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Press Conference: Wednesday, April 29 (3 pm) at SunPower Corp., 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond. A DOE representative will be present to announce the award.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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3 East Bay School Districts Awarded Department of Energy “Solar America Showcase” Grant

Berkeley, Oakland, and West Contra Costa Unified School Districts will receive up to \$500,000 in technical assistance from DOE to assess solar generation potential and develop comprehensive Solar Master Plans to speed the installation of solar in schools across California and the Nation.

Berkeley, California – The U.S. Department of Energy announced that a coalition of East Bay school districts and two local organizations were selected to receive a Solar America Showcase grant. The grant will allow Oakland, Berkeley and West Contra Costa Unified School Districts to receive up to \$500,000 in technical assistance from DOE to conduct comprehensive solar generation analyses of district schools and facilities and to develop Solar Master Plans for each District. The coalition includes the Sequoia Foundation, its sponsored project, KyotoUSA, and Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc., a Berkeley consulting firm.

The DOE Solar America Showcase award is intended to support companies and local government entities that are “highly committed” to adopt solar technology and to accelerate the installation of photovoltaic (PV) panels across the country. The Sequoia Foundation’s application on behalf of the 3 school districts detailed a specific effort to evaluate the energy consumption and solar electricity generation potential on all schools and facilities within the Districts. A successful project will provide a template on which to make well-reasoned choices about which facilities exhibit the greatest solar potential, what type of solar technology is most appropriate for each facility, what types of investments should be made in energy efficiency improvements, and the types of financing mechanisms that provide the best return for the districts. School districts stand to save millions of dollars in energy costs – the result of energy conservation, better energy efficiencies, and renewable energy systems.

During the 18 month grant period, the Districts will select one or more schools to become a “Showcase” where the most efficient and effective solar arrays will be installed.

"Oakland Unified School District is excited to be a participant in this innovative coalition of school districts," said OUSD Assistant Superintendent for Facilities Planning and Management Timothy White. "This grant will provide the type of high level assessment necessary to pave the way for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements throughout the District. We can't wait to get started."

Berkeley Unified School District Superintendent Bill Huyett is excited about the grant. "We are very interested in exploring solar options for Berkeley's schools, and this grant from the Department of Energy will be a big help. We already have one solar school (Washington Elementary) in the District, so we already see first-hand both the advantages and the potential challenges."

"Over the past two years, we have been talking to school districts throughout California about solar. There are two big challenges for districts – planning and financing. The Solar America Showcase award will go a long way to resolving both issues", said Tom Kelly from KyotoUSA.

The grant award will be announced at a Press Conference to be held on Wednesday, April 29 (3 pm) at the office of SunPower Corp. in Richmond (1414 Harbour Way South). SunPower designs, manufactures and delivers high-performance solar electric systems worldwide for residential, commercial and utility-scale power plant customers.