2008, 1,632 solar panels were installed at the Carson Bus Division.

CEO Art Leahy lauded Metro's hardworking managers and employees for "doing a great job" in helping to make the project happen.

City Councilman and newly-appointed Metro Board member Jose Huizar said with the installation, Los Angeles is becoming one of the “greenest cities” in the country as it rises to the challenge of the century – tackling climate change.

“I sincerely believe that in the same way that the civil rights struggle defined an earlier generation, our response to climate change will certainly define our generation,” Huizar said.

John Mahoney, Chief Operating Officer for Chevron Energy Solutions, pointed out that the “landmark clean energy project” covers the equivalent of five football fields and generates up to 1.2 megawatt, or 1,200 kilowatts of renewable, emission-free power.



**Solar Power:** Some 6,720 solar panels are installed on the rooftops of MSSC.

**Significant Energy Savings**

The new solar energy system will reduce the facility’s compressed air system from 600 horsepower to only 75, and in simpler terms, create an energy savings equivalent to removing up to 600 vehicles from the city’s roads.

Department of Water and Power CEO H. David Nahai said it was an “incredibly productive partnership and a model” with his utility contributing \$4.9 million in cash and energy rebates.

Gas Company Vice President Hal Snyder said the Gas Company would be contributing \$633,000 toward the project. Snyder spoke about having worked with Metro about 15 years ago as a young engineer, and today the agency has the largest clean burning natural gas bus fleet in the world.

“It’s no surprise that we’re here again today to be working with Metro,” Snyder said.

Los Angeles Councilwoman Jan Perry, who also sits on the South Coast Air Quality Management District board, commended Metro for its energy efforts in clean-air buses, and energy management, saying that she hoped Metro’s efforts would inspire other municipalities and businesses to take the same steps. South Coast AQMD has committed \$807,000 toward the project.

As part of the press event, the mayor, media and others took turns making their way up to the rooftop to check out the panels.